

Town of Bedford
Town Meeting Presentation Guidelines
Established by Town Moderator, April 2014, revised February 2019

These guidelines have been developed to improve the visibility of presentations at Town Meeting. The goal is that presentations should be able to be read from any location in the auditorium, including the back rows. To accommodate those with visual problems, a few paper copies should also be made available. PowerPoint is the preferred format for presentations.

Individuals planning to make a presentation at Town Meeting should prepare the presentation in advance and contact the Town Manager's Office prior to Town Meeting to make arrangements for it to be loaded on to the computer that will be used at Town Meeting. Utilize the notes section in PowerPoint to assist coordinating the slides with the speaker.

Presentation slides should meet the following guidelines:

- Recommended text styles include Arial, Times New Roman and Verdana.
- Title text should be a minimum of 32 point font.
- Bullet text should be a minimum of 28 point font.
- Background color should be white (preferred) or dark.
- Font color should be at the highest possible contrast from the background. For example, a white background should have black text while a dark background (blue or black) should have white text.
- Presentation must be in a format that can be viewed on the Town's laptop which utilizes Microsoft Office. The use of personal computers is not permitted.

Graphs, charts and maps should have clearly visible titles and limited information on each slide. Detailed graphs and charts should be available as handouts.

Working with the Town Manager's Office is essential to an effective presentation.

If at all possible, the presentation should be rehearsed prior to the Town Meeting. Presentations should meet the debate rule limitations usually adopted at each meeting. These rules, which may be waived by a vote of the Town Meeting, allow ten minutes for a presentation and five minutes for responses.

All presentations will be posted on the Town website by the Friday before Town Meeting. Therefore, presentations must be received by the Town Manager's Office no later than two weeks prior to the first evening of Town Meeting.

If the information cannot be presented in a font that meets the guidelines, paper copies must be printed for distribution and the slides will not be shown.