

**Orange County Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2020**

Members Present: E. McClung, M. Sweeton, T. Gottlieb, C. Best; D. Niemotko, S. Turner, J. Wolfe, J. Joy (phone)
Staff: J. Richmond, K. Morris, M. Tennermann, E. Russell

Meeting was called to order at 4:33 PM.

The minutes from the January 7, 2020 meeting were approved.

Board Member Mary Jo Guinchard has resigned from the board. Think about suggestions for a replacement. We strive for geographic distribution throughout the County, if possible. Elinor Hart was suggested. She is from Blooming Grove and currently on the Climate Smart Task Force and Orange County Land Trust board.

Review of General Municipal Law Planning and Zoning Permit Reviews – M. Tennermann prepared the GML 239 Referrals report for the month of January, 2019. There were 56 mandatory GML 239 referrals sent to the Department by municipalities throughout the County. 20 were for site plan or special use permit approvals, 23 were for area variances, 8 were for local laws (including referrals of municipal comprehensive plans), and 4 were for minor subdivisions. Notable submissions include: Town of Wallkill saw a great deal of activity in January, accounting for ten of those referrals including a new 117,950 sq. ft. warehouse, as well as a sketch plan for a new hotel at the Galleria at Crystal Run, and an expansion of the emergency department at Orange Regional Medical Center; Town of New Windsor has requested a temporary moratorium on development approvals; and Village of Walden has a proposed development including 68 senior apartments and one caretaker apartment in a single building.

She also discussed the GML 239 Referrals report for 2019. There were 551 mandatory GML239 referrals sent to the Department by municipalities in 2019. Of these, 291 were for site plan and special use permit approval, 65 for residential subdivisions, 52 local zoning law referrals, 158 area variance and 17 use variance referrals. Residentially, 2,744 building lots and multifamily dwelling units were proposed. Commercially, 6,173,751 sq. ft. of building area was proposed countywide.

Updates:

Climate Smart Advisory Task Force Update – Julie Richmond

Last year we formed a Climate Smart Advisory Task Force. We reaffirmed at the last meeting that the Task Force will meet a minimum of twice per year. We should reconvene the Task force at our next meeting on March 3, 2020. We will contact the Task Force members and reaffirm their commitment. We should try to include some other groups: CAC's, NGO's, Legislator, Green Committee Chair, School Systems, Librarians. We have representatives from County DPW, Sustainable Warwick, SUNY Orange, Hudson Valley Regional Council, Orange County Land Trust and Mayors & Supervisors. Not all of the current members have attended a meeting yet. They don't really have a task or a mission. They are just committing to attending meetings. We might try to expand the Task Force and develop working subgroups. As we are going through the LEED certification process, we are finding projects that we could use help with. We could present the ideas and projects to the working groups and have them report back to the larger group. Think about additions to the Task Force by the next meeting. We will have a list of activities the group can consider and narrow it to two items they should focus on.

Housing – Megan Tennermann

After the meeting with HUD and Community Development, we will be allowed to use a portion of the CDBGDR funds for a Housing Needs Assessment Study. \$1.5 million is available. This study will cost about \$150,000.

Open Space – Kelly Morris

We have put in a resolution to apply for Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant which will be used for Orange County Land Trust to help with Open Space. We are working with the Land Trust and Grants team on application.

Census Grant – Julie Richmond

We applied for an allocation from the state for census outreach to hard to count areas in the amount of \$433,981. We are still waiting for guidance from the state. 75% of the funds have to be redistributed to not for profit organizations that work with hard to count populations. 5% is for administrative expenses. A portion of the budget will be for County outreach and media, decals on buses, social media, and flyers to get the word out. Participating NGO's have to be precertified by the state. If you know of an organization in your community who would like to apply for one of these grants, inform them that they have to be on an approved list for the County to distribute funds to them. They will also have to fill out a County Supplier application. There will be a committee formed to determine the distribution of funding. The timeline is tight. The County has to apply to the state by March 2nd and advise at that time which NGOs will receive funding. Information on precertification will be posted on the website.

Eight-year review of County Agricultural Districts – Kelly Morris

The County Agricultural Districts were last updated in 2012. The County has had Ag districts since 1970. The County is currently divided into two Ag districts, divided by Route 17. There has been some discussion about consolidating into one district. The update needs to be completed before November, 2020. The Legislature does the public hearing and mailings and Planning provides support. The County Planning Board used to be designated to present the review to the Legislature, but that has changed and the Ag Board will make the presentation. We will keep the Planning Board informed and you can give feedback. The annual enrollment period is going on now. This discussion is informational. Its up to the board if they want to contribute. It's still early in the process.

J. Wolfe distributed a letter she received from Dr. Kristine M. Young, President of Orange County Community College. She had a couple of transit related questions regarding County bus routes. She is concerned about transportation for students between campuses and to Amy's Kitchen and Legoland for employment. The County is already looking at these issues. J. Richmond will contact Dr. Young for a college representative to work on the OCTC subcommittee.

The next meeting of the Planning Board is scheduled for March 3, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 6: PM.