Rockland County

Ed Day, Rockland County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
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Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner

Arlene R. Miller
Deputy Commissioner

November 27, 2018

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

Tax Data: 57.09-1-56

Re: GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW REVIEW: Section 239 L and M
Map Date: 9/25/2018 **Date Review Received:** 10/15/2018

Item: ***MARVIN RUBINSTEIN (R-2630B)***

Variances for front setback, front yard, total side setback, rear setback, maximum development coverage and deck rear setback to permit the construction, maintenance and use of a three-family dwelling with three accessory apartments on .2583 acres in an R-15C zoning district. The extent of the maximum development coverage and deck rear setback variances has decreased slightly.

East side of Herrick Ave, approximately 165 feet north of West Central Avenue

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 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 now seeking a 24 percent increase over the allowed maximum development coverage. While the extent of this variance has decreased, it is still significant. The ability of the existing infrastructure to accommodate increased residential density on undersized, non-conforming 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. The building footprint must be reduced and fewer units permitted, so that the proposal more closely conforms to the R-15C bulk requirements. If only one accessory apartment is proposed, two of the six parking spaces can be eliminated. This will reduce the development coverage.

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2 The Village of Spring Valley is the reason this proposal was referred to this department for review. The municipal boundary is approximately 390 feet south of the subject property. As required under Section 239nn of the State General Municipal Law, the Village of Spring Valley must be given the opportunity to review the proposed subdivision and provide any concerns related to the project to the Town of Ramapo.

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

4 An updated review of the September 25, 2018 map shall be completed by the Rockland County Sewer District #1, and all required permits obtained. In addition, the applicant must comply with the conditions of the Sewer District's February 9, 2018 letter.

5 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. The Ramapo building inspector notes in the November 27, 2017 denial letter that NYS variances will be required for minimum side setback since stairs are proposed within ten feet of the property line.

6 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.

7 It will be difficult for sanitation workers to access the garbage enclosure if vehicles are parked in spaces 4 or 5. The garbage enclosure must be moved to a more accessible location.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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 J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner of Planning

cc: Supervisor Michael B. Specht, Ramapo
Rockland County Department of Health
Rockland County Drainage Agency
Rockland County Sewer District #1

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New York State Department of State
Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services
Monsey Fire District

Anthony R. Celentano P.L.S.
Village of Spring Valley

Marvin Rubinstein

Mona Montal, Chief of Staff

**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.