

Zoning Board of Adjustment Application Instructions

If you have questions on the application process, please call: (603) 352-5440 or
email: communitydevelopment@keenenh.gov



To file a petition before the Zoning Board of Adjustment, four items are required:

1. COMPLETED APPLICATION

Application requirements are specified in the [Land Development Code](#), **Article 26.2** though outlined here for reference. An applicant may request a pre-submission meeting with City Staff to identify any potential concerns with the project design and to ensure the applicant is aware of all information that must be submitted with the application.

A completed application will include:

- Submitted in accordance with the requirements of Article 26.2, Common Application & Review Procedures
- A signed application, filed with the Zoning Clerk, within the deadline adopted by the Zoning Board of Adjustment
- All applicable fees paid

An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final decision on the application. Requests for withdrawal shall be made in writing by the applicant to the Zoning Clerk. No refund of the fee or any part of the fee shall be made unless the application is withdrawn prior to noticing the application for a public hearing or decision, in which case, the applicant may be eligible for a refund of the notice fee. It shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that their application satisfies all applicable standards of review.

2. PLOT PLAN

A scaled plot plan clearly displaying the location and dimensions of all structures and open spaces on the lot in question and on the adjacent lots, as well as any proposed changes on the site, such as, but not limited to, additions to existing structures or the construction of new structures.

3. CERTIFIED NOTICE LIST & MAILING LABELS

A certified notice list and two sets of mailing labels identifying any parties that require notice as part of the application process is required. **Such information shall be current to within 10 days of application submittal.** Per [NH RSA 676:7\(I\)\(a\)](#), the following parties must be noticed by verified mail no less than five days prior to the scheduled meeting:

- Property owner
- Applicant and, if appropriate, authorized agent
- All owners of property located within 200 feet of the subject parcel, as well as all owners of property that directly abuts and/or is directly across the street or stream from the subject parcel
- Holders of conservation, preservation, or agricultural preservation restrictions

The Notice List shall include the following:

- Property owner's name
- Property owner's mailing address
- Street address, if different from mailing address
- Property tax map parcel (TMP) number

The mailing labels shall include the following:

- Property owner's name
- Property owner's mailing address
- Property tax map parcel (TMP) number

The City of Keene's [GIS Database](https://axisgis.com/keenenh/) (axisgis.com/keenenh/) can be used to generate a Notice List and mailing labels. Instructions for creating these can be found following this link [Notice List Instructions](#) or on the [Zoning Board of Adjustment](#) page on the City website, under *ZBA Applications*.

4. FEE SCHEDULE

The application fee as set forth in the Land Development Code Schedule of Fees in Appendix B of the City Code of Ordinances, includes the costs for published and mailed notices, which shall be Certificate of Mail. These fees can be included on one check made payable to "City of Keene" or made by credit card.

- Application fee.....\$250.00
- Mailed public notice for certificate of mail.....*Current USPS certificate of mail rate
- Published notice for legal advertisement in the newspaper.....\$62.00

* Please call the Community Development Department for the current certificate mail rate.

GENERAL INFORMATION

In addition to the common application and review procedures of Chapter 100, Article 26, the following review and approval procedures shall apply:

- Once an application is determined to be complete, the Zoning Administrator, or their designee, shall forward it to the Board for a public hearing
- The Zoning Administrator, or their designee, shall provide published and mailed notice of this public hearing pursuant to NH RSA 676:7
- Prior to deciding on the application, the Board shall render, as appropriate, findings of fact by majority vote

When the Zoning Board of Adjustment has completed its deliberation, it will either approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove an application. All decisions shall be delivered in writing to the applicant and shall include any conditions for approval or reasons for denial. An approval granted by the Board shall be void if the use or structure authorized by the application has not been begun within 2-years from the date of final approval. Any application for an extension shall be heard as a new application; any other time limitation shall be specifically prescribed by the Board.

CONDUCT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearings shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of Chapter 100, the City Code of Ordinances, state law and the rules of the Board. During the public hearing, the following may occur:

- The presiding officer shall call the proceedings to order and announce that the public hearing has begun;
- The applicant or their legal counsel or representatives shall present in support of the application, and answer questions from the Board;
- City staff may present on the application, with respect to its conformance with the regulations in Chapter 100 and shall share comments from other City departments that reviewed the application. City staff may also answer questions from the Board;
- The presiding officer shall open the public hearing for public testimony;
 - ◇ Each person who speaks at a public hearing shall state their name and address for the record ;
 - ◇ Any abutter or other person with a direct interest in the application may testify at the public hearing or in writing either before or at the public hearing. Other persons may testify at the discretion of the Board;
- The applicant shall be given an opportunity to respond to any testimony raised by City staff or the public, and to answer any questions raised by the Board;
- The presiding officer shall close the public hearing following public testimony, and the Board shall openly deliberate on the application before reaching a decision;
- The Board shall evaluate the application based upon the submitted application materials and any evidence presented at the public hearing, pursuant to any applicable approval standards or regulations in Chapter 100;
- Once a public hearing is closed, no further public testimony shall be taken, unless the presiding officer chooses to reopen the public hearing for additional testimony or argument.

