



Township Of Mahwah

Municipal Offices: 475 Corporate Drive
P.O. Box 733 * Mahwah, NJ 07430

Board of Adjustment x 244

Zoning/Planning Board x 245

Property Maintenance x 246

Public Hearing Procedures Of the Township of Mahwah Zoning Board

Welcome to a public hearing of your Zoning Board! We are glad that you are here and we hope to benefit from your attendance and your input. This page outlines the procedures which the law requires us to follow.

Our printed agenda is available before all our meetings. Frequently public hearings will not be completed at one meeting and will be carried to a future meeting, so note this carefully because notice in writing will not be repeated. To confirm a continuation or rescheduling, call the Board office during work hours.

PROCEDURES:

A hearing is similar to a court proceeding. The chairman runs the meeting as a judge might and the Board is comparable to a jury who will vote on a final decision. The applicant provides testimony themselves and by other witnesses that they may wish to call to support the application.

The applicant also has the right to cross-examine any objectors, so statements should be supportable, not hearsay such as petitions and wishes.

A record of the meeting is tape recorded, so when you speak, do so slowly and loudly. All witnesses must state their names and spell them and their addresses. Only the chairman may decide who speaks at a given time.

DOCKETS:

When a docket is called by the chairman, the applicant comes forward, introduces himself, gets sworn in and then explains the nature of his application. He will then give testimony and if there are witnesses they also will be sworn in and give testimony. If the applicant is represented by an attorney he will follow as the attorney directs.

Following the testimony of each witness, the Board will ask questions and seek clarifications needed for an informed vote. The chairman will then ask if there are any questions from the public of the witness. This will take place after each witness. This time is only for questions.

If you have a question, raise your hand. When the chairman calls on you, please stand, go to the microphone, state your name and address and ask your questions.

After all testimony has been given, and all witnesses have been heard, and all questions have been asked, the chairman will ask the public if they have any comments or statements to make either pro or con regarding the application. At this time, if you have any comments, you become a witness and you must be sworn in. When you are recognized by the chairman, come forward to be sworn in, then to the microphone, state your name and spell it, and your address. Then you may make your statement or comments.

The chairman has the right to close the public portion of a hearing if he feels that the audience is unruly or is making comments that are not relevant to the case. He may also limit an individual's time in order to give adequate time to others. When you follow the above procedure, your input will have maximum impact on the Board's deliberations.

The Board votes on an application during a work session, either the same evening, if there is time, or at a subsequent meeting. This will be announced at the close of the application.

We hope that your evening, and the part you play in it, will be effective and satisfying, and we thank you for coming out and participating in this democratic process.

All members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment are appointed by the Town Council and serve in the public interest without compensation.

Charles Rabolli, Jr., Chairman
Mahwah Zoning Board of Adjustment