



Rockland County

Ed Day, Rockland County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner

Arlene R. Miller
Deputy Commissioner

December 12, 2018

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

Tax Data: 49.19-6-8

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

Map Date: 10/31/2018

Date Review Received: 11/1/2018

Item: *MONSEY CEDAR, LLC./19 CEDAR LANE (R-2505A)*

Variance from Section 376-65.G.3 to permit a second accessory unit in a flat-style structure containing three dwelling units and one accessory unit. The .3444-acre site is in an R-15C zoning district. Previously granted variances include less than the required front yard, front setback, side setback, total side setback, rear setback, rear deck setback; and greater than permitted development coverage. South side of Cedar Lane, approximately 385 feet west of Blauvelt 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:

****Disapprove***

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. The applicant was granted a 40 percent increase over the maximum permitted development coverage, as well as several yard and setback variances, allowing a massive addition to be constructed. It is unclear if the addition is attached to the original structure or is a stand-alone building. The ability of the existing infrastructure to accommodate increased residential density in non-conforming structures 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. No additional variances shall be granted.

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2 Section 376-65.G.3 allows one accessory apartment in flat style structures. This restriction was added to the Zoning Law in 2007. The applicant chose not to construct a townhouse style structure in which more than one accessory unit is permitted. A variance must not be granted to legalize a second accessory apartment. The unit must be removed.

The following comments address our additional concerns about this proposal.

3 The Village of Kaser is the reason this proposal was referred to this department for review. The municipal boundary is 200 feet east 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.

4 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.

5 The applicant must comply with the conditions of the Rockland County Sewer District #1's November 15, 2018 letter.

6 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.

7 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 fire trucks, in the event an emergency arises.

8 The required parking must be illustrated on the site plan. In our July 2, 2015 GML review of the variances required for an earlier version of this proposal, we expressed concerns about parking accessibility and maneuverability. It is not possible to evaluate the onsite parking in the current submission.

9 A dumpster enclosure must be shown on the site plan and easily accessible to sanitation workers. Parked vehicles must not block access.

10 The site plan shall contain map notes that list all appropriate information, including the district details.

11 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.

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12 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.

13 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.



Douglas Schuetz
Acting Commissioner of Planning

cc: Supervisor Michael B. Specht, Ramapo
Rockland County Department of Health
Rockland County Sewer District #1
New York State Department of State
Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services
Monsey Fire District

Anthony R. Celentano P.E.
Village of Kaser

Monsey Cedar, LLC

Mona Montal, Chief of Staff
Rockland County Planning Board Members

**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.

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.

