

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION AT LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings of the Middle Country Public Library are for the conducting of Library business; and, as required by the NY Open Meetings Law, are open for observation by the public. They are not public hearings concerning Library affairs. Board members are not required to respond to questions or statements made during the *Period of Public Expression* portion of the meeting.

- Residents of the Library District may speak during the designated *Public Expression* section of regular board meetings. (Such section not to exceed thirty minutes).
- Each speaker is required to register and indicate an intent to speak in advance of the *Public Expression* section of each meeting.
- Speakers shall face and address the board, not the audience, during the *Period of Public Expression*.
- Each person may speak for a maximum of five minutes.
- Items of internal business introduced from the floor, including but not limited to intra-library and personnel issues, will be ruled out of order and not permitted at the meeting.
- Verbal attacks on individual board or staff members will not be tolerated.
- Interruptions, slanderous remarks or name-calling are forbidden.
- The presiding officer may terminate the speaker's privileges of address if after being called to order, he or she persists in improper conduct or remarks.
- Substitution of speakers will not be permitted.
- When the Board conducts Special Board Meetings there will be no *Public Expression* section.

***Adopted May 19, 1993 by the Board of Trustees of the Middle Country Public Library.
Revised April 20, 2022.***