

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner

Arlene Miller
Deputy Commissioner

July 10, 2020

Piermont Village Board
Village Hall
478 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, NY 10968

Tax Data:

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

Map Date:

Date Review Received: 6/29/2020

Item: *VILLAGE OF PIERMONT - CELLAR AND FLOOR AREA RATIO DEFINITION (P-159)*

A Local Law to remove the definition of "Cellar" from the zoning regulations, and to modify the definition of "Floor Area" to include all interior space with a ceiling height of seven feet or more within the calculation of Floor Area Ratio.

Throughout the Village

Reason for Referral:

State and County roads and parks, County streams, Long Path Hiking Trail, Town of Orangetown, Village of Grand-View-on-Hudson

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***

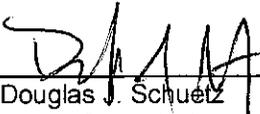
Since the proposed text amendment will not have any adverse impacts on any County-wide interests, this matter is remanded for local determination.

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.

The term "cellar" is used as part of the definition for other terms in the Village's zoning regulations, specifically the terms "Demolition or Demolish" and "Story". With the removal of the term "cellar" from the regulations, the meaning and application of these other terms becomes less clear. In addition, the definition of "Basement" is worded in such as way as to specifically distinguish it from a cellar, and would not, as currently worded, apply to

VILLAGE OF PIERMONT - CELLAR AND FLOOR AREA RATIO DEFINITION (P-159)

all below-grade stories. The Village should consider revisiting the definitions of these other terms.



Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner of Planning

cc: Mayor Bruce E. Tucker, Piermont
New York State Department of State
New York State Department of Transportation
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
New York - New Jersey Trail Conference
Rockland County Department of Highways
Rockland County Drainage Agency
Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources
Palisades Interstate Park Commission

Town of Orangetown Planning Board
Village of Grand View-on-Hudson Planning Board

**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.