

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

Dr. Robert L. Yeager Health Center  
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**Douglas J. Schuetz**  
*Acting Commissioner*

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

December 14, 2018

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

**Tax Data:** 57.05-2-45

**Re: GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW REVIEW:** Section 239 L and M  
**Map Date:** 8/31/2018

**Date Review Received:** 10/15/2018

**Item:** **SAMUEL WERTHEIMER/7 STEPHENS PLACE (R-2669)**

Variances for side setback and total side setback to permit the addition of a deck to an existing single-family dwelling on .1448 acres in an R-15C zoning district. A variance is also required from Section 376-71.A. since a turnaround area is not provided.

North side of Stephens Place, 133 feet west of North Cole 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:

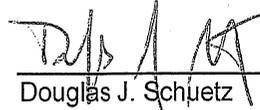
***\*Recommend the following modifications***

1 The Village of Spring Valley is the reason this proposal was referred to this department for review. The municipal boundary is along the eastern property line 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 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.

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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 additions to the residential building must be held to the requisite minimum standards and comply with all requirements of this code. Since the proposed deck is within ten feet of the property line, we believe a New York State variance is required.
- 3 A review must be done by the Rockland County Department of Health to ensure compliance with Article XIX (Mosquito Control) of the Rockland County Sanitary Code.
- 4 A review of the proposed building addition must be completed by the Rockland County Sewer District #1, and any required permits obtained.



Douglas J. 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

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

Samuel Wertheimer

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.*