

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

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**Douglas J. Schuetz**  
*Acting Commissioner*

**Arlene R. Miller**  
*Deputy Commissioner*

March 6, 2018

Orangetown Planning Board  
21 Greenbush Road  
Orangeburg, NY 10962

**Tax Data:** 73.20-1-31

**Re: GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW REVIEW:** Section 239 L and M

**Map Date:** 4/26/2011

**Date Review Received:** 1/30/2018

**Item:** *ST. JOHN'S MALANKARA ORTHODOX CHURCH FOOT BRIDGE (O-2194B)*

Site plan to permit the completed construction of an existing foot bridge that was built across a stream on a parcel that contains a church, and is located on .9 acres in the LIO zoning district.  
East side of Blaisdell Road, approximately 419 feet south of Ramland Road

**Reason for Referral:**

Blaisdell Road (CR 17)

The County of Rockland Department of Planning has reviewed the above item. Acting under the terms of the above GML powers and those vested by the County of Rockland Charter, I, the Commissioner of Planning, hereby:

***\*Approve***

1 Since the proposed footbridge will have no adverse impacts on any County-wide interests, this matter is remanded for local determination.

2 The following additional comment is offered strictly as an observation and is not part of our General Municipal Law (GML) review. The board may have already addressed this point or may disregard it without any formal vote under the GML process.

2.1 The Town of Orangetown Planning Board should confirm the location of the footbridge. Aerial photography flown in 2016 shows that the footbridge actually extends onto the parcel to the north (tax ID# 73.20-1-30), instead of as depicted on the map on the same parcel.

  
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Douglas J. Schuetz  
Acting Commissioner of Planning

cc: Supervisor Chris Day, Orangetown  
Rockland County Department of Highways

**ST. JOHN'S MALANKARA ORTHODOX CHURCH FOOT BRIDGE (O-2194B)**

Rockland County Department of Health

William D. Youngblood

*\*The proposed action is deemed to have no significant negative impact on nearby municipalities, County or State roads or facilities, County Parks or Drainage Systems or the surrounding Neighborhood Character and, therefore, the ACTION IS FOR LOCAL DETERMINATION. Approval does not necessarily mean we endorse this subject action as desirable from the viewpoint of your municipality.*

*The review undertaken by the Rockland County Planning Department is pursuant to, and follows the mandates of Article 12-B of the New York General Municipal Law. Under Article 12-B the County of Rockland does not render opinions, nor does it make determinations, whether the item reviewed implicates the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. The Rockland County Planning Department defers to the municipality forwarding the item reviewed to render such opinions and make such determinations if appropriate under the circumstances.*

*In this respect, municipalities are advised that under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, the preemptive force of any provision of the Act may be avoided (1) by changing a policy or practice that may result in a substantial burden on religious exercise, (2) by retaining a policy or practice and exempting the substantially burdened religious exercise, (3) by providing exemptions from a policy or practice for applications that substantially burden religious exercise, or (4) by any other means that eliminates the substantial burden.*

*Proponents of projects are advised to apply for variances, special permits or exceptions, hardship approval or other relief.*

*Pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law §239-m(6), the referring body shall file a report of final action it has taken with the Rockland County Department of Planning within thirty (30) days after final action. A referring body which acts contrary to a recommendation of modification or disapproval of a proposed action shall set forth the reasons for the contrary action in such report.*