



DIVISION OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITY REPORT

March 2025

CONTENTS

- I. Planning
- II. Sustainable Energy
- III. Parks, Recreation & Beautification
- IV. Grants
- V. Agriculture & Farmland Protection

I. PLANNING ACTIVITY

Land Use Planning & Technical Assistance:

GML - 239 Referrals					
Date Received	Date Requested	Project Name	Action Type	Referral ID #	Legislator
2/27/25	3/28/25	Crescent Lake	Site Plan Review	THO25-05	Ward
2/27/25	3/19/25	Little Compass	Special Use Permit	THO25-04	Ward
2/27/25	3/28/25	Camp Arugath Habosem	Site Plan Review	THO25-03	Ward
3/4/25	4/4/25	PZ-192 8G Storage Management, LLC	Site Plan Review	BET25-01	M. McPhillips
3/5/25	3/21/25	Hudson Valley Credit Union	Special Use Permit	TUS25-02	M. McPhillips
3/11/25	4/9/25	LE Developers, LLC	Special Use Permit	LIV25-02	Alvarez
3/11/25	4/2/25	Zoning Change	Adoption/Amendment of Zoning Map	LIV25-03	Alvarez
3/11/25	4/10/25	Broadway Movie Theatre	Site Plan Review	MON25-01	Ward
3/11/25	4/4/25	Sheldrake Karmel Rd Manufactured Home Park	Site Plan Review	FAL25-08	Ward
3/11/25	4/4/25	HPAC, Classrooms Additions	Special Use Permit	FAL25-09	Ward
3/13/25	4/11/25	Land Rover	Site Plan Review	THO25-06	Ward

3/19/25	4/18/25	Guzman subdivision	Subdivision Review	BET25-02	M. McPhillips
3/20/25	4/15/25	Ferber subdivision	Subdivision Review	DEL25-01	Scott
3/24/25	4/23/25	Camp Agudah	Special Use Permit	LIB25-05	B. McPhillips

- Planning staff has started organizing a series of trainings for municipal board members can get their required 4 hours of Department of State training. A survey was sent to board members to assess interest in or need to cover topics.
- Planning staff met with the Village of Bloomingburg to talk about a comprehensive plan and zoning amendments.

Land Use, Strategic and Comprehensive Planning

- **Water Resources and Infrastructure**
 - Planning consultant Delaware Engineering is making progress on the the Countywide Infrastructure Assessment. The first draft municipal summary was made available for review. All of the summaries should be complete before end of March. Planning and consultant will work with Municipalities to ensure the work is accurate and useful.
 - We continue to actively searching for funding sources that could potentially fund subsurface conditions throughout the County to assess the County’s water resources. We await the adoption of the 2025-26 New York State budget to determine whether funding has been included as requested by our local State representatives.
 - Planning is assisting the Delaware River Basin Commission organize a public outreach event for their first Climate Resilience Plan. It is being scheduled for April 30th.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**
 - Responses to a Request for Proposals to secure a vendor for updating the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan will be received on April 4, 2025. A grant agreement has been fully executed. With the permission of the Chair of the Planning and Community Resources Committee and the Chair of the Legislature a resolution will be placed on the agenda for April’s Executive Committee in order to move this project forward.
 - We are in receipt of letters of commitment to participate in the update of the plan from all but three municipalities.

Recreation, Quality of Life & Tourism-based Economic Development

- **Sullivan O&W Rail Trail**
 - The County, Town and Alta completed the remaining information needed for NYS DOT for Neversink Crossing project and the funds were authorized by FHWA on 2/25/25. The bid has been issued with a bid opening on March 26th.

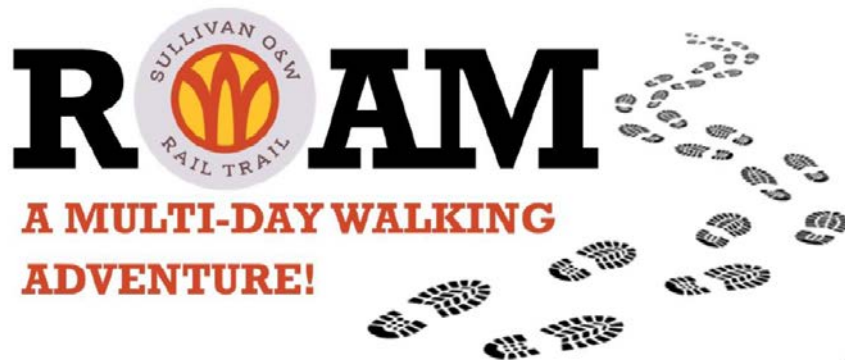


Conceptual rendering of the Neversink Crossing

- The Town of Fallsburg has begun the tree clearing on site and should complete this work before the tree clearing window closes at the end of March.
- The use and occupancy agreement between NYS DOT 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, DPW, DOT, the Town and the consultant, Alta met and it was determined the survey and SEQR needs to be extended to include the whole parcel, this includes flagging wetlands which can't be completed until April. The Town has declared lead agency. The preliminary design is complete.

