



DIVISION OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITY REPORT

August 2024

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I. PLANNING ACTIVITY

Land Use Planning & Technical Assistance:

- **GML-239 Referrals**

GML – 239 Referrals, July 2024					
Date Received	Date Requested	Project Name	Action Type	Referral ID #	Legislator
7/24/24	8/23/24	High Cor Church	Area Variance	BLO24-04	Salomone, Jr.
08/06/24	08/13/24	KL Enterprises	Site Plan Review	MAM24-02	Rajsz
08/09/24	09/09/24	Lebovits, LLC {Ahava}	Special Use Permit	LIV24-11	Alvarez
08/14/24	09/11/24	WSP Buddenhagen Rd.	Subdivision Review	CAL24-02	Scott
08/16/24	08/30/24	Cherry Hill Acquisitions	Site Plan Review	WOO24-06	Perrello

- Updated exemption agreements were sent to municipalities for renewal. To date, nine municipalities have signed and returned them.
- Working with Pace University to provide a training on land use law.
- Working with NYS DEC and the Sullivan County Partnership on a training to update our communities on changes to wetland regulations.

Land Use, Strategic and Comprehensive Planning

- **Neversink Watershed Management Plan**

- Friends of the Upper Delaware River is presenting the plan to the Legislature at this month's meeting.
- Friends of the Upper Delaware River is assisting the Town of Fallsburg with a WQIP grant for culvert work identified during this planning process.

- **Water Resources and Infrastructure**

- Planning and Delaware Engineering had a kick off meeting for the Countywide Infrastructure Assessment. This assessment will collect data on existing conditions and make recommendations for areas for infrastructure expansion based on current and anticipated growth.
- A separate scope of work is being developed to obtain hydrogeologic expertise in relation to subsurface conditions throughout the County to assess the County's water resources. We are actively searching for funding sources that could potentially fund this study.
- Continued facilitation of technical assistance to Wurtsboro and Fallsburg from the Water Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**

- Staff are scheduling a fall date towards the end of September to discuss the plan and receive updates on projects included in the 2021 update for municipalities that were not able to attend the June meeting.

Recreation, Quality of Life & Tourism-based Economic Development

- **Sullivan O&W Rail Trail**

- The Neversink Crossing project final design report has been compiled and was submitted to the NYSDOT. SEQR and NEPA have been completed. The current schedule anticipates a bid will be issued in the Fall of 2024. County representatives met with Town of Fallsburg leadership to discuss the approaching construction phase of the project, funding, and to address any concerns.
- The Town of Rockland and their engineers had their first committee meeting on the section of trail from Rotary Park in Livingston Manor south.
- Staff continue to participate in monthly meetings of the O&W Rail Trail Alliance as well as regular meetings with the engineering firm and partner municipalities.
- Planning is working with Real Property and the municipalities to get 911 addresses for the trailheads.
- Planning is working with the Sullivan Public Library Alliance to submit a grant application to Sullivan 180 for a daypack lending project that would encourage people to use the trail. The application was successful.
- A Trail Town Assessment for the Village of Liberty is scheduled for August 22nd at 9:30 am.
- The date has been set for the 2024 HO&WL event (Fri 10/25/24)

- Planning is working with partner agencies to establish a date in 2025 for a multi-day hike

Community Development & Revitalization

• Housing Fund

- Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress has provided a timeline to submit draft guidelines for a Sullivan County Housing Trust Fund to the Division of Planning for review. A presentation will be provided to the Legislature on September 19, 2024.

• Community Outreach

- Pattern for Progress expects to have the update to the County's Fair Housing Plan completed by the end of October 2024. Training module for local communities about encouraging housing while protecting community character are tentatively scheduled for October/November of this year.

• Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Master Plan

- The County signed the contract from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and it is now at the State for their signature
- A Request for Proposals has been developed to procure a consultant to assist with and write the plan and the solicitation will be issued as soon as the County has an executed grant agreement in place.
- Planning staff have identified various stakeholders to serve on the Advisory Committee, as well as those which we believe are important to engage via interviews and focus groups, to assist with the development of the plan and provide feedback throughout the process.
- An informational meeting and workshop were held on May 29th at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Education Center in Liberty for Advisory committee members. Ian Thomas of America Walks provided a presentation to the group. This served as an orientation to committee members in preparation for upcoming work on the plan.
- The plan will focus on connecting residents and visitors in and around community centers (villages, hamlets) with safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- A Request for Proposals will be issued mid-September to retain services of a consultant.

