

MEMO TO THE PUBLIC

We appreciate the public taking the time to understand these rules. The members of both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment are eager to listen to members of the public and their positions regarding applications. The purpose of this memo is to inform the public of the only method that can be used in order to get that information in front of the Board so that the members can consider it as part of their deliberations on matters before the Board.

Regarding all matters that come before the Highland Park Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, members of the public should be aware that they should not attempt to communicate personally by phone, email or text with individual Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment members involving applications, approvals, reviews, or recommendations that are in front of the Board or are likely to come in front of the Board. The law governing these proceedings (the Municipal Land Use Law) prohibits the use of these communications. If a member of the public has an interest in an application and wishes to express an opinion, comment or ask questions, the only valid way to do so is to appear at the meeting and to give live testimony regarding your position on the application. Written communications of any form will not be made a part of the record upon which the Board may rely. The record of the proceeding is made only during meetings and through testimony, either by representatives of an Applicant or through testimony by members of the public. The Highland Park Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment welcome and value public input. The purpose of this protocol is not to diminish public input but to be sure any and all such input is a part of the record.

The Board Attorney for each of the above Boards has instructed its members not to review any communications outside of the meeting process as that may invalidate the entire proceeding under the law.