



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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DOUGLAS J. SCHUETZ
Acting Commissioner

July 28, 2014

ARLENE R. MILLER
Deputy Commissioner

Ramapo Zoning Board of Appeals
237 Route 59
Suffern, NY 10901

Tax Data: 57.09-1-50

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

Map Date: 6/9/2014

Date Review Received: 6/26/2014

Item: 16 HERRICK AVENUE (R-2460)

Variations to allow construction of a three-family dwelling with one accessory apartment on .1753 acres in the R-15C zoning district. Required variations include: lot width, front setback, front yard, side setback, rear setback, deck rear setback, street frontage, and maximum development coverage. In addition, a parking easement on the adjacent lot is required to meet parking needs.
East side of Herrick Avenue, approximately 77 feet south of Woodside Place

Reason for Referral:

Village of Spring Valley

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:

****Recommend the following modifications***

1 The Village of Spring Valley is the reason this proposal was referred to this department for review. The municipal boundary is 445 feet east of the site. This area of the Village is zoned R-2, a medium density residential district characterized by one- and two-family residences. The maximum permitted residential density in the R-2 zoning district ranges from 4.84 to 8.71 units per acre. The applicant is proposing a residential density of 22.8 units per acre. New York State General Municipal Law states that the purposes of Sections 239-l, 239-m and 239-n shall be to bring pertinent inter-community and countywide planning, zoning, site plan and subdivision considerations to the attention of neighboring municipalities and agencies having jurisdiction. Such review may include inter-community and county-wide considerations in respect to the compatibility of various land uses with one another; traffic generating characteristics of various land uses in relation to the effect of such traffic on other land uses and to the adequacy of existing and proposed thoroughfare facilities; and the protection of community character as regards predominant land uses, population density, and the relation between residential and nonresidential areas. In addition, Section 239-nn was enacted to encourage the coordination of land use development and regulation among adjacent municipalities, and as a result development occurs in

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a manner that is supportive of the goals and objectives of the general area.

The Village of Spring Valley must be given the opportunity to review the proposal and its impact on community character, traffic, water quantity and quality, drainage, stormwater runoff and sanitary sewer service. The areas of countywide concern noted above that directly impact the Village of Spring Valley must be considered and satisfactorily addressed, as well as any additional concerns about the proposal.

2 Permitting development that does not comply with the applicable bulk standards can set an undesirable land use precedent and result in the overutilization of individual sites. The applicant is seeking a 58 percent increase over the maximum permitted development coverage, as well as several yard and setback variances. The ability of the existing infrastructure to accommodate increased residential density on non-conforming lots is a countywide concern and must be evaluated. This evaluation must consider whether local roads will become more congested and the sewer system, stormwater management systems and the public water supply will be overburdened. The Town must consider the cumulative and regional impacts of permitting such development.

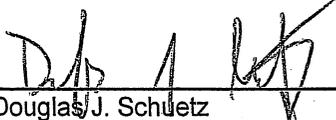
3 The proposed residential building must comply with all requirements of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. All sidewalks, stairs, decks, must be shown on the map to ensure that there is sufficient access to the building for fire fighting purposes. As shown, the proposed residential building will require a variance from the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code since the proposed deck is located closer than ten feet of the property line.

4 The bulk table does not reflect the minimum standards for non-complying lots outlined in Section 376-131.D.(1). The required standards for lot width, front setback and front yard are incorrect on both the bulk table and the Town of Ramapo Building, Planning and Zoning Department's June 18, 2014 denial letter. Variances are therefore not required for front setback and front yard. The bulk table must be corrected, and all application materials must be consistent.

5 The bulk table denotes that a variance is required for building height, while the Denial Letter from the Town of Ramapo, dated June 18, 2014 does not. It must be clarified as to whether a height variance is also required. All information and materials must be consistent.

6 The easternmost parking space will be difficult to maneuver out of since there is no turnaround area provided. A turnaround area must be added so that vehicles do not have to back into Herrick Avenue.

7 A garbage enclosure must be indicated on the site plan. Parked vehicles must not prevent sanitation workers from accessing the garbage enclosure. Parking spaces may have to be eliminated to provide clear access to the dumpster, which will result in the need for a parking variance.



Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner of Planning

cc: Supervisor Christopher St. Lawrence, Ramapo
Rockland County Department of Health
Rockland County Drainage Agency
Rockland County Sewer District #1
Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services

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CivilTec Engineering & Surveying, P.C.
Town of Ramapo
New York State Department of State,
Division of Code Enforcement and Administration

**NYS General Municipal Law Section 239 requires a vote of a 'majority plus one' of your agency to act contrary to the above findings.*

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.

