

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner

Arlene R. Miller
Deputy Commissioner

May 17, 2018

Spring Valley Planning Board
200 N. Main Street
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Tax Data: 50.53-1-1

Re: GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW REVIEW: Section 239 N

Map Date: 9/12/2017

Date Review Received: 4/4/2018

Item: **21 MERRICK DRIVE (SV-902A)**

A two-lot subdivision of 0.30 acres in the R-1A zoning district. A two-family dwelling is proposed on each lot. Variances are required for lot area and lot width for both lots, side yard for lot 1, and street frontage for lot 2.

The northeastern corner of Merrick Drive and North Rigaud Road.

Reason for Referral:

Town of Ramapo

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 proposed lots are deficient in area by 17 and 29%. The lot widths are deficient by 23% and 25%. The requested side yard variance for Lot 1 is 67% of the required minimum. The proposed street frontage for Lot 2 is 86% of the required minimum. The ability of the existing infrastructure to accommodate increased residential density on undersized 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 Village must consider the cumulative and regional impacts of permitting such development.
- 2 The applicant must comply with all comments made by the Rockland County Health Department in their letter of April 5, 2018.
- 3 A review must be completed by the County of Rockland Sewer District #1 and all required permits obtained from them.

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4 All comments made by the Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services in their letter of April 18, 2018 must be addressed.

5 The Town of Ramapo is the reason this proposal was referred to this department for review. The municipal boundary is approximately 155 feet west and 470 feet south of the parcel. 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 Town of Ramapo 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 Town of Ramapo must be considered and satisfactorily addressed, as well as any additional concerns about the proposal.

6 The bulk table indicates that the proposed front yard along Merrick Drive for Lot 1 is 29 feet. The measurement given on the site plan is 25 feet. Also, the bulk table indicates that the proposed side and total side yards for Lot 2 are 15 feet and 30 feet, respectively. The measurements given on the site plan are 10 feet and 20 feet, respectively. The bulk tables must be corrected, especially notating that additional variances are required. In addition, the public hearing notice must be reviewed. If the notice contains any inaccuracies, it must be corrected and reissued.

7 The use of tandem parking spaces prevents egress for vehicles parked behind other vehicles and creates an inconvenient situation for residents. This layout will encourage residents to park vehicles off-site instead of in their designated spaces and negates the purpose of on-site parking requirements. The tandem parking spaces must be reconfigured to allow independent access for all parking spaces.

8 The proposed structure on lot 1 does not comply with Section 255-22.H of the village zoning regulations, which prohibits impediments to visibility at intersections. This is an unacceptable hazard to motorists and pedestrians. The building must be reduced in size and reconfigured to comply with this section of the regulations.

9 Prior to the start of construction or grading, a soil and erosion control plan shall be developed and in place for the entire site that meets the latest edition of the New York State Guidelines for Urban Erosion and Sediment Control.

10 There shall be no net increase in the peak rate of discharge from the site at all design points.

11 As required by the Rockland County Stream Control Act, the subdivision plan must be reviewed and signed by the Chairman of the Rockland County Drainage Agency before the County Clerk can accept the plan to be filed.

13 Public sewer mains requiring extensions within a right-of-way or an easement shall be reviewed and approved by the Rockland County Department of Health prior to construction.

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- 14 Water is a scarce resource in Rockland County; thus proper planning and phasing of this project are critical to supplying the current and future residents of the Villages, Towns, and County with an adequate supply of water. A letter from the public water supplier, stamped and signed by a NYS licensed professional engineer, shall be issued to the municipality, certifying that there will be a sufficient water supply during peak demand periods and in a drought situation.
- 15 If any public water supply improvements are required, engineering plans and specifications for these improvements shall be reviewed by the Rockland County Department of Health prior to construction. In order to complete an application for approval of plans for public water supply improvements, the water supplier must supply an engineer's report pursuant to the "Recommended Standards for Water Works, 2003 Edition," that certifies their ability to serve the proposed project while meeting the criteria contained within the Recommended Standards for Water Works. These standards are adopted in their entirety in 10 NYCRR, Subpart 5-1, the New York State regulations governing public water systems. Further, both the application and supporting engineer's report must be signed and stamped by a NYS licensed professional engineer and shall be accompanied by a completed NYS Department of Health Form 348, which must be signed by the public water supplier.
- 16 The site plan shall contain map notes, including district information, and the subject property must be centered within the vicinity map.
- 17 The application form indicates the property receives water service from United Water and the property is located in the R-2 zoning district. The form must be corrected to Suez and R-1A.
- 18 The proposed residential buildings must comply with all requirements of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code. All sidewalks, stairs, decks, and entries must be shown on the map to ensure that there is sufficient access to the building for firefighting purposes.
- 19 The NYS Department of State has determined that the Village 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 Village'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.
- 20 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.
- 21 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.

cc: Mayor Alan Simon, Spring Valley
Rockland County Department of Health
Rockland County Drainage Agency
Rockland County Sewer District #1



Deputy for Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner of Planning

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

Anthony R. Celentano P.L.S.
Town of Ramapo
Construction Expediting Inc.

**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.