

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

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

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

July 27, 2017

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

**Tax Data:** 49.15-3-36

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

**Map Date:** 1/20/2017

**Date Review Received:** 7/6/2017

**Item:** ***BOLMAD, INC. - 3-FAMILY RESIDENCE W/ 3 ACCESSORY APARTMENTS (R-2608)***

A variance application for side, total side, and rear setbacks, maximum development coverage, and rear deck setback to construct a 3-family residence with 3 accessory apartments on 0.36 acres in the R15-C zoning district.

South side of Calvert Drive, approximately 170 feet west of Crown Road

**Reason for Referral:**

Village of Kaser

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 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. This application proposes reducing the side setback by 33%, the total side setback by 50%, the rear setback by 43%, the rear yard for decks by 60%, and increasing the maximum development coverage by 30%. The ability of the existing infrastructure to accommodate increased residential density on undersized parcels 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.

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2 The NYS Department of State has determined that the Town is not administering or enforcing the State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code in accordance with minimum standards set forth in 19 NYCRR part 1203. Given the concerns about the Town's administration and enforcement of the State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code raised in the Executive Deputy Secretary of State's letter of July 15, 2016, the proposed residential building must be held to the requisite minimum standards and comply with all requirements of this code.

3 It will difficult for a vehicle parked in spaces #1 or #4 to maneuver out of the space without a turnaround area. No sidewalks, stairs, or exits have been shown on the site plan, making it difficult to assess the parking area in relation to the pedestrian movement on site, and whether there would be safety issues for the residents. A turnaround area must be provided so that vehicles do not have to back out into the roadway, and the stairs, walkways, and exits must be illustrated on the site plan so that safety issues can be properly evaluated.

4 The Village of Kaser is the reason this proposal was referred to this department for review. The municipal boundary is 200 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 county-wide 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 which is supportive of the goals and objectives of the general area.

Those areas of countywide concern, including but not limited to traffic, drainage, stormwater management, sewer capacity, water supply and community character, that directly impact the Village of Kaser must be considered and satisfactorily addressed.

5 A review must be completed by the Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services, the Town of Ramapo Fire Inspector, or the Monsey Fire Department to ensure that there is sufficient maneuverability on-site for emergency vehicles.

6 A review must be completed by the Rockland County Department of Health to ensure compliance with Article XIX (Mosquito Control) of the Rockland County Sanitary Code.

7 A review must be completed by the County of Rockland Sewer District #1 and all required permits obtained from them.

8 In the March 15, 2017 letter from the Town of Ramapo, the Fire Inspector lists 19 comments that must be addressed.

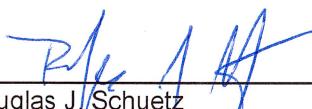
9 The dumpster enclosure is located behind parking spaces 2 and 3, making access difficult if vehicles are parked in these spaces. The dumpster must be relocated to where it will not be in conflict with the parking layout.

10 All proposed entrances, stairways, window wells, and other structures must be delineated on the site plan demonstrating that they will not impact yard requirements and parking maneuverability for the site.

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- 11 The site plan shall contain map notes, including district information.
- 12 Pursuant to the Rockland County Sanitary Code, Article XIII, Section 13.8.1, all multiple dwellings with three or more rental units must register and obtain a Multiple Dwelling Rental Certificate (MDRC). If this proposed multi-family dwelling meets the requirements of the Multiple Dwelling Rental Registry requirement, then the owner must register and obtain the MDRC. Failure to comply is a violation of Article XIII, which may result in penalties of \$2,000 per day.
- 13 The large number and scope of the requested variances, along with the challenges presented by the proposed parking layout, suggest a general overdevelopment of the site. In order to bring the use of the property more in line with its capacity to be developed, the number of units must be reduced.
- 14 Pursuant to General Municipal Law (GML) Section 239-m and 239-n, if any of the conditions of this GML review are overridden by the board, then the local land use board must file a report with the County Commissioner of Planning of the final action taken. If the final action is contrary to the recommendation of the Commissioner, the local land use board must state the reasons for such action.

In addition, pursuant to Executive Order 01-2017 signed by County Executive Day on May 22, 2017, County departments are prohibited from issuing a County permit, license, or approval until the report is filed with the County Commissioner of Planning. The applicant must provide to any County agency which has jurisdiction of the project: 1) a copy of the Commissioner report approving the proposed action; or 2) a copy of the Commissioner of Planning recommendations to modify or disapprove the proposed action, and a certified copy of the land use board statement overriding the recommendations to modify or disapprove, and the stated reasons for the land use board's override.

  
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Douglas J. Schuetz  
Acting Commissioner of Planning

cc: Supervisor Yitzchok Ullman, Ramapo  
New York State Department of State  
Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services  
Rockland County Department of Health  
Rockland County Sewer District #1  
Monsey Fire District

Anthony R. Celentano P.L.S.  
Village of Kaser

*\*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.*

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*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.*