

This is my first meeting as town moderator. I am looking forward to doing my best during the next few years to help to encourage more participation in our town government. Although there is a lot to learn, participation from our residents is crucial to successfully support and grow our community.

“Liberty cannot be preserved without the general knowledge among the people, who have a right... and a desire to know.”- John Adams 1765

Amy Hardy, Moderator

1. Our purpose is to have a meeting that is civil, informative, and as brief as possible
2. A request to change any of these rules may be made at the start of the meeting; and accepted by a majority of the voters present.
(Rules listed with an RSA may not be modified)
3. You are a legislative body by law, and only registered voters of the town may participate
4. Registered voters of the town must have a voter card received from the supervisors of the checklist at the start of this meeting; without it you may not speak or vote on the articles.
5. Articles will be considered in the order presented in the warrant
6. Articles will be read as presented; a motion to accept the article and a second will be called for. When seconded, the person moving the article will be recognized to speak for the article; then the article will be open for discussion and debate.
7. Persons that move and second an article or motion must state their name (RSA91A:2)
8. Comments and questions are to be directed to the moderator; not to others in the room.
9. Persons wishing to speak on the article must raise their hand or stand at their seat, showing their voter card, and be recognized by the moderator in order to have the floor. The person recognized must first state their name before speaking. While that person has the floor, everyone else should be courteous and refrain from speaking so that everyone can hear the person having the floor.
10. Everyone wishing to speak on an article will have an opportunity to speak at least once.
11. Non-residents may speak only by approval of the voters

(Continued)

12. If a motion to move the article is made, all persons who, prior to the motion, have indicated that they wish to speak may be allowed to speak, if they have not already spoken to the article, before the motion is accepted. Once the motion has been made no additional voters may request to speak. Once the motion is accepted, a vote on the motion will be taken; a simple majority vote will be required to pass the motion; if it passes, all discussion on the article stops and a vote on the article will be taken.
 13. Articles may be amended; this must be made in writing and not change the intent of the article.
 14. Secret Yes/No ballots can be requested prior to a voice vote; this requires a written request by five voters, present at the meeting: (RSA40:4a).
 15. If a vote is questioned by seven or more voters immediately after the moderator declares a non-ballot vote and before other business is begun, a secret ballot will be taken: (RSA40:4b). The request may be oral or in writing.
 16. A motion to restrict reconsideration of any prior vote taken may be made; if passed, this means that those votes are protected by RSA40:10 at the current meeting. If it is desired to reconsider a protected vote, it will be done at a separate meeting with notice, at least seven days later.
 17. Finally, RSA40:7 requires everyone to “be silent at the desire of the moderator, on pain of forfeiting \$1 for each offense, for the use of the town.” (A potential fund raiser)
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