

**Orange County Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2021**

Board Member Participants: E. McClung, M. Sweeton, T. Gottlieb, C. Best, S. Turner, D. Niemotko
Guest: Legislator Tom Faggione
Staff Participants: A. Sorensen, J. Richmond, M. Tennermann, J. MacLeod, Z. Coleman, E. Russell

Meeting was called to order at 4:38 PM.

The minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting were accepted as circulated.

There are currently two Board openings which should be filled soon and four current members with expired terms who will be reappointed. After discussion, it was decided that Chairperson, E. McClung and Vice Chairperson, M. Sweeton will continue in these roles for 2021.

Review of General Municipal Law Planning and Zoning Permit Reviews – M. Tennermann gave a summary of the GML 239 referrals from November and December, 2020. There were 40 mandatory GML 239 referrals sent to the Department by municipalities throughout the County for the month of November and 28 for the month of December. Notable projects for November include a 43,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Chester and four solar farms for a total of 15.2 MW which were submitted by Town of Minisink, Town of New Windsor and two from Town of Wallkill. Notable projects for December include Town of Cornwall Comp Plan; 5 MW solar farm in Town of Goshen; new car lot with 38,000 sq. ft. warehouse in the Village of Goshen; major subdivision with 31 units including 3 affordable housing units in the Town of Warwick. The full report will be emailed soon.

Department Updates:

Census

The data was supposed to be compiled and presented to the President by 12/31/20. However, there was a slowdown which was expected. The data should be complete between February and March 31, 2021. This may lead to a delay for governments to receive data for redistricting purposes.

Continued Discussion on County Comprehensive Plan Updates:

Open Space – The work plan update was emailed to Board. Map was prepared which shows existing open space resources. The Planning Department will work on the Open Space Plan internally. There have been a lot of studies since 2004 with information that needs to be included in the new plan. The timeline should be 12 – 18 months. Looking at the last plan, there was a long list of stakeholders and there is a lot of interest in updating the plan. It is proposed that an advisory group be formed and a smaller working group. The smaller working group will participate in writing the plan and the larger advisory group would review and provide feedback. Z. Coleman discussed the map that he created which shows all the current open space, parkland, and trails. Planning Department will be assessing data reported in the original plan and the status of that data to determine what is still important from the original plan, and decide if we need a different approach based on what the priorities are now. We will coordinate with Orange County Land Trust. S. Turner suggested inclusion of a section on fiscal benefits to the local economy related to open space.

County-wide Resiliency Plan -

The Planning Department received a grant from NYS Department of State in the amount of \$250,000 to undertake a County-wide Resiliency Plan. The County Attorney's office is reviewing the proposed RFP. We will soon be in position to issue the RFP and anticipate kick-off by the end of March. The timeline for this project is 12 – 18 months.

West Point Military Installation Resiliency (MIR) Grant and Study –

We provided a brief overview of this project at the November meeting. We are working with West Point on the Military Installation Resiliency project. We were awarded a \$465,000 grant to undertake this study. This is the first phase of a two part study. The grant agreement is in place and we have legislative approval. A state advisory group includes representation from: County; West Point; Town of Highlands; Village of Highland Falls; Orange and Rockland; Central Hudson; New York Power Authority, New York Power Service; and New York Public Adjustment. The next step is to prepare the RFP for consultants. The first phase includes the supply of power and to ensure resilient power supply. The \$400,000 grant for the second phase will include resiliency of natural gas to these important facilities. This is a unique opportunity for the County to help support West Point, Town of Highlands and the Village of Highland Falls.

The next meeting of the Planning Board is scheduled for February 2, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.