

**ARTICLE IV**  
**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND PLANNING BOARD**

**SECTION 400      CREATION OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS; APPOINTMENTS  
AND REMOVALS; MEETINGS; RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- A. A Zoning Board of Appeals is hereby created. Said Board shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Town Board, who shall also designate a Chairman. No person who is a member of the Town Board shall be eligible for membership on such Zoning Board of Appeals. Of the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals first appointed, one (1) shall hold office for the term of one (1) year, one (1) for the term of two (2) years, one (1) for the term of three (3) years, one (1) for the term of four (4) years and one (1) for the term of five (5) years. All terms shall run concurrent with the governmental year. Their successors shall be appointed for a term of five (5) years from and after the expiration of the terms of their predecessors in office. In making such appointments, the Town Board may require Zoning Board of Appeals members to complete training and continuing education courses in accordance with any local requirements for the training of such members. If a vacancy shall occur otherwise than by expiration of term, it shall be filled by the Town Board by appointment for the unexpired term.
- B. The Supervisor shall have the power to remove, after public hearing, any member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for cause and may provide by local law for removal, after public hearing, of any Zoning Board of Appeals member for noncompliance with minimum requirements relating to meeting attendance and training as established by the Town Board by local law.
- C. All meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be held at the call of the Chairperson and at such other times as such Board may determine. Such Chairperson may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses.
- D. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall establish such rules and regulations as are required by state and local laws for the transaction of its business and may amend, modify and repeal the same from time to time.
- E. Whenever the Zoning Board of Appeals, after hearing all the evidence presented upon an application for appeals under the provisions of this article, denies or rejects the same, said Zoning Board of Appeals shall refuse to hold further hearings on the same or substantially similar application for appeal by the same applicant, their successors of assigns for a period of one (1) year, except and unless the Zoning Board of Appeals shall find and determine from the information supplied in the

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request for a rehearing that a change in conditions has occurred which relates to the promotion of public health, safety, convenience, comfort, prosperity and general welfare and that a reconsideration is justified. Such rehearing may be granted only upon the favorable vote of not less than four (4) members of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- F. Alternate members of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be appointed by resolution of the Town Board, for terms established by the Town Board.
- G. Vacancy in Office - If a vacancy shall occur otherwise than by expiration of term, the Town Board shall appoint the new member for the unexpired term.
- H. Training and Attendance Requirements
  - 1. Each member of the board of appeals shall complete, at a minimum, four (4) hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties.
  - 2. Training received by a member in excess of four (4) hours in any one (1) year may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision.
  - 3. Such training shall be approved by the Town Board and may include, but not be limited to:
    - a. Training provided by a municipality, regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity.
    - b. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.
  - 4. To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall have completed the training promoted by the Town pursuant to this subdivision.
  - 5. The training required by this subdivision may be waived or modified by resolution of the Town Board when, in the judgment of the Town Board, it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.
  - 6. No decision of the Board of Appeals shall be voided or declared invalid

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because of a failure to comply with this subdivision.

SECTION 401        POWERS AND DUTIES OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals shall have all the powers and duties prescribed by Chapter 62, Section 267 of the Town Law of the State of New York and by this Zoning Law.

SECTION 402        PROCEDURES OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

- A.    Meetings, Minutes and Records - Meetings of such Zoning Board of Appeals shall be open to the public to the extent provided in Article 7 of the Public Officers Law. Such Zoning Board of Appeals shall keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the vote of each member upon every question or, if absent or failing to vote, indicating such fact, and shall also keep records of its examinations and other official actions.
- B.    Filing Requirements - Every rule and regulation, every amendment or repeal thereof and every order, requirement, decision of determination of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be filed in the office of the Town Clerk within five (5) business days and shall be a public record.
- C.    Assistance to the Zoning Board of Appeals - Such Board shall have the authority to call upon any department, agency or employee of the Town for such assistance as shall be deemed necessary and as shall be authorized by the Town Board.
- D.    Hearing Appeals - The Zoning Board of Appeals shall hear and decide appeals from and review any order, requirement decision, interpretation or determination made by an administrative official charged with the enforcement of this article. Such Board shall have the authority to call upon any department, agency or employee of the Town for such assistance as shall be deemed necessary and as shall be authorized by the Town Board. Such department, agency or employee shall be reimbursed for any expenses incurred as a result of such assistance. The concurring vote of not less than three (3) members of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be necessary to reverse any order of an administrative official or to grant a use variance or area variance. Such appeal may be taken by any person aggrieved or by an officer, department or board of the Town.
- E.    Time of Appeal - Such appeal shall be taken within the time prescribed by law after the filing of any order, requirement, decision, interpretation or determination of the administrative official charged with the enforcement of this article by filing with such administrative official and with the Zoning Board of Appeals a notice of appeal, specifying the grounds thereof and the relief sought. The administrative official from

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whom the appeal is taken shall forthwith transmit to the Zoning Board of Appeals all the papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken. The cost of sending or publishing any notices relating to such appeal shall be borne by the appealing party and shall be paid to the Zoning Board of Appeals prior to the hearing of such appeal.

