



## DIVISION OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### ACTIVITY REPORT January 2023

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#### I. PLANNING ACTIVITY

##### Land Use Planning & Technical Assistance:

- GML-239 Referrals
  - 7 referrals received, with actions in 6 municipalities

| <b>GML-239 Referrals, January 2023</b> |                |                                   |  |               |                   |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Date Received                          | Date Requested | Project Name                      | Action Type                              | Referral ID # | Legislator        |
| 1/17/2023                              | 2/8/2023       | Stewart's Shops Corp.             | Site Plan Review                         | LIV23-02      | Luis Alvarez      |
| 1/17/2023                              | 2/8/2023       | Yeshiva Ahavas Israel Inc.        | Site Plan Review                         | LIV23-01      | Luis Alvarez      |
| 12/28/2022                             | 1/10/2023      | Granda Capital Ventures LLC       | Site Plan Review                         | MAM22-04      | Nicholas Salomone |
| 1/12/2023                              | 2/13/2023      | CMC Venture Holdings, LLC         | Site Plan Review                         | MON23-01      | Alan Sorensen     |
| 1/18/2023                              | 3/7/2023       | Amend Town Code                   | Adoption/Amendment of Comprehensive Plan | THO23-01      | Alan Sorensen     |
| 1/10/2023                              | 1/20/2023      | Bobov Yeshiva Educational Retreat | Special Use Permit                       | TUS23-01      | Robert Doherty    |
| 1/17/2023                              | 1/26/2023      | Cochecton Self Storage LLC        | Site Plan Review                         | COC23-01      | Robert Doherty    |

- **Land Use, Strategic and Comprehensive Planning**
  - *Housing Plan:*
    - Issued RFP for services to support implementation of the Housing Plan and related housing projects on January 13<sup>th</sup>, with responses due February 3rd. Services being sought to address needs created by open positions.
  - *Neversink Watershed Management Plan:*
    - Kick-off public engagement event held virtually on 1/18, with approximately 50 participants; part of series of sessions intended to provide education on watershed issues. Second being planned for early March, date tbd
  - *Countywide Resiliency Plan:*
    - Existing Conditions Inventory phase -- stakeholder interviews, data collection, continues
    - Office of Sustainable Energy staff
    - Scheduling interviews; filed quarterly report
  - *Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan:*
    - With the announcement of the grant award, OSE has begun developing an RFP to procure a consultant for required services. No solicitation may begin until an award agreement is executed with the NYS DEC via the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program.
    - Responded to miscellaneous media interest in the award and the new plan
- **Technical Assistance & Training**
  - February 15th: First of series of Agricultural Trainings in partnership with CCE and the County Ag Board; covering ag districts and ag assessments, right-to farm law, ag data statements, GML-239 reviews, etc.
  - February 28th: Annual training for Planning and Zoning Board members presented by the NYS Department of State; will cover planning and zoning to support walking and biking, and the Comprehensive Plan
  - Staff assessing potential impacts of pending NYS legislation to regulate Class C streams. GIS looking into availability and mapping of Class C stream data in the county.

## **Recreation, Quality of Life & Tourism-based Economic Development**

- **Sullivan O&W Rail Trail**
  - New funding opportunity: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program issued. Working on developing a funding request to this program to support the design and engineering of on-road improvements.
  - Trail buildout and improvements: Neversink Crossing

- Received signed Initial Project Proposal (IPP) signed from NYS DOT; DOT is now proceeding with their own environmental and historical assessment
- Ongoing coordination with consultants, Town, State & Federal funding sources, etc.
- Trail buildout and improvements: Other
  - Awaiting Alta work orders for design work on additional sections
  - Facilitated debrief on 2022 CFA application by Liberty for Parksville improvements
  - Ongoing communication with property owners (Open Space Institute)
- Outreach and events committee
  - Ongoing Planning initiated for 2023 snO&W event
  - Follow up on ad, rack card distribution
  - First newsletter, attached
- **New County Park Project (Callicoon)**
  - Initiated paperwork for \$125,000 SAM grant, through Assemblywoman Gunther's office
  - DPW ordered material for new entry gate/fencing
  - Proceeding with contract for design, engineering and permitting
  - Working on web page to provide information on the park, as it progresses
- **Highland Access Improvements**
  - Closing project for the season and preparing for spring completion

