



# DIVISION OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## ACTIVITY REPORT April 2026

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### I. PLANNING ACTIVITY

#### Land Use Planning & Technical Assistance:

GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW – 239 Referrals					
Date Received	Date Requested	Project Name	Action Type	Referral ID #	Legislator
3/26/26	4/24/26	Taqueria el Tio Chino	Special Use Permit	LIV26-01	Alvarez
3/26/26	4/24/26	Gittle Loeffler	Special Use Permit	LIV26-02	Alvarez
4/10/26	5/8/26	Amend. Town Code “Time for Development”	Other	THO26-09	Ward
4/14/26	5/13/26	91 Chestnut St.	Site Plan Review	LIV26-03	Alvarez
4/17/26	5/7/26	Rock Ridge Subdivision	Subdivision Review	MON26-01	Ward
4/17/26	5/15/26	Vallone – TIALT, LLC Subdivision	Subdivision Review	ROC26-01	B. McPhillips
4/20/26	5/20/26	Charach Annexation	Site Plan Review	WOO26-01	Perello
4/22/26	5/13/26	Richmond County Development, LLC	Area Variance	BET26-02	M. McPhillips
4/22/26	5/4/26	U.T.A.	Special Use Permit	LIB26-07	B. McPhillips

- Planning staff continues to work on providing training on a wide range of topics for municipal board members so they can get their required 4 hours of New York State Department of State Training. A training from Pace University training offered credits for board members and continuing legal education credit hours for attorneys was held on April 22 with over 40 people attending. Staff continue to keep track of any future webinars from the Department of



Environmental Conservation. Additionally, staff compiled a list of training resources and created a page on the county website to share them.

- Planning is updating the County Databook, which compiles US Census and other data for the county. It will be available on the Planning website arranged by topic area and updated as needed based on availability of data.

## **Land Use, Strategic and Comprehensive Planning**

- **Comprehensive Planning**

- Planning staff continues to scope out a process to complete a county-wide comprehensive plan, with a focus on establishing a community outreach plan and developing draft materials to be utilized in those efforts.
- Planning is working with Dan Hust, Director of Communications, to learn about the Zen City platform as a tool to get public input for the plan.
- Planning will continue to seek funding to support these efforts.

- **Water Resources and Infrastructure**

- Planning consultant Delaware Engineering is finalizing the Countywide Infrastructure Assessment. The County reviewed the municipal reports and the consultant is updating them with the recommended edits. The County level report has been received and reviewed. A presentation to the Legislature is on today's agenda and presentation to the Sullivan County Supervisors Association is scheduled for Wednesday May 13.
- LaBella has started work on the study of the hydrogeology of in relation to subsurface conditions throughout the County to assess the County's water resources. The process is anticipated to take a year to complete.

- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**

- All comments from the steering committee were received and incorporated into the HMP, and Tetra Tech is in the process of inputting plan data into MitigateNY 2.0, New York State's updated web-based hazard mitigation planning platform and database.
- The public review period will commence on Wednesday, May 6th, and end on Friday, June 5th. A Microsoft Teams meeting to review the draft plan is scheduled for May 6th from 6:00pm-7:00pm, and an invitation was sent to County department heads, Sullivan

County municipalities, nongovernmental stakeholders, and neighboring municipalities. Local planning committee members, the public, neighboring communities, and stakeholders are encouraged to participate in this public review period by submitting any comments through a survey.

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

- Sullivan Paving has made progress on the Neversink Crossing, especially with the abutments and grading work. The County has been working with the project partners to draw down the funds, and successfully received the first draw down of the federal funds through New York State Department of Transportation. Two of the grants have been closed. The project is expected to be complete in early summer of 2026.
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- The use and occupancy agreement between New York State Department of Transportation and the Town of Liberty for the Parksville extension is tied with the acquisition process for multiple parcels related to the rerouting of Route 17. The design is complete. Planning assisted the Town with the State Environmental Quality Review and they were able to issue a negative declaration at their January meeting. Planning has helped coordinate other environmental requirements necessitated by the involvement of New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Office of Parks and Historic Preservation, and federal funds.
  - The Town of Rockland is working with Rotary Park on the section of trail from Livingston Manor towards Parksville. Engineering work is complete, and the Town is preparing an application to get funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program.
  - Planning worked with Grants to submit an application to the federal BUILD program (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) to fund the engineering of the trail/road intersections, a schematic design for the former Liberty Trestle, and an e-bike supplement to the Sullivan O&W Feasibility Study. The request is for \$4,000,000 and there is no required County match.
  - Staff continue to work with the Open Space Institute to help municipalities acquire rights of way to the trail.
  - Staff continue to participate in quarterly meetings of the O&W Rail Trail Alliance as well as regular meetings with the engineering firm and partner municipalities.

- The next event planned is the FO&WL on Saturday, April 25 at 8AM. The Alliance is teaming up with Sullivan Audubon Society President Maura Muller to lead a short hike on the Hurleyville section of the trail that skirts past Shaddock Pond, a local hotspot for migratory birds.
- **Community Outreach**
  - Planning, Office of Sustainability, Parks and Grants supported State University of New York, Sullivan in their earth day event. Outreach materials on work the Division is doing were provided to students and other attendees.



