



Rockland County

Ed Day, Rockland County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner

Arlene R. Miller
Deputy Commissioner

August 7, 2019

Ramapo Planning Board
237 Route 59
Suffern, NY 10901

Tax Data: 42.16-1-1

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

Map Date: 2/1/2019

Date Review Received: 7/29/2019

Item: *GRACEPOINT GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP, INC. (R-1185M)*

A revised site plan for the construction of a Pastor's residence accessory to an existing church and religious school located on 36.35 acres in the R-15 zoning district. A variance for rear setback will be needed.

North side of New Hempstead Road, south side of Peach Tree Road, east side of the Palisades Interstate Parkway

Reason for Referral:

New Hempstead Road (CR 80), Palisades Interstate Parkway, Town of Clarkstown

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 map provided with the application, dated February 1, 2019, indicates a variance for rear setback will be required. It is our understanding that the plans have been altered to remove the need for this variance. A new, updated site plan must be provided in order to accurately review the application.

2 The applicant must comply with the comments made by the Rockland County Health Department in their letter of April 15, 2019.

3 The applicant must comply with the comments made by the Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 in their letter of April 11, 2019.

4 A review must be completed by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and any comments or concerns addressed.

GRACEPOINT GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP, INC. (R-1185M)

- 5 A review must be completed by the County of Rockland Department of Highways, any comments or concerns addressed, and all required permits obtained.
- 6 The site plan shall include map notes that list all appropriate information, including the district details.
- 7 Prior to the start of construction or grading, all soil and erosion control measures must be in place for the site. These measures must meet the latest edition (November 2016) of the New York State Standards for Urban Erosion and Sediment Control.
- 8 There shall be no net increase in the peak rate of discharge from the site at all design points.
- 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
Palisades Interstate Park Commission
Rockland County Department of Highways
Rockland County Department of Health
Rockland County Sewer District #1

Atzl, Nasher & Zigler P.C.
Town of Clarkstown

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.