- F. Stay upon Appeal -An appeal shall stay all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from, unless the administrative official charged with the enforcement of this article certifies to the Zoning Board of Appeals, after the notice of appeal shall have been filed with the administrative official, that by reason of facts stated in the certificate a stay would, in his or her opinion, cause imminent peril to life or property, in which case proceedings shall not be stayed otherwise than by a restraining order which may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals or by a court of record on application, on notice to the administrative official from whom the appeal is taken and on due cause shown.
- G. Meeting on Appeal - The Zoning Board of Appeals shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal or other matter referred to it and give public notice thereof by the publication in a paper of general circulation in the town of a notice of such hearing at least ten (10) business days prior to the date thereof. Further, the applicant shall, at least ten (10) business days prior to the date of the hearing, give notice, in writing, by registered or certified mail or by service in person with the adequate proof of contact thereof, to all property owners within one thousand (1000) feet of the property to be affected by said appeal or to all property owners of contiguous land or property adjoining said property to be affected and other interested property owners as may be designated by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- H. Notice to Park Commission and County Planning Board - At least five (5) days before such hearing, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall mail notices thereof to the parties and to the Regional State Parks Commission having jurisdiction over any state park or parkway within five hundred (500) feet of the property affected by such appeal and to the County Planning Board as required by Section 239-m of the General Municipal Law, which notice shall be accompanied by a full statement of the matter under consideration as defined in Subdivision 1 of Section 239-m of the General Municipal Law.
- I. Time of Decision - The Zoning Board of Appeals shall decide upon the appeal within sixty-two (62) days after the conduct of said hearing. The time within which the Zoning Board of Appeals must render its decision may be extended by mutual consent of the applicant and the Board.

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- J. Filing of Decision and Notice - The decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals on the appeal shall be filed in the office the Town Clerk within five (5) business days after the day such decision is rendered and a copy thereof mailed to the applicant.

SECTION 403 PERMITTED ACTIONS BY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

- A. Orders, Requirements, Decisions, Interpretations, Determinations - The Zoning Board of Appeals may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the order, requirement, decision, interpretation or determination appealed from and shall make such order, requirement, decision, interpretation or determination as in its opinion ought to have been made in the matter by the administrative official charged with the enforcement of such ordinance or local law and to that end shall have all the powers of the administrative official from whose order, requirement, decision, interpretation or determination the appeal is taken.

B. Use Variances

1. The Zoning Board of Appeals, on appeal from the decision or determination of the administrative officer charged with the enforcement of such ordinance or local law, shall have the power to grant use variances, as defined herein.
2. No such use variance shall be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals without a showing by the applicant that applicable zoning regulations and restrictions have caused unnecessary hardship. In order to prove such unnecessary hardship the applicant shall demonstrate to the Zoning Board of Appeals that for each and every permitted use under the zoning regulations for the particular district where the property is located:
  - a. the applicant cannot realize a reasonable return, provided that lack of return is substantial as demonstrated by competent financial evidence; and
  - b. that the alleged hardship relating to the property in question is unique, and does not apply to a substantial portion of the district or neighborhood; and
  - c. that the requested use variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood; and
  - d. that the alleged hardship has not been self-created.

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3. The Zoning Board of Appeals, in the granting of use variance, shall grant the minimum variance that it shall deem necessary and adequate to address the unnecessary hardship proven by the applicant, and at the same time preserve and protect the character of the neighborhood and the health, safety and welfare of the community.

C. Area Variance

1. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall have the power, upon an appeal from a decision or determination of an administrative official charged with the enforcement of such ordinance or local law, to grant area variances as defined herein.
2. In making its determination, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall take into consideration the benefit to the applicant if the variance is granted, as weighed against the detriment to the health, safety and welfare of the neighborhood or community by such grant. In making such determination, the Board shall also consider.
  - a. whether an undesirable change will be produced in the character of the neighborhood or a detriment to nearby properties will be created by the granting of the area variance.
  - b. whether the benefit sought by the applicant can be achieved by some method feasible for the applicant to pursue, other than an area variance;
  - c. whether the requested area variance is substantial;
  - d. whether the proposed variance will have an adverse effect or impact on the physical or environmental conditions in the neighborhood or district; and
  - e. whether the alleged difficulty was self-created, which consideration shall be relevant to the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals, but shall not necessarily preclude the granting of the area variance.
3. The Zoning Board of Appeals, in the granting of area variances, shall grant the minimum variance that it shall deem necessary and adequate and at the same time preserve and protect the character of the neighborhood and the health, safety and welfare of the community.

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- D. Imposition of Conditions - The Zoning Board of Appeals shall, in the granting of both use variances and area variances, have the authority to impose such reasonable conditions and restrictions as are directly related to and incidental to the proposed use of the property. Such conditions shall be consistent with the spirit and intent of the zoning ordinance or local law, and shall be imposed for the purposes of minimizing any adverse impact that such variance may have on the neighborhood or community.