• RESTORE NY Round 7

- Actively working with NYS Empire State Development and RUPCO to implement the RESTORE NY Round 7 award received for rehabilitation of the Strong Building and Key Bank Building on Broadway, Monticello.
- The County is working with RUPCO and the Sullivan County Land Bank to navigate a significant increase in the cost of construction based on the latest cost estimates.

Economic Development

- **Emerald Corporate Center Economic Development Corporation (ECCEDC)**
 - We continue to work with the Town of Thompson to transfer Emerald Springs Water Company (ESWC) and all assets to the Town of Thompson, based on discussions with counsel having experience with the process.
 - Both the Town and the ECCEDC have approved a Memorandum of Agreement which lays out the process and relationship between Emerald Corporate Center, Emerald Springs Water Company and the Town during this process. The document is in process for execution

Administration

- Submitted 2025 Operating Budget Request
- Attended monthly meeting and board retreat for Sullivan County Land Bank
- Met with Town of Liberty and Sullivan County Public Works to discuss pedestrian safety issues
- Attended meeting of the Real Property Advisory Board to discuss potential conservation efforts of a parcel on the tax foreclosure auction list
- Participated in meetings with staff and partners to discuss response to NYS ConnectAll request for additional information on the recent MIP Grant submission
- Participated in Cornell Cooperative Extension's quarterly Planning Advisory Committee meeting
- Participated in NYSAC Fall Seminar Climate Workshop prep meeting
- Participated in monthly O&W Rail Trail Alliance meeting

II. OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (OSE)

- OSE is currently staffed by one part-time Sustainability Analyst following the retirement of a staff member. We will be working with OMB and the County Manager's office to determine the most appropriate path forward for staffing in the Office during the development of the 2025 Operating Budget.
- The Lake Goodyear small hydro facility continues to be offline due technical problems. Gravity Renewables, the operator of the plant, is troubleshooting with NYSEG to resolve the issue. There is no cost to the County for repairs.
- OSE staff have continued to review monthly utility statements, and to work with NYSEG and DPW staff to resolve ongoing issues with meter readings and monthly billings.
- OSE continues to document the County's progress toward reducing energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions while also identifying future clean energy project opportunities.

III. PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION

General:

- The D&H Canal Interpretive Center is hosting a talk by Paul King on the Roebling's D&H Canal Aqueducts on August 31st at 12:00 pm. Over 40 people showed up for the July 27th Bagels and Locks event.
- Lake Superior State Park Beach admission and boat rental totals for May, June July:

(Months of May, June, July)	2024	2023
Admission	9,644	8,245
Boat/Kayak Rentals	794	453

- Fisher Associates are finishing the final design and engineering work for the Lake Superior hiking trail and have sent the 100% plans for review. They are also developing interpretive signage for the distinguishing features along the trail.
- Weston and Sampson have developed a survey for the park master plan. The survey will be used to collect input on the County owned Park and Recreation Facilities and also park and recreation needs throughout the County.
- Fisher Associates have submitted a preliminary schematic design and cost estimates for the parking area and river access trail for the Callicoon Park. The property survey for the permitting is being completed with hopes to start the SEQR process within the next couple of months.
- Submitted the 2025 Parks and Recreation budget.
- Along with the Grants Department, we submitted the application for the NY Swims Lifeguard Grant.
- The Sullivan County Historical Society is hosting an exhibit, "Voices of Survivors: Inspiring Hope, Sanctuary, Compassion and Community" from September 12-29. For further information visit www.HopesCompass.org or contact the Historical Society at 845-434-8044.