## **Community Development & Revitalization**

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Master Plan**
  - Meetings and project workshops with municipal officials, Sullivan County Public Works, and New York State Department of Transportation continue to identify locations for plan implementation, as per the additional scope of service which was authorized by the Legislature last month. These locations include:
    - Village of Monticello
    - Village of Liberty
    - Town of Fallsburg
    - Town of Rockland
    - Village of Wurtsboro
  - The consultant continues to develop a draft roadway and sidewalk inventory to guide infrastructure planning.
- **Housing**
  - The Sullivan County Land Bank plans to file a grant application to establish a source of funding for home repairs available to Sullivan County homeowners making no more than 120% of median household income. The goal is to preserve existing housing stock.
  - We anticipate future rounds of funding becoming available for new construction as well as mobile home replacement programs, which we will pursue.
  - A follow-up roundtable meeting with Assembly member Paula Kay is anticipated for June 2026.
- **Administrative**
  - Presented at the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development quarterly meeting
  - Attended monthly meeting of Sullivan County Land Bank

- Evaluating Division structure in response to recent vacancies, and preparing a plan to restructure with cost savings to County while preserving capacity. Vacancies division wide include one in the Department of Planning and two in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beautification.
- Reviewed protocol with staff and appropriate County officials in preparation for records storage and destruction.
- Met with Commissioner of Management and Budget to discuss current budget status for the Division.
- Continued administration activities associated with the Municipal Infrastructure Program for deployment of broadband infrastructure, including weekly reporting to New York State ConnectALL office, internal staff meeting, weekly meeting with the County's partner Archtop Fiber, monthly pole attachment meeting with stakeholders from across the State, and webinars on reporting requirements.

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

- An application from RWE Solar Developments is expected to be filed with the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Permitting on or about May 29, 2026. The project is known as Town Line Solar, a utility scale solar development in the Towns of Forestburgh and Thompson. Sullivan County has executed a Memorandum of Agreement with the municipalities, and staff have been in communication with Town officials as well as the County Attorney's Office to discuss next steps in accessing intervenor funds for legal representation during the application process. A Request for Proposals has been issued seeking professional services related to an independent review of the project. These efforts will be funded by intervenor funds made available by the developer as part of the standard State review process.
- OSE staff have evaluated current rate classifications for various County facilities and are working with NYSEG to determine if savings could be achieved by changing certain classifications. Staff also continues to review monthly utility statements, and to work with New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) and Department of Public Works (DPW) staff to resolve any meter readings and monthly billing errors identified.
- Additionally, OSE staff have been in contact with Tesla to identify a cause of recent billing errors. The issue has been identified and resolved.

### III. PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION

- Callicoon Park: Permitting for the construction of the parking area and trail to the river is complete. DPW removed the hazardous and dead trees at the site, many of which were dying Ash trees. Fisher Associates are working on finishing the bid documents so we can put the project out to bid soon. A fully executed Grant Disbursement Agreement is in hand from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), which is providing funding for the capital project.
- Fisher Associates are working on the design for the D&H Canal Trail Improvement project.
- The Annual Countywide Litter Pluck began April 1st. All of the disposal coupons and informational packets have been distributed to the participating locations.
- DPW has repaired two cabins, stairs and portions of the palisade's walkway at Fort Delaware.
- The department has begun the Lifeguard Certification courses. The courses are taking place at the Fallsburg Central School swimming pool.
- We have filled the majority of the seasonal staff positions.
- Park staff have put the docks in at Lake Superior and have the County parks set up for the upcoming season.
- We currently have three walks scheduled for the D&H Canal Interpretive Center. Two of the walks will be canal history based which will be held on May 2 and May 24. The third walk, June 14 is a nature-based walk discussing the birds and wildlife that can be found along the canal.

### IV. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION (DGA)

- **Keeping Federal Grant Funding & Grants Best Practices**
  - *Executive Orders Impact on County Grants:* DGA provided a series of updates about grant-related presidential Executive Orders to County stakeholders in an effort to increase awareness of what steps will be necessary to remain in compliance and retain federal funding; pending further discussion/action at this time.
  - *Assessing Risk re: Upcoming Changes in SAM Registration Requirements:* The Grant Professionals Association issued a notification about proposed changes to the SAM registration requirements, possibly creating significant legal and financial risks for nonprofits, universities, and local governments. The administration's proposal would require organizations to sign new certifications—under penalty of civil and criminal law—regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs, immigration, and more.
  - *New Federal Certifications Informational Webinar:* DGA staff will attend an informational webinar on May 4th hosted by the Association for Fundraising Professionals and Grant Professionals Association related to aforementioned new Federal Grant Certification Requirements. The General Services Administration is

