



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Bart Sughrue, Chair
Rebecca Bowley, Vice Chair
Carrie Walker
Katharine Harriman
Nancy Ponzetti

REMOTE PARTICIPATION POLICY

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 403-B, and after public notice and hearing, the Hollis Board of Appeals adopts this policy governing remote participation in public meetings and proceedings.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for when remote participation is allowed for members of the Board of Appeals as well as members of the public and Town staff and to outline acceptable methods of remote communication.

A. LIMITED IN SCOPE

Board members are expected to be physically present for meetings except when being physically present is not practicable, including but not limited to the following circumstances:

1. The existence of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the full Board to meet remotely.
2. Illness, other physical condition or temporary absence from the Town that causes a member of the Board to face significant difficulties traveling to and attending in person.
3. A Board member who is unable to attend a meeting in person shall notify the Chair as far in advance of the meeting as possible. The Chair is authorized to make a determination as to whether remote participation by the Board or certain Board member(s) is permissible under the circumstances.

B. REMOTE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Remote Methods of Participation

The remote method of participation may be through telephonic or video technology that allows for the simultaneous reception of information and may include other means when such means are necessary to provide reasonable accommodation to a person with a disability. Methods of participation cannot be by text-only means such as e-mail, text messages or chat functions.

2. Hollis Board of Appeals

- a. A Board member who participates in a public proceeding by remote methods is present for purposes of a quorum and voting.
- b. All votes taken during any public proceeding when one or more members of the Board are participating by remote means shall be by roll call vote that can be seen and heard if using video technology and heard if using only audio technology.



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3. Members of the Public

- a. Members of the public must be given meaningful opportunity to participate remotely when a member of the Board is participating remotely.
- b. Members of the public and Town staff may be given the opportunity to participate remotely at any Board meeting, regardless of whether any Board members are participating remotely.
- c. If the Board allows or is required to provide an opportunity for public input during the meeting, an effective means of communication between the members of the body and the public must be provided.
- d. The Board may not determine that public attendance at a proceeding will be limited solely to remote methods, except in the case of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the full Board to meet remotely.

4. Notice Requirements

- a. Notice of all Board meetings must be provided in accordance with 1 M.R.S. § 406 and applicable Town requirements.
- b. When the public may attend via remote methods the notice must include the means by which the public can participate remotely.
- c. Unless the entire Board is meeting remotely, due to an emergency or urgent issue, the notice shall include the physical location of the meeting for those that would like to attend in person.

5. Meeting Materials

All documents and materials considered by the Board must be made available to the public who attend remotely, electronically or otherwise, to the same extent they are customarily made available to members of the public who attend in person, as long as additional costs are not incurred by the Town.

Approved by Hollis Board of Appeals
24 August 2021