

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

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

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

June 4, 2019

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

**Tax Data:** 49.19-5-19.1

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

**Map Date:** 1/29/2019

**Date Review Received:** 4/26/2019

**Item:** *RUBIN BRACH - 302 BLAUVELT ROAD (R-1212H)*

A variance application to allow an addition to, and the conversion of, an existing, attached single-family dwelling to a three-family dwelling with three accessory apartments on 0.26 acres in the R-15C zoning district. Variances were previously granted for front setback, front yard, rear setback, maximum development coverage, rear setback deck, and section 276-78.A (distance of accessway to intersections). An additional variance for floor area ratio is requested.

East side of Blauvelt Road, approximately 30 feet south of Carton Road

**Reason for Referral:**

Village of Kaser, NYS Route 306

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 project has already received extensive bulk variances. The proposed floor area ratio exceeds the generous limit of 0.90 by 28%. The ability of the existing infrastructure to accommodate increased residential density 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 and the number of units shall be reduced to more closely conform with the R-15C bulk standards.
- 2 A review shall be completed by the New York State Department of Transportation, and any required permits obtained.

### **RUBIN BRACH - 302 BLAUVELT ROAD (R-1212H)**

3 The Village of Kaser is one of the reasons this proposal was referred to this department for review. The municipal boundary is approximately 105 feet south and 145 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 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 Kaser 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 Kaser must be considered and satisfactorily addressed, as well as any additional concerns about the proposal.

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 A review must be completed by the County of Rockland Sewer District No. 1 and all required permits obtained from them.

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

8 It will be difficult for a vehicle parked in space 3 or 4 to maneuver out of the space without a turnaround area. Only one exterior stairway at the rear is shown on the site plan. No other exterior stairways, building entrances or walkways are shown on the site plan for the proposed addition, making it difficult to assess the parking area in relation to the pedestrian movement on site, and whether there will 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 all stairs, entrances and walkways must be illustrated on the site plan so that safety issues can be properly evaluated.

9 It will be difficult for sanitation workers to access the dumpster enclosure if vehicles are parked in spaces 5 and 6. The dumpster enclosure must be moved to a more accessible location

10 If parking space 4 is intended to be a handicapped-accessible space, it must be noted on the site plan and designed in accordance with ADA standards. The access aisle must be the full length of the parking space and accessible for wheelchairs.

11 Part of parking spaces 1 and 6, and a portion of the dumpster enclosure are located within the five-foot shade tree easement established at the time of the original subdivision. The combined length of the parking spaces and the dumpster enclosure is approximately 68 feet. As a result, this property is unable to comply with the requirement for a shade tree to be planted every 40 linear feet, as per Section 258-3 of the Town Code. The building must be reduced in size so the shade tree requirement is met and all parking can be accommodated on site.

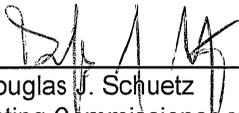
12 Map Note 9 must specify Section 239L and M of the General Municipal Law as this is an application for variances not a subdivision.

**RUBIN BRACH - 302 BLAUVELT ROAD (R-1212H)**

13 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.

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.

15 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 Michael B. Specht, Ramapo  
Monsey Fire District  
New York State Department of Transportation  
Rockland County Department of Health  
Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services  
Rockland County Sewer District #1  
  
Anthony R. Celentano P.L.S.  
Village of Kaser

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.*

