

Natick Town Meeting: General By-law Re-statements and Rules

The proceedings of Natick Town Meeting shall be governed by Town Meeting Time (3rd Edition), the Natick Bylaws, the Town of Natick Home Rule Charter, and the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

All residents and taxpayers of the town and all town officers and employees, whether or not residents, have the same right to speak as Town Meeting Members; however, they do not have the right to submit motions for consideration at Town Meeting, nor vote on any matter before Town Meeting. Non-residents may only speak at Town Meeting after approval of Town Meeting Members.

Speakers seeking recognition by the Moderator to speak shall rise at their seats. There are attendees known to the Moderator, who have provided advanced notice that they are unable to rise or are seated outside the Moderator's view. These attendees must raise their hand from their seat to seek recognition from the Moderator.

No person shall speak upon a debatable motion more than once when any other person desires to be heard, nor more than twice on the same debatable motion without permission of Town Meeting; and no person shall speak more than five (5) minutes at one time without permission of Town Meeting.

All motions offered for the consideration of Town Meeting shall be in writing if required by the Moderator; and all motions involving the expenditure of money shall be in writing when required by any Town Meeting Member. Written motions shall be presented to the Moderator on prescribed forms.

Consistent with the Natick Bylaws, once a member is recognized, it has been the practice of Town Meeting Members to first ask a question(s), then propose a motion and/or debate the highest-ranking motion.

Once a speaker is called upon by the Moderator, the speaker's time will begin. Time spent asking questions will be considered part of the speaker's time. Responses to the speaker's question will not be considered part of the speaker's requisite time. Each speaker will be limited to three questions, whether they are stated singularly or in a compound question, such will be responded to at the direction of the Moderator.

Motions shall be made and have precedence as listed in the table entitled "Precedence of Motions," found in the Natick Bylaws, the Town Meeting Member Handbook and Town Meeting Time.

The motion for the previous question shall not be entertained by the Moderator if three or more persons are seeking recognition, who have not previously spoken to the question.

Any person having a monetary or equitable interest in any matter under discussion at a Town Meeting, and any person employed by another having such an interest, shall disclose the fact of her or his interest or employment before speaking thereon.

Without objection, the preceding re-statements are accepted as rules of this Town Meeting.