When the decision making authority has completed its deliberation, it will either approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove an application. All decisions shall be delivered in writing to the applicant and shall include any conditions for approval or reasons for denial.

The Board conducting the public hearing, upon a majority vote of its members, may continue a public hearing. No new notice (published, mailed or on-site) is required to reopen the public hearing if the hearing is continued to a date specific, provided that a public announcement of the future date, time and place of continued hearing is made and recorded in the minutes.

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION

Below is a description of each Zoning Board of Adjustment application as outlined in the [Land Development Code](#), Article 26. For more information and/or to discuss the application process with staff, contact the Community Development Department at (603) 352-5440.

- **Variance:** Per Article 26.5, zoning variances are intended to address unnecessary hardships or practical difficulties resulting from the strict application of the Zoning Regulations. the purpose of the variance process is to provide a narrowly limited means by which relief may be granted from the unforeseen applications of the Zoning Regulations.
- **Special Exception:** Per Article 26.6, a special exception seeks permission to do something that the Zoning Regulations permit only under certain special circumstances. All special exceptions shall be made in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and shall be in accordance with the rules contained therein.
- **Expansion or Enlargement of a Nonconforming Use:** Per Article 26.7, a nonconforming use of a structure or land may be expanded or enlarged with approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment, provided such expansion or enlargement does not violate any of the basic zone dimensional requirements of the zoning district in which it is located.
- **Equitable Waiver of Zoning Dimensional Requirements:** Per Article 26.8, in situations where a lot or structure is discovered to be in violation of a physical payout or dimensional requirement of the Zoning Ordinance, and such lot or structure is not legally nonconforming, a waiver from the requirement may be sought under certain conditions.
- **Appeal of Zoning Board of Adjustment Decision:** Per Article 27.1, appeals concerning any matter within the authority of the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall be in the manner provided for by NH RSA 676:5-7. In accordance with NH RSA 677:1-14, any person aggrieved by the decision of the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall file a motion for a rehearing with the Community Development Department within 30 calendar days after the date of the Zoning Board of Adjustment decision.
 1. The motion for rehearing shall fully set forth every ground upon which it is claimed that the decision rendered is unlawful or unreasonable.
 2. The Zoning Board of Adjustment shall deliberate the motion for rehearing within 30 calendar days of the date of the filing of the motion.
 3. If the Zoning Board of Adjustment grants a motion for rehearing, the new public hearing shall be held within 30 calendar days of the decision to grant the rehearing, provided all applicable fees are paid and an updated abutters list, including all owners of property within 200-ft of the subject parcel, is submitted by the party requesting the rehearing. Notice of the rehearing shall follow the procedures set for in NH RSA 676:7.
 4. If a motion for rehearing is denied by the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the applicant may appeal to the Superior Court within 30 calendar days after the date upon which the Board voted to deny the motion for rehearing.
 5. Any further appeal of a final decision or order of the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall be in accordance with NH RSA 677:4.
- **Appeal of Zoning Administrative Decision:** Per Article 27.2, in accordance with NHRSA 676:5, appeals to written decisions of the Zoning Administrator shall be made to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, provided the notice of appeal is filed with the Community Development Department within 30 calendar days after the date of the Zoning Administrator's decision. The notice of appeal shall specify all grounds on which the appeal is based, and why the request of appeal should be granted. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall petition for a rehearing, in accordance with NHRSA 677:1-14, before appealing the decision to the Superior Court.

Zoning Board of Adjustment
Variance Application



For Office Use Only:	
Case No.	_____
Date Filled	_____
Rec'd By	_____
Page	_____ of _____
Rev'd by	_____

If you have questions on how to complete this form, please call: (603) 352-5440 or
email: communitydevelopment@keenenh.gov

SECTION 1: CONTACT INFORMATION

I hereby certify that I am the owner, applicant, or the authorized agent of the owner of the property upon which this appeal is sought and that all information provided by me is true under penalty of law. If applicant or authorized agent, a signed notification from the property owner is required.

OWNER / APPLICANT

NAME/COMPANY:
MAILING ADDRESS:
PHONE:
EMAIL:
SIGNATURE:
PRINTED NAME:

APPLICANT (if different than Owner/Applicant)

NAME/COMPANY:
MAILING ADDRESS:
PHONE:
EMAIL:
SIGNATURE:
PRINTED NAME:

AUTHORIZED AGENT (if different than Owner/Applicant)

NAME/COMPANY:
MAILING ADDRESS:
PHONE:
EMAIL:
SIGNATURE:
PRINTED NAME:

SECTION 2: PROPERTY INFORMATION

Property Address:

Tax Map Parcel Number:

Zoning District

Lot Dimensions: Front: Rear: Side: Side:

Lot Area: Acres: Square Feet:

% of Lot Covered by Structures (buildings, garages, pools, decks, etc): Existing: Proposed:

% of Impervious Coverage (structures plus driveways and/or parking areas, etc): Existing: Proposed:

Present Use:

Proposed Use:

SECTION 3: WRITTEN NARRATIVE

Article 26.5.4.A.: Describe the property location, owner of the subject property, and explain the purpose and effect of, and justification for, the proposed variance.

