



City of Newton
Youth Commission Advisory Board

Massachusetts Open Meeting Law: What You Need to Know

Because the Youth Commission and the Youth Commission Advisory Board are public bodies, we follow the **Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (OML)**. The goal of this law is to make sure government work is done **openly and transparently**, so that the public can see and understand how decisions are made.

Here's what that means for you:

- **Meetings are public.**
Anyone can attend our meetings — they're open to the public.
- **Agendas must be posted in advance.**
A meeting notice (with time, date, place, and agenda topics) must be posted at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- **We can only discuss items on the agenda.**
New or unrelated topics can't be discussed unless they're added to a future meeting's agenda.
- **Decisions must happen in public.**
Voting or making decisions can only happen during a posted, open meeting.
- **No private discussions ("deliberations").**
Members can't discuss board business over text, email, or group chat outside of a public meeting. That counts as a "deliberation," which must happen publicly.
- **Meeting minutes must be kept.**
Notes summarizing what happened — including decisions and votes — must be recorded and shared publicly later.

In short:

Be open, stay on topic, and save all group discussions for our official meetings. The goal is to keep things fair, transparent, and accessible to the community.

Scan here to read the law:





2025-2026 Youth Commission Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

*This schedule is available online. Visit newtonma.gov/youthcommission

Unless otherwise noted, all YCAB meetings take place from 6:30pm - 8:00pm in person in the Druker Auditorium at the Newton Free Library (330 Homer Street, Newton).

- Monday, October 27, 2025 @ 6:30pm
- Monday, November 17, 2025 @ 6:30pm
- Wednesday, December 3, 2025 @ 6:30pm
- Wednesday, January 14, 2025 @ 6:30pm
- Wednesday, February 4, 2025 @ 6:30pm
- Wednesday, March 11, 2025 @ 6:30pm
- Monday, April 13, 2025 @ 6:30pm
- Monday, May 18, 2025 @ 6:30pm
 - **Year-End Reflect & Celebrate Meeting**
 - **Note:** This meeting will take place in the War Memorial Auditorium at Newton City Hall (1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton, MA 02459)

If you are unable to attend a meeting, need to arrive late or leave early email Meri Haas (mhaas@newtonma.gov) as soon as possible.