



BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP

3 North Maple Avenue - Post Office Box 307

New Gretna, New Jersey 08224

(609) 296-3337

www.bassriver-nj.org

PLANNING / ZONING BOARD RESOLUTION 2025-6 PUBLIC COMMENT DURING PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 provides the public with an opportunity to offer comments. A municipal governing body shall be required to set aside a portion of every meeting for public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the municipality. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.).

Public participation and comment shall be governed by the following rules to maintain order and prevent disruption of Planning / Zoning Board meetings.

Members of the public who attend Planning / Zoning Board meetings in-person will have an opportunity to comment.

To facilitate retaining backup information in the event of a recording equipment failure at the Planning Board meeting, Members of the public wishing to speak are strongly encouraged to execute the sign-up sheet prior to speaking during the public comment period. Members of the public shall be required to execute the sign-up sheet upon completion of their testimony, if not pre-registered. Sign-up information shall include the speaker's full name and address for the record.

Each speaker will have a maximum of three minutes to speak and should limit comments to governmental issues that may be of concern to the residents of the Planning / Zoning Board Township of Bass River.

The speaker will be directed to conclude their remarks once the speaker's time has expired.

No time may be yielded to a speaker by another speaker.

The Planning Board Chair will acknowledge speakers in the order in which they appear from the podium and are asked to begin their remarks by stating their name and address on the record. All comments should be directed to the Planning Board Chair.

The Planning / Zoning Board is not obligated to answer questions or respond to comments from members of the public during the public comment period.

Speakers must expect the Planning / Zoning Board, Township Employees, and Township Professionals to refrain from engaging in a dialogue, except to the extent necessary to clarify the speaker's comment.

The allotted time for speaking from the podium is the method to address the Planning / Zoning Board during the public comment period. The Planning / Zoning Board will not entertain questions or comments called out from the audience. Again, public participation is intended to allow members of the public the opportunity to address the Planning / Zoning Board on issues of public concern and not as a forum for two-way dialogue with Planning / Zoning Board Members.

The Planning Board Chair or his/her designee may respond to questions either at the end of the public participation session, or responses may be provided later.

Speakers and members of the public should always maintain proper decorum and shall make their comments in a civil manner. Personal attacks, obscenity, derogatory or slanderous remarks will not be tolerated. The Planning Board Chair or designee may interrupt any speaker or terminate any individual's speaking privilege if the speaker's comments are disruptive or obscene. An individual may be cautioned that a personally directed statement may be slanderous or defaming and that the individual may be liable for his/her statements.

Attempts to hijack or filibuster the proceedings, repeated interrupting or badgering the Planning Board Chair or Township officials, repetitive and truculent speech, or other disregard for the rules of decorum will not be tolerated and may subject the individual or group to removal from the meeting.

If necessary, the Planning / Zoning Board meeting will be adjourned.

Adopted: January 15, 2025

Natalie Lewis

Natalie Lewis
Administrator/Recording Secretary
Planning / Zoning Board

Cindy Ruffo

Cindy Ruffo
Chair
Planning / Zoning Board