



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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EDWIN J. DAY
County Executive

DOUGLAS J. SCHUETZ
Acting Commissioner

June 16, 2014

ARLENE R. MILLER
Deputy Commissioner

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

Tax Data: 49.20-2-21

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

Map Date: 1/30/2014

Date Review Received: 5/15/2014

Item: *BLIMA EINHORN (R-2454)*

Variances for front yard, front setback, rear setback and maximum development coverage to allow the construction, maintenance and use of a three-family residence with three accessory apartments on .3002 gross acres (.2584 net acres) in the R-15C zoning district.
South side of Ralph Boulevard, 450 feet west of Jill Lane

Reason for Referral:

Villages of Kaser and 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 Almost 28 percent of this non-conforming lot is located within the 100-year floodplain. It is further constrained by a 20-foot wide drainage easement that runs diagonally through the property. Development can only occur on the eastern two-thirds of the site. As proposed, the southeastern corner of the residential building and all of the parking is within the 100-year floodplain. The applicant is seeking a 30 percent increase over the maximum permitted development coverage. Given the environmental and easement constraints found on this site, the residential structure must be scaled back to more closely comply with the R-15C bulk standards. This can be accomplished by reducing the number of units and the building footprint which will decrease the number of required parking spaces. This will reduce or eliminate the need for yard and setback variances, as well as the development coverage variance.

2 The Floodplain Administrator for the Town of Ramapo shall certify that the proposed construction is in compliance with the floodplain regulations of the Town and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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3 The proposed residential building must comply with all requirements of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code.

4 The Villages of Kaser and Spring Valley are the two reasons this proposal was referred to this department for review. The Kaser municipal boundary is along the southern property line of the site; the Spring Valley municipal boundary is 180 feet north of the site. 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 a manner that is supportive of the goals and objectives of the general area.

The Villages of Kaser and 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 Villages of Kaser and Spring Valley must be considered and satisfactorily addressed, as well as any additional concerns about the proposal.

5 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. As noted above, the applicant is seeking a 30 percent increase over the maximum permitted development coverage on an environmentally constrained site. 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.

6 It will not be possible for sanitation workers to access to the dumpster enclosure if vehicles are parked in spaces 1 and 2. The dumpster enclosure must be moved to a more accessible location.



Douglas J. Schletz
Acting Commissioner of Planning

cc: Supervisor Christopher St. Lawrence, Ramapo
Rockland County Department of Health
Rockland County Drainage Agency
Rockland County Sewer District #1
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Anthony R. Celentano P.L.S.
Villages of Kaser and Spring Valley
New York State Department of State,
Division of Code Enforcement and Administration
Blima Einhorn

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**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.

