

Zoning Hearing Board members are “quasi-judicial”

The Bethlehem Gadfly City government, Serious Issues August 20, 2019

(The latest in a series of posts on City government)

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Dear Gadfly,

Can you please clarify something? Did you indicate that after deliberating, none of the ZHB members gave any explanation of their votes? I find that troubling. How would elected officials know whether to reappoint a ZHB member if there is no way get a sense of how they view and reason about local land use decisions? Do you know if ZHB members are prohibited from explaining their decisions, or whether they just remain silent so as to avoid being properly evaluated by those who appoint them later?

Thanks,

Breena

Yes, Breena — no explanations. All I have heard is that they enjoy “quasi-judicial” standing, which enables the out-of-view deliberation.