

ARTICLE XX

AMENDMENTS

Section 15-326 Protests to Zoning Map Amendments (AMENDED 10/24/06).

(a) If a petition opposing an amendment to the zoning map is filed in accordance with the provisions of this section, then the proposed amendment may be adopted only by a favorable vote of three-fourths of the Board membership. For the purposes of this subsection, vacant positions on the Board and members who are excused from voting shall not be considered "members of the Board" for calculation of the requisite supermajority.

(b) To trigger the three-fourths vote requirement, the petition must: **(AMENDED 11/26/85)**

- (1) Be signed by the owners of either (i) twenty percent (20%) or more of the area included in the proposed change or (ii) five percent (5%) of a 100-foot-wide buffer extending along the entire boundary of each discrete or separate area proposed to be rezoned. A street right-of-way shall not be considered in computing the 100-foot buffer area as long as that street right-of-way is 100 feet wide or less. When less than an entire parcel of land is subject to the proposed zoning map amendment, the 100-foot buffer shall be measured from the property line of that parcel. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the Town may rely on the Orange County tax listing to determine the "owners" of potentially qualifying areas. **(AMENDED 10/24/06)**
- (2) Be in the form of a written petition actually bearing the signatures of the requisite number of property owners and stating that the signers do protest the proposed change or amendment.
- (3) Be received by the town clerk in sufficient time to allow the town at least two normal working days before the date established for a public hearing on the proposed amendment to determine the sufficiency and accuracy of the petition.
- (4) Be on a form provided by the town clerk and contain all the information requested on this form.

(c) A person who has signed a protest petition may withdraw his or her name from the petition at any time prior to the vote on the proposed zoning amendment.

(d) The foregoing provisions concerning protests shall not be applicable to any amendment which initially zones property added to the territorial coverage of this chapter as a result of annexation or otherwise.