## **Community Development & Revitalization**

- **Round 7 Restore New York grant**
  - Held required public hearing
  - Completing application, due 1/27
- **Sullivan County Land Bank Corporation (SCLBC)**
  - Focus on Restore NY application, noted above
  - The Black Library Project, sponsored by the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center, made a presentation to the Board at its January meeting, seeking a lease on the ground floor of the Key Bank building on Broadway; lease negotiation in progress
  - Continuing to review proposals to redevelop 91 Chestnut Street, Liberty (aka Spanish Castle, Yeager Mansion)
  - Broadway Theater
    - Continuing to work with ESD to close out grant for feasibility study
    - Continuing to with individual seeking to rehabilitate and lease Broadway Theater after hiatus during the winter holidays
  - Board approved sale of 8 vacant lots to developer committing to affordable single family home construction

- **CDBG Housing**
  - Ongoing promotion and screening to identify grant subrecipients for assistance with home improvement, purchase and mobile home replacement.
- **Other**
  - As noted above, completed RFP for contractual services as a means of adjusting to staff shortage

### **Economic Development**

- **CDGB grants**
  - Ongoing work to process existing grants.
    - Worked with Purchasing to bid out equipment for the CDGB Care grant for The Center for Discovery to ensure MWBE requirements are met.
- **Revolving Loan Fund**
  - Payments on all loans are current.
  - Closed on loans for fast EV charging station in Cohecton and new café in Roscoe

### **Administration**

- Received resignation letter from Deputy Commissioner Jill Weyer, effective February 24.
- Focus on recruitment for all staff positions:
  - Interviewing candidates referred by HR after eligibility screening
  - Working with HR on job descriptions and eligibility requirements, and Indeed postings and ads
  - Working with Dan Hust on Linked In, Instagram and other social media postings
  - CWD supporting effort with listings in County Hot Jobs emails and NYS job boards
  - Planning staff posting positions on planning association job boards and with college and universities

## **II. OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (OSE)**

### **Projects**

- Facilities Master Plan
  - Finalization of draft document continues. Nearing completion,

### **Public, Agency, and NYS Engagement**

- NYSEG
  - Ongoing work with NYSEG to secure credits generated at the Goodyear Lake Hydroelectric Dam. Clerical errors by the utility have resulted in a delay in credits being allocated to County electric accounts.

- Mid-Hudson Regional Energy Hub.
  - Plans being made for an event at SUNY Sullivan to connect both youth and adults with training opportunities and potential employers in the clean energy industry. Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development to participate as well.
- NYSAC 2023 Legislative Conference
  - Standing Committee on Climate Action chaired by Deputy Planning Commissioner Heather Brown will be presenting resolutions relating to support Extended Product Responsibility action that does not include surcharges to municipalities and taxpayers, as well as support additional resources to be made available to improve existing housing in New York State.

### III. PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION

#### Park Planning and Management

- RFP for Design, Engineering and Permitting Services
  - Processing contractors for selected firms.
- Staffing
  - Advertising for seasonal summer positions for Lake Superior State Park and the Sullivan County Clean Team. Flyers have been sent to all of the local schools/colleges, and have been posted online and social media.
- Lake Superior
  - Working with NYS Parks and PIPC staff on receiving approval for the building of the trails on the Westside of Lake Superior. Environmental Assessment Reviews are in the process of being completed. The trails will be developed in a three-phase approach, over the next few years, for a total of six-miles of primitive hiking trails.
  - The Parks Department was contacted by a local fishing guide company looking to host an ice fishing derby at Lake Superior State Park. We have been working with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and the County Attorney's Office setting up requirements and permissions for the event to take place. The event is tentatively scheduled for February 4, 2023.
- Callicoon new park
  - Park staff clearing brush, overgrowth and debris
  - Working with Planning, OSE, and Grants staff on development, as noted above
- Parks & Rec Events
  - Saturday, February 11th at 2:00 pm: The Frederick Cook Society will present a concert by Mickey Barnett, performing the music of Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins and others. Following his performance Mickey will share the story of how songwriter Ed Townsend wrote Marvin Gaye's "Lets Get it On" at Mickey's "Little Giant" recording studio in Bethel

## IV. GRANTS

### Administration

- Amplifund
  - Implementation process ongoing; currently assembling information of processes for return to AmpliFund staff prior to next discovery session towards end of month
- Staffing
  - Interviewing candidates for the open grantwriter position

### County Grants

- Emergency Management
  - FEMA Process of Public Assistance Grants
    - Project 1 pending reimbursement to County;
    - Project 2 submitted for preliminary review by FEMA before final submission
    - Project 3 in process of finalization for preliminary review by NYS DHSES prior to FEMA preliminary review
    - Project 4 in process of development and finalization of information for entry into FEMA Portal
    - Project 5 in process of development and finalization of information for entry into FEMA Portal
- Public Safety / E911 and Sheriff Office
  - all NYS DHSES / FEMA 4th Quarter 2022 Progress Reporting, both electronic and hard copy completed on time

## V. AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION

- CCE December Ag and Food systems report below