



# ABUTTER'S GUIDE

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## ***Suggestions for Presenting Testimony at a Public Hearing***

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Each time you speak, state your name and address for the record.

Keep your comments concise and to the point. Try to state all questions and concerns at once and then allow the next person to speak.

Testimonies often consist of favorable or opposing views, alternative plan options, and questions on issues with respect to the property under development.

Address questions to the chairman, rather than the applicant.

Be polite and respectful of differing opinions.

Stick to the issues relating to the project and within the scope of the Board's review.

Comments at a hearing need not be repeated at subsequent ones unless they have not been addressed.

## **What is an Abutter?**

Under RSA 672:3 – “Abutter” means any person whose property is located in New Hampshire and adjoins or is directly across the street or stream from the land under consideration by the local Land Use Board.

## **Why am I receiving a public hearing notice?**

Abutters are required to receive a public hearing notice by statute. The purpose of the hearing is to educate abutters and the public of the proposal and also for the Planning or Zoning Board and the applicant to benefit from the views, opinions, and remarks of the abutters and anyone else who might be affected by the proposal.

## **What should I expect at the public hearing?**

At the hearing, the applicant will present plans and explain the proposed project to the Planning Board and the audience, to which the Board will ask questions and ask for clarification when needed. Testimony is taken from abutters and other affected parties. The hearing may then be closed to the public or continued if a decision has not been reached.

## **How can I make my concerns known if I cannot attend the hearing?**

Comments can be submitted in writing prior to a public hearing any time before it closes. As with all testimony, it is most helpful to raise concerns early on in the process.

## **How often will I be notified of public hearings?**

Abutters are notified once in accordance with RSA 675:7: at least ten (10) days prior to the first public hearing. If a hearing requires a second, third, or subsequent hearings, an abutter must check the town offices, on the town website, or on the town's public access television channel. The continued hearing is announced at the first meeting of whenever it is continued.

## **How can I find out more about what is being proposed?**

Applications, plans, and supporting materials can be accessed at the town's Land Use Office on 230 Lake Street, Bristol NH. All members of the public are welcome to review this information. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **Will I be notified of the decision?**

Copies of the notice of decision are not sent to abutters. You may request a copy of any decision from the Land Use Office.

## **How can I appeal a decision?**

Appeals are made to the Zoning Board of Adjustment within 30 days of a Planning Board decision. All appeals for the Zoning Board go directly to the Superior Court unless a request for rehearing is received.