

Public Comment Policy

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, any citizen may attend a regular or special meeting or any other meeting where a quorum of the Board will discuss public business. Although the right of the public to attend a public meeting under the Open Meetings Act does not include the right to participate in the meeting and address the Trustees, the Board, as part of its agenda, shall provide time at each regular monthly meeting for comments from the public. The Board, at its discretion, may limit *and announce* the amount of time for public comment.

In order to provide a fair opportunity to every person that desires to address the Board of Trustee, the following guidelines apply to public comments during library board meetings:

- Comments must pertain to the Barrington Public Library.
- All comments shall be made with civility and courtesy.
- All speakers will be asked to begin by stating their name and address.
- Speakers are not to address nor engage in dialogue with individual trustees during the public comment period. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole.
- The Board of Trustees cannot answer specific questions in dialogue format. Acting as a Board, and only as a Board, the trustees will consider comments and questions and may direct staff members to provide information.
- No action shall be taken during this portion of the meeting on issues raised by the public unless deemed an emergency by the Board.

The public is not normally invited to participate or contribute to the discussion or business on the agenda of a Board meeting. An exception is a person who has been invited (ahead of time or spontaneously) to speak, make a presentation, or in some other way provide information to the Board.