SECTION 4: APPLICATION CRITERIA

A Variance is requested from Article (s)

of the Zoning Regulations to permit:

Briefly describe your responses to each criteria, using additional sheets if necessary:

1. Granting the variance would not be contrary to the public interest because:

2. If the variance were granted, the spirit of the ordinance would be observed because:

3. Granting the variance would do substantial justice because:

4. If the variance were granted, the values of the surrounding properties would not be diminished because:

5. Unnecessary Hardship

A. Owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area, denial of the variance would result in unnecessary hardship because:

i. No fair and substantial relationship exists between the general public purposes of the ordinance provision and the specific application of that provision to the property because:

and

ii. The proposed use is a reasonable one because:

B. Explain how, if the criterial in subparagraph (A) are not established, an unnecessary hardship will be deemed to exist if and only if, owing to special conditions of the property that distinguish it from other properties in the area, the property cannot be reasonably used in strict conformance with the ordinance, and a variance is therefore necessary to enable a reasonable use of it.

Community Development Department Certified Notice List



If you have questions about how to complete an application, please call: (603) 352-5440 or email: communitydevelopment@keenenh.gov

Per Article 26.2.4 of the Land Development Code (LDC) and in accordance with state law, certain Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA), Planning Board, and Historic District Commission (HDC) applications require mailed notice.

The lists below outline the information that needs to be included on a notice list and mailing labels for applications submitted to the Community Development Department.

Instructions for creating a notice list for Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment applications can be found on the [City of Keene's YouTube channel](#).

The following parties are required to be noticed as part of the application process:

- Property owner
- Project applicant
- Authorized agent (if applicable)
- All direct property abutters (including those across water bodies and roads), as well as all properties within 200-ft of the subject parcel
- Every engineer, architect, land surveyor, or soil scientist whose professional seal appears on any plan
- Holders of conservation, preservation, or agricultural preservation restrictions on the property

**Note: Only direct abutters must be noticed as part of HDC applications.*

For these applications, the following items must be submitted:

- A list of all persons entitled to notice
- 2 sets of mailing labels
- Notice certification form
- Mailing fee (current USPS certificate of mail rate* x number of abutters)

**Please call the Community Development Department for the current certificate of mail rate.*

The notice list shall include the following information:

- Property owner's name
- Property owner's mailing address
- Property owner's street address,
- The tax map parcel (TMP) number(s) (15-digit number)

The mailing labels shall include the following information:

- Property owner's name
- Property owner's mailing address
- The tax map parcel (TMP) number(s)

The City of Keene's [GIS Database](https://next.axisgis.com/KeeneNH/#) (<https://next.axisgis.com/KeeneNH/#>) can be used to generate an abutters list and mailing labels.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL PARTIES INCLUDED ON THE NOTICE LIST ARE ALSO INCLUDED ON THE MAILING LABELS.

CERTIFICATION OF ACCURACY

By signing below, you are certifying that the submitted notice list is accurate and true to the best of your ability and that per **Article 26.2.4.A.3** of the LDC, the notice list is **current to within 10 days of the application submittal**.

Print Name

Date

Signature

NOTICE LIST

This template can be used to record the name, mailing address, street address, and tax map parcel (TMP) # for each party that is required to be noticed as part of an application.

[illegible]

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

A complete application must include the following items and submitted by one of the options below:

- **Email:** communitydevelopment@keenenh.gov, with **“ZBA APPLICATION”** in the subject line
- **Mail / Hand Deliver:** Community Development (4th Floor), Keene City Hall, 3 Washington St, Keene, NH 03431

The submittal requirements for a Variance application are outlined further in **Article 26.5** of the [Land Development Code](#).

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SECTION THREE - WRITTEN NARRATIVE:

Briefly describe the property location, and explain the purpose and effect of, and justification for, the proposed variance.

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SECTION FOUR - APPLICATION CRITERIA:

Briefly respond to each criteria to provide a clear description of the proposed project.

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CERTIFIED ABUTTERS LIST:

A complete list of abutters within 200 feet of the subject parcel. See the attached Notice List Instruction Sheets for details.

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SITE PLAN:

The plan should show the locations and dimensions of all structures and open spaces on the lot in question and on the adjacent lots. Plans do not need to be professionally drawn.

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APPLICABLE FEES:

(checks made payable to City of Keene, credit cards accepted via phone or in person)

Application Fee: \$250.00

Legal Ad Fee: \$ 62.00

Certificate of Mail Fee: # of abutters x certificate of mail rate =

(the Certificate of Mail Fee will be calculated by the Zoning Clerk upon submittal)