- The Town of Rockland and their engineers completed the first design draft for the Livingston Manor to Dahlia section of the trail. The Town is meeting with a developer and Rotary Park to complete the connection all the way to the main street.
- 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.
- The 2025 multi day hike (ROAM) will take place on June 7-8 in Mamakating. Partners include Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, Sullivan 180, Parks and Trails New York, Trout Unlimited, and Open Space Institute. Planning helped the Alliance to secure funding from SCVA and Sullivan 180 for the event.



Community Development & Revitalization

- **Housing Fund**
 - A final draft of the program, scoring criteria, and outline of next steps for the Housing Fund is expected to be received from Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress shortly. A final draft of the program will be presented to the Legislature for review and deliberation.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Master Plan**
 - Focus group and steering committee meetings are being scheduled and underway.
 - Planning is working to make information and ways to participate available on the website.
 - A survey is being developed, along with scheduling of focus groups with municipalities, police agencies, not for profits, etc.
 - MUDW is currently working on the “Existing Conditions” assessment, which analyzes current demographics, existing plans, current conditions of the County, traffic/crash data, and other applicable information.
- **RESTORE NY Round 7**
 - 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. A meeting was held to discuss the project and it was determined that a estimate is required at this time. RUPCO continues to wait for determinations on several grant applications that have been filed for this project. Participation in monthly updates on the project continues.

Economic Development

- **County Infrastructure Grant Program**
 - We are pivoting to County infrastructure projects that would have potential economic benefits as per the guidelines of the grant opportunity. Improvements to infrastructure at the Sullivan County International Airport to compliment the new terminal building were identified as the best fit for the program.
- **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.

Administration

- Met with department heads and Grants Administration staff to review priority projects, capacity, and overall needs for grant funding division-wide.
- Met with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Orange County Land Trust to discuss scope of work and schedule for goals, events, outreach, and deliverables in 2025.
- Continue to participate in regular meetings with County Manager, ITS, Grants, and NYS Empire State Development with regard to Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

- Participated in webinar for workforce utilization reporting as it pertains to the MIP grant
- Attended breakfast meeting of the SC Partnership for Economic Development
- Attended monthly meeting of the Sullivan County Land Bank

II. OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (OSE)

- Continue discussions with representatives from Relevate with regard to the status of the hydroelectric plant at Goodyear Lake. The plant is anticipated to be back online in the next 30-60 days.
- The approval process for CleanPath NY, a high voltage transmission line to be constructed underground along the Marcy South line, has been paused as NYPA awaits a determination from the Public Service Commission on its application to designate the corridor as a Priority Transmission Project. NYSERDA Tier IV Recs have been cancelled for the project.
- Staff continue to work toward updating and compiling information for recertification as a Climate Smart Community
- 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

- Callicoon Park: As part of the SEQR process, we have contracted to have a Cultural Resource Survey completed for the remainder of the park property. Contracts have been completed with the contractor and survey work will begin soon.
- Lake Superior Westside Trail: Final plan revisions have been sent to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission staff for review and approval.
- Park and Recreation Master Plan: Weston & Sampson has compiled draft plan documents which we are currently reviewing.
- We have received confirmation that we have been awarded the NYS SWIMS grant. This grant will allow for the County along with six local municipalities to offset costs associated with training, certification and staffing of lifeguards to sustain and or expand hours at their swim facilities.
- Photos from the Sullivan County Parks Photo Exhibition are now on display at the Sullivan County Museum and the Government Center.
- The annual Litter Pluck event will take place April 1st – October 31st. Free disposal coupons have been delivered to all of the Town and Village Halls and local organizations for dispersal to litter pluck participants.
- Currently holding interviews for seasonal staff for Lake Superior, D&H Interpretive Center and park maintenance positions.
- Fisher Associates are developing a scope of work to develop a plan for beaver control and trail rehabilitation at the D&H Canal.
- In celebration of the 200th anniversary of the ground breaking of the D&H Canal we are setting up historic presentations that will be held at the D&H Interpretive Center during the summer.
- Ground Maintenance staff have been completing Spring Clean-ups throughout the parks.