- proposing updates to certifications for all federal financial assistance recipients—aligning requirements with recent executive orders and U.S. Department of Justice guidance on unlawful discrimination. These changes would apply broadly across all grants, cooperative agreements, and other federal funding vehicles. It will be crucial for all County stakeholders to understand how these changes could introduce new compliance and legal exposure risks for both nonprofits and public entities, including civil and criminal penalties. It would also apply to sub-grantees with the onus on the prime awardee to monitor compliance, so state pass-through dollars also would be affected.
- *Capacity, Compliance, and Risk Assessment:* An organization’s capacity to manage grant projects is directly correlated to its ability to remain in compliance with legal requirements and retain grant funding. The Department of Grants Administration intends to issue Grant Capacity Surveys to Divisions/Departments to assess their current grant-related capacity in order to provide the appropriate level of support.
  - *Regional Grant Consortium:* DGA staff were invited to participate in a Regional Grant Consortium. Heid Ames, Grants Manager with Saint Lawrence County’s Planning Office initiated the effort. The consortium is an informal group of grant managers/coordinators/administrators working with counties in NYS. DGA staff participated in the first meeting on April 22nd. A great opportunity to share feedback and ideas, especially given the current Federal funding environment and the recent amendments to regulatory and program guidelines, United States Code and issued NEW White House Executive Orders.
  - **Support to Outside Entities**
    - DGA received five (5) Funding Resource Requests (FFRs) since the end of March. The primary categories of FFRs received were small business start-up funding, municipal assistance, non-profit programming, and home repairs.
    - A second Grant Project Planning training has been scheduled for September 22, 2026 with morning and evening sessions.
  - **Support to County Staff: January Highlights**
    - **County Manager**
      - The 2026 New York State Empire State Development County Infrastructure Grant Program (CIGP) was submitted and is pending notification of award or declination.
      - DGA staff continues to work with the Director of Communications and County staff to address the NYS 250th Commemoration Commission paperwork that was successfully submitted to the NYS Education Department to benefit the Delaware Company’s celebration and acquire a statue of a Minuteman to be placed at Minisink Battleground Park. Project continues to progress with NYS Education Department staff, County staff and Delaware Company.
    - **Community Resources**
      - DGA staff confirmed the execution of this year’s Federal Transit Assistance 5311 contract. 5311 funds contribute to the operation of Move Sullivan, the County wide bus system that provides free rides to hundreds of riders each

week. With the fully executed contract in hand Community Resources can now claim funds to assist in operating Move Sullivan.

- DGA staff continues to assist the Center of Workforce Development in identifying potential funding sources for their consideration.
- **Health and Human Services**
  - DGA staff is on standby to assist the SC Department of Health as needed and to provide grant training to project managers, fiscal staff, and administrative support staff upon request.
  - DGA staff has offered some technical assistance with the Governor's Traffic Safety Child Passenger Safety Seat grant program being administered by the SC Department of Health.
- **Public Works**
  - With DGA's assistance, the Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator successfully submitted a voucher for the awarded 2024 Municipal Waste and Recycling and Reduction Program. The voucher was confirmed by our contact with NYS DEC indicating reimbursement should be forthcoming.
  - The County received reimbursement for the longstanding 2023 MWRR award. This marks the reception of a longstanding award that was delayed at the State level.
- **Planning**
  - The 2025 National Fish and Wildlife Federation – Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund application was successfully submitted and is pending notification of award or declination.
  - DGA staff attended the Earth Day event at SUNY Sullivan to promote environmental facing grants and raise community awareness about environmental funding. The information was well received by both attendees and the fellow vendors.
- **ITS**
  - DGA staff participates in regular weekly Municipal Infrastructure Program (MIP) / Broadband project meetings and assists in the monitoring of the project.
- **Public Safety**
  - DGA staff continues to closely monitor activity related to the DASNY Jeffersonville Tower Project, given it is a critical component of the MIP broadband project.
  - DGA staff is on standby to assist with the submission of the 2025-2026 New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Public Safety Answering Points grant application, due June 3.
  - The County received notification from NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services that the Critical Infrastructure Grant Program application in collaboration with SUNY Sullivan was declined. DGA staff continues to keep

watch for funding that will benefit SUNY Sullivan in addressing their identified needs.

- **County Clerk**

- DGA staff assisted the County Clerk's Office with the 2026-2027 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund individual grant application for a document conversion and access project, and a successful submission was accomplished in advance of the April deadline due date.
- The County received the final reimbursement in the amount of \$33,397 for the 2024-2025 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund, as a result of a successful administration of the awarded funds.

- **District Attorney**

- DGA staff is on standby to assist with the FY25 US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant Substance Abuse Site Based Program grant. DGA staff successfully submitted the first part of the application via Grants.gov on behalf of the County Manager, and has initiated action in accessing the second part of the application process in the JustGrants system. DGA has noted the inclusion of NEW certifications related to 8 US Code section 1373, and is closely monitoring the potential impact of new Federal certification requirements on all federally-funded grant programs County wide.

## **V. AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION**

- Cornell Cooperative Extension March 2026 Agriculture report attached