

Carver Board of Selectmen Suggested Social Media Code of Conduct.

*Adopted February 11, 2014, Approved by the Board of Selectmen June 16, 2015; May 3, 2016;
Approved by the Board of Selectmen April 24, 2017; May 15, 2018*

We encourage frank, open, and constructive conversation. But frankness does not have to mean lack of civility or lack of respect for your fellow human being.

1. We request Board members take responsibility for the comments they allow and enforce civility, encourage your followers not to say anything online that they wouldn't say in person, and not post unacceptable content.

We suggest unacceptable content be defined as anything included or linked to that:

- is being used to abuse, harass, stalk, or threaten others
- is libelous, **knowingly false**, or misrepresents another person,
- violates an obligation of confidentiality
- violates the privacy of others

2. We request you recommend to your followers to connect directly before responding publicly.

When you encounter conflicts and misrepresentation, you make every effort to talk directly to the person(s) involved—before publishing any posts or comments about the issue. It is better if they correct their own misrepresentation with correct information.

3. We request when someone is unfairly attacking another on your post - you take action.

When someone is publishing comments or postings that are offensive, we suggest you take action and ask them to publicly make amends and if they refuse then delete.

4. We request that you **do not allow anonymous posts** on your social media.

Commenters should use their real name and supply a valid name before they can post, similar to the “letter to the editor” standard for the last century that requires your name and address prior to printing.

We encourage everyone to ignore the trolls (a person who sows discord on posts by starting arguments and posting inflammatory messages with deliberate intent of provoking readers into emotional responses causing grief to them or families otherwise known as online harassment).

You should not respond to nasty anonymous comments about yourself. Feeding the trolls only encourages them. **Never wrestle with a pig.** You both get dirty, but the pig likes it. Ignoring anonymous public attacks is often the best way to contain them.