

**Orange County Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2020**

Members Present: E. McClung, T. Gottlieb, C. Best; D. Niemotko, S. Turner, J. Wolfe, M.J. Guinchard (phone)
Guest: Eric Price, Galleria at Crystal Run
Staff: J. Richmond (phone), K. Morris, M. Tennermann, K. Schmidt, E. Russell

Meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM.

A motion was made by S. Turner and seconded by D. Niemotko to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2019 meeting, approved.

Three board members' terms expired on 12/31/19: E. McClung, M. Sweeton and C. Best. They will be recommended to the County Executive for reappointment. E. McClung will continue as Chair and M. Sweeton will continue as Vice Chair for 2020. The Climate Smart Communities Task Force will meet twice during 2020. We will confirm that current members would like to remain on the Task Force and extend invitations to other organizational representatives. The Planning Board will continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month during 2020. There was some discussion about changing the time from 4:30 PM to 4:00 PM. We will poll the rest of the members.

Review of General Municipal Law Planning and Zoning Permit Reviews – M. Tennermann prepared the GML 239 Referrals report for the month of December, 2019. There were 37 mandatory GML 239 referrals sent to the Department by municipalities throughout the County. A total of 162 dwelling units and 213,435 square feet of nonresidential development were proposed. Notable submissions include: Town of Wallkill Site plan for 90 room hotel and development off Golf Links Road for 150 market rate apartments.

Census Update – This month every household in the United States will be receiving a postcard about the census. Information will be submitted online. However, paper forms are available if requested. The bulk of responses will be online. The County will receive \$433,981 in state funding to promote the census. We have to submit a detailed request, but are waiting for state guidelines. They will possibly hire a Census Coordinator through the Complete County Committee, working with community organizations, County Departments, libraries, veterans, Chamber of Commerce, etc. They have monthly meetings to discuss efforts to get the word out to increase the response rate in Orange County.

County Comprehensive Plan: Upcoming Plan Updates

Open Space Plan – As discussed at the last meeting, K. Morris drafted a memo to the County Executive and Legislature requesting them to reaffirm their support for the Community Preservation Act which was denied by the governor's office. The legislature already passed this local law in 2019. We are asking them to revisit this and send it to the state again. If the Board is in support of this, we can send it from the Planning Department to the County Executive and Legislature indicating that the Planning Board is in support of Legislative reaffirmation of the local law. Since the Planning Board has an advisory role, the letter should come from the Planning Department.

K. Morris met with the Orange County Land Trust regarding the update to the Open Space Plan. They are eager to help work on the plan. The Hudson Valley Greenway announced their grant program recently, which could be used for this. The Orange County Land Trust staff resources would be helpful.

Housing – Efforts on the Housing section have come to a halt. Funding is currently unavailable for this project. There might be some HUD funding available through Community Development. They will be meeting soon. A housing needs assessment and housing plan would cost about \$150,000.

Correspondence – A letter was sent to Board members from Ron and Ellen Malecot regarding a zoning issue in the Village of Highland Falls. The Planning Board can't comment on this matter. It will be up to the Planning Department to factor this into their 239 review. We could copy them on the 239 decision letter. E. McClung would like to respond and tell them that the letter was received and that the response to their concerns will come from the Planning Department.

Local law to impose fee on paper carry-out bags – K. Schmidt was present to discuss this. She has done some additional research. The plastic bag ban will go into effect 3/1/20. She would like the board to provide a support letter to the Legislature to charge 5 cents for each paper bag used. She distributed copies of local laws from other counties who have done this. The 5 cents would be collected by the state and 40% would be returned to the County to be used to purchase reuseable bags for low income areas. The remaining 60% would be put into the state's environmental fund. Concerns were expressed at the December meeting about the administration of this proposal, but it will be done by the state. The legislature will have to enact a local law to facilitate the fee. It was determined that more research is needed. We don't have enough information to move forward.

The next meeting of the Planning Board is scheduled for February 4, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.