IV. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

- **Activity/Technical Assistance**

- DGA received six (6) funding resource inquiries since the end of February. Requests included inquiries related to housing rehab/lead removal, small business expansion, a non-profit capital project, non-profits arts program, clean-energy building rehabilitation, and grant training resources.
- The Universal Grants Best Practices Training Webinar developed for municipalities, non-profits, and small business entities has been developed and is pending approval from the Commissioner of Planning. The webinar offers a very high-level orientation to grants. Once all appropriate approvals have been obtained, we intend to post the free webinar on the DGA website in April, when it will be ready and available to the public.
- DGA staff continues to update the Grants Administration website so that it contains information relevant and accessible to the community.
- DGA regularly contributes information for inclusion in the Planning Division Newsletter, which is distributed to community stakeholders.
- Assistance has been provided to departments requiring support with the grant process.

Of note:

- **Health and Human Services:**
 - DGA staff participated in a fruitful meeting with DSS, Public Works, County Attorney, and management staff related to the NYS Office of Temporary Disability Assistance Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP) grant program. As the County is preparing to collaborate with third-party non-profit, HONOR, on the twenty-five (25) year project, DGA staff gathered information related to the proposed project and provided a list of questions for consideration, given that the organizational structure of the project will have to be discussed in the application. While the County may not serve as a lead or co-applicant, DGA staff remains on standby to review the program guidelines when they are released and to offer additional assistance/advisement as appropriate, especially related to grants-monitoring best practices.
 - DGA had a fruitful meeting with Dr. Jessie Moore and Jack Shreyhane to review Grants Best Practices Training. DGA staff is on standby to meet with the new Director and staff to review all current grant programs, review best practices, and to offer additional support and training as needed.
- **ITS:**
 - DGA staff will continue to provide appropriate grant-related technical assistance as needed for the NYS ESD Municipal Infrastructure Program (MIP). Given the size and scope of this project, DGA staff is most interested in ensuring that the proper organizational structure is in place to preserve strong grant management internal controls. This is particularly crucial due to the fact that this grant is federally-funded.

- *Planning:*
 - DGA staff is assisting the Parks Department in developing a Municipality Package to engage participating towns/villages in proper grant management for the NY SWIMS awards. In addition, DGA will be assisting in the preparation of upcoming grants, including the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation and Historical Preservation Snowmobile Grant-in-Aid program, and possibly a new capital grant available from New York State.
 - DGA staff is on standby to offer technical assistance for the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Hazard Mitigation project. DGA staff will participate in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program kick-off meeting slated for mid-March.
 - DASNY Callicoon Riverside Park (\$125,000.00) all financial review material requested have been returned to DASNY staff. We await the final approval and Grant Disbursement Agreement from DASNY for execution prior to incurring any project costs.
- *Public Safety:*
 - DGA staff assisted PS / OEM in the development and subsequent submission of the FY22 NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) FY22 Critical Infrastructure Grant Program. Pending notification of award or declination.
 - DGA staff will be assisting PS / OEM staff in the development and subsequent submission of the reimbursement claim to the Dormitory Authority of New York (DASNY) on the fire tower / burn building project.
- *Public Works:*
 - DGA staff is preparing for the submission of the 2025 NYS ESD County Infrastructure Grant Program application. A Letter of Intent will be submitted by April 1 on our Sullivan County International Airport (SCIA) project. Pending an invitation to apply and submit application from NYS Empire State Development, DGA staff will work on writing the application in collaboration with DPW / SCIA staff.
 - DGA staff is also on standby to offer technical support related to the 2024 Timber for Transit program and solid waste recycling programs.
- **Response to OMB Memo Related to Federal Funding**
 - DGA staff continues to follow information related to the OMB Memo 25-13 issued the end of January that addresses Federally-funding grant programs.
 - On March 18, President Donald Trump signed an executive order that seeks to shift responsibility for disaster preparations to state and local governments, in alignment with his intent to modify the role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Public Safety staff were notified.
 - At this time, there is little additional information related to how directives associated with the Memo will be addressed respective to Federally-funded programs.
 - DGA will remain vigilant and provided updates as necessary.

- **Updates Re: Federal and State Grant Management Systems**
 - Important updates related to SAM.gov. DGA staff received notification that the reporting tool that Federal contractors and grant recipients used to capture and report subaward and compensation data was decommissioned in early March (Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System). All new subaward and executive compensation reporting and viewing functionality is now available in SAM.gov. Users are required to have the correct role in SAM.gov to be able to access the new subaward reporting capabilities. DGA staff is not yet sure how the County will continue to manage its SAM.gov operations, and propose further discussion with multiple stakeholders related to this platform.
 - Last year, New York State transitioned from their long-term grant management platform, Grants Gateway, to the Statewide Financial System (SFS). New York State's roll-out has been rocky; DGA staff closely monitors active transactions in SFS, as we have noted ongoing technical issues with the new system and communicated concerns to both SFS and State Agency staff as appropriate. In addition, DGA has issued memos to County staff when appropriate.

V. AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION

- CCE February 2025 Ag report attached