IV. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

- **Activity/Technical Assistance**

- Since July 20, DGA has received 7 funding resource requests related to a small business exchange program, municipal capital repair and records management, bakery operation, 2 business proposals for housing / affordable housing, foster care, and education, comic book production & literacy, and a local history documentary.
- Assistance has been provided to departments requiring support with the grant process, including the County Manager's Office, ITS, Community Services, Public Health, Planning, Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Resources, and Public Works. Current 2024 Grant Initiatives include:
 - Northern Border Regional Commission Timber for Transit Grant – requesting \$640,000.00 for a project proposed via the Division of Public Works (to be submitted)
 - NYS DEC Municipal Waste Reduction/Recycling Program 2024-2025 – request/award TBD for a proposal via the Department of Solid Waste (to be submitted)
 - NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation Snowmobile Grant-in-Aid Program 2024-2025 – award amount TBD based on maintenance expenses of Sullivan Trail Association (Phase II application to be submitted)
 - Department of Labor WORC Grant – requested \$1.5 million for a project proposed via Division of Community Resources (pending award/declination notice)
 - NYS Archives Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund – requested \$68,820.00 for project proposed via County Clerk's Office (awarded)
 - NYS ESD Municipal Infrastructure Program – requested \$30 million for a project proposed via the Divisions of Information Technology Services and Planning (pending award/declination notice)
 - NYS SWIMS Program – requested \$25,000.00 via the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beautification (pending award/declination notice)
 - NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historical Preservation Snowmobile Grant-in-Aid Program 2023-2024 – requested \$4,410.00 (awarded)
 - DOT Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) - requested \$1.68 million for a proposal via the Department of Planning (pending award/declination notice)
 - NYS DEC Household Hazardous Waste - award amount TBD for a proposal via the Department of Solid Waste Management (pending award/declination notice)
 - NYS DEC Municipal Waste Reduction/Recycling Program 2023-2024 – requested \$53,367.11 for project proposed via Department of Solid Waste (awarded)
 - NYS DOT Bridge NY 2023 – requested \$2,850,000.00 for a project proposed by the Division of Public Works (awarded)

- NYS Department of Homeland Security Grant Program– requested \$179,249.00 for SHSP and LETTP projects proposed via Division of Public Safety and Sheriff’s Office (pending award/declination notice)
- NYS Department of Homeland Security Domestic Terrorism Prevention Grant Program - requested \$172,413.00 for proposal via the Division of Public Safety (pending award/declination notice)
- NYS Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant - \$32,678.00 requested for proposal via the Division of Public Safety (pending award/declination notice)
- NYS Department of Homeland Security Statewide Interoperable Communications Formula Based Grant Program - award amount TBD for proposal via the Division of Public Safety (pending award/declination notice)
- NYS Department of Homeland Security Public Safety Answering Points Program - award amount TBD for proposal via the Division of Public Safety (pending award/declination notice)
- NYS Department of Health County Emergency Medical Services Support Grant – requested \$500,000.00 for a proposal via the Division of Public Safety (pending award/declination notice)
- Bureau of Justice (BJA) Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program – requested \$5,000.00 to offset costs of bulletproof vests via the Sheriff’s Office (pending award/declination notice)
- NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Police Traffic Services – requested \$4,960.00 via the Sheriff’s Office for anti-crash initiatives (pending award/declination)
- DASNY Projects in Process:
 - DASNY Broadband, \$425,000.00 – additional project information required for DASNY review.
 - DASNY Callicoon Riverside Park, \$125,000.00 – additional project information required for DASNY review.
 - DASNY Burn Building, \$250,000.00 – ready for reimbursement
- *Note: This list of 40 current initiatives is not a comprehensive list of all programs currently monitored by DGA staff. It does not include list of previously awarded discretionary grants & allocations requiring execution in process or being tracked by DGA.*
- **In-County Grant Readiness**
 - DGA staff analyzed its organizational structure in consideration of capacity needs, and has presented a proposal with the 2025 budget submission.
 - Grants Best Practices Training was provided to a few members of Public Health Finance staff on August 12th. Training has been scheduled for Community Resources staff on August 26th, and with Public Health fiscal staff on September 4th. Training for the Department of Probation staff will take place on September 9th.
 - As a matter of information, Grants Best Practices training is recommended for Commissioners, Department Heads, and anyone in the Division/Department who

touches a grant or who is anticipated to be involved in grant work in the future. This might include staff engaged in project planning, project managers of programs funded by discretionary grants or allocations requiring execution, fiscal personnel, and administrative support personnel. Staff responsible for drafting/submitting resolutions would also obtain helpful information.

- Based on the results of Capacity Surveys and subjective needs assessments and pending the outcome of the Department's budget proposal, DGA staff would like to develop additional training modules focusing on two critical areas: project readiness and grant management.
- DGA continues to provide ongoing assistance to OMB and Public Health staff related to grants compliance initiatives.

V. AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION

- CCE July 2024 Ag report attached