SECTION 404 APPEALS TO SUPREME COURT

- A. Application to Supreme Court by Aggrieved Persons - Any person or persons, jointly or severally aggrieved by any decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals, or any officer, department or board of the Town may apply to the Supreme Court for review by a proceeding under Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules. Such proceeding shall be instituted within thirty (30) days after the filing of a decision of the Board in the office of the Town Clerk or in the office designated by resolution of the Town Board. The Court may take evidence or appoint a referee to take such evidence as it may direct and report the same with his or her findings of fact and conclusions of law if it shall appear that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter. The Court, at special term, shall itself dispose of the cause on the merits, determining all questions which may be presented for determination.
- B. Costs of Appeal - Costs shall not be allowed against the Zoning Board of Appeals unless it shall appear to the Court that it acted with gross negligence or in bad faith or with malice in making the decision appealed from.
- C. Preference of Appeal to Court - All issues in any proceeding under this section shall have preference over all other civil actions and proceedings.
- D. Power of Court - If, upon the hearing at a special term of the Supreme Court, it shall appear to the Court that testimony is necessary for the proper disposition of the matter, it may take evidence or appoint a referee to take such evidence as it may direct and report the same to the Court with his or her findings of fact and conclusions of law, which shall constitute a part of the proceedings upon which the determination of the Court shall be made. The Court may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may specify the decision brought up for review.

SECTION 405 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OFFICE

The Office of the Town Clerk shall be the Office of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Every

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rule, regulation, amendment or repeal thereof and every order, requirement, decision or determination of the Board shall immediately be filed in said office as required by Section 267 of the Town Law of the State of New York. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the vote, indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official action.

**SECTION 406      LAPSE OF AUTHORIZATION**

Any variance or modification of regulations authorized by the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be automatically revoked unless a zoning or building permit, conforming to all the conditions and requirements established by the Zoning Board of Appeals, is obtained within six (6) months of the date of approval by the Zoning Board of Appeals and construction commenced within one (1) year of such date of approval.

**SECTION 407      VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS**

Failure to comply with any condition or restriction prescribed by the Zoning Board of Appeals in approving any appeal for a variance, or a modification of regulations shall constitute a violation. Such violation may constitute the basis for revocation of a variance or modification or for imposing penalties and other applicable remedies.

**SECTION 408      CREATION, APPOINTMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF PLANNING BOARD**

- A. Pursuant to the provisions of the Town Law applicable thereto, the Town Board shall appoint a Planning Board consisting of five (5) members and for the term of years set forth in 271 of the Town Law. Said members are hereby vested with the powers and duties and made subject to the limitations set forth in 272, 274, 274-a, 275, 276, 277, 278, 280-a, and 281 of the Town Law, as the same may be amended, modified, or changed from time to time, or any sections subsequently adopted pertaining to Planning Board.
- B. Two (2) alternate members shall be appointed to the Planning Board and will serve three (3) year terms.
- C. The Planning Board shall establish such rules and regulations as are required by law and the provisions herein for the transaction of their business, and may amend, modify and repeal the same from time to time.

**SECTION 409      POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PLANNING BOARD**

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The Planning Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To prepare and from time to time recommend changes in the Master or Comprehensive Plan for the development of the Town to the Town Board.
- B. To review proposals to approve or disapprove the laying out, closing off, abandonment or changes in lines of streets, highways and public areas and to make recommendations to the Town Board.
- C. To make investigations and reports relating to the planning and development of the Town, including changes in boundaries of districts, recommended changes in the provisions of this Zoning Law, and to act on any matter lawfully referred to it by the Town Board.
- D. To review, act on or provide advisory reports as specified by this Zoning Law.
- E. All such powers as are conferred upon Town Planning Boards by the provisions of the Town Law as not or hereafter in effect.
- F. Alternate members of the Planning Board shall be appointed by resolution of the Town Board, for terms established by the Town Board.
- G. If a vacancy shall occur otherwise than by expiration of term, the Town Board shall appoint the new member for the unexpired term.
- H. Training and attendance requirements.
  - 1. Each member of the Planning Board shall complete, at a minimum, four (4) hours of training each year designed to enable such members to more effectively carry out their duties.
  - 2. Training received by a member in excess of four (4) hours in any one (1) year may be carried over by the member into succeeding years in order to meet the requirements of this subdivision.
  - 3. Such training shall be approved by the Town Board and may include, but not be limited to:
    - a. Training provided by a municipality, regional or county planning office or commission, county planning federation, state agency, statewide municipal association, college or other similar entity.

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- b. Training may be provided in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, electronic media, video, distance learning and traditional classroom training.
4. To be eligible for reappointment to such board, such member shall have completed the training promoted by the Town pursuant to this subdivision.
5. The training required by this subdivision may be waived or modified by resolution of the Town Board when, in the judgment of the Town Board, it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.
6. No decision of the Planning Board shall be voided or declared invalid because of a failure to comply with this subdivision.