



# DIVISION OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## ACTIVITY REPORT

January 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
1/8/26	1/30/26	LL #1 of 2026 Battery Energy Storage System Law	Adoption / Amendment	FOR26-01	Rajsz
1/8/26	2/2/26	Rock Paper Plate, LLC	Special Use Permit	LIB26-01	B. McPhillips
1/8/26	2/2/26	Camp HASC	Special Use Permit	LIB26-02	B. McPhillips
1/15/26	2/13/26	Brookview Partners	Site Plan Review	THO26-01	Ward
1/15/26	2/13/26	Aero Star Petroleum – Rt 42 Mobil	Site Plan Review	THO26-02	Ward
1/15/26	2/13/26	Hidden Ridge	Site Plan Review	THO26-03	Ward

- 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. Delaware Engineering provided a training covering package plants for waste water treatment on January 27th. Pace University training that will offer credits for board members and continuing legal education credit hours for attorneys. Both the Delaware Engineering and Pace trainings are anticipated to take place next year. 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.

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

- **Comprehensive Planning**
  - Despite not receiving CFA funding, Planning has begun to scope out a process to complete a county-wide comprehensive plan while continuing to seek funding.
- **Water Resources and Infrastructure**
  - Planning consultant Delaware Engineering is making progress on the Countywide Infrastructure Assessment. The County reviewed the municipal reports and the consultant is updating them with the recommended edits. The County level summary is expected shortly. Planning and consultant will work with Municipalities to ensure the work is accurate and useful. The project is expected to be completed by April 2026. A presentation to the Legislature will follow.
  - Planning is entering into a contract with LaBella for work to obtain hydrogeologic expertise in relation to subsurface conditions throughout the County to assess the County's water resources.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**
  - The risk assessment is complete and was reviewed by the Steering Committee on January 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - The survey period closed on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and responses are being reviewed. Sullivan County received more than 180 survey responses from the public, which is the most responses our consultant has seen in a municipality outside of a heavily populated urban/suburban area.
  - Staff from Tetra Tech will be at the Government Center on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> to assist municipalities with completing their jurisdictional annexes. Completion of these annexes are required by NYS and FEMA for plan approval

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

- **Sullivan O&W Rail Trail**
  - Sullivan Paving has site control and started working on the Neversink Crossing. The winter break started with the cold weather at the end of November. The project is expected to be complete in late spring/early summer of 2026.
  - Planning staff assisted the Town in securing an additional \$99,500 grant for the project.
  - 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.
  - 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 is working with Grants to prepare 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 requested County match.
- Staff continue to work with the Open Space Institute to help municipalities acquire rights of way to the trail.
- Staff worked with the Department of Public Works sign shop to fabricate etiquette signs for the trailheads. Planning continues to work with the municipalities on installation
- 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 Alliance's next event is the SnO&W, which will be held in Mamakating on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The events committee is working on dates for the 2026 events, which will include a new event, the FO&WL to promote birdwatching on the trail.



Join us for the 6th Annual  
**SnO&W Snowshoe Walk & Hike**  
 along the historic O&W Rail Trail in Mamakating  
**Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 10:00 AM**

**Mamakating Environmental Education Center**  
 762 South Road, Wurtsboro  
 Off-street parking available; leashed dogs welcome

Participants are encouraged to bring their own snowshoes or similar gear if they have them. Limited snowshoes and microspikes will be available to rent, free of charge, on a first come, first served basis.

Participating fire departments in the Sullivan 180 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge will receive 3 points for attending with five or more active members.

For more details and event updates, visit [SullivanOandW.com/events](http://SullivanOandW.com/events).

This free event is  
 brought to you by:



SULLIVAN O&W  
 RAIL TRAIL



## **Community Development & Revitalization**

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Master Plan**
  - The plan is now being written and will focus on
    - Connecting community centers through biking and walking,
    - Identifying safe routes to reduce vehicle trips, and
    - Helping disadvantaged residents overcome transportation barriers.
  - The steering committee is continuing to meet quarterly.
  - The consultant is also currently completing
    - Draft roadway and sidewalk inventory to guide infrastructure planning.

- Analysis of county infrastructure to identify areas for additional sidewalks, bike lanes or other improvements and amenities such as crosswalks.
  - A page on the County website is being maintained to keep people informed on the progress and highlight participation opportunities.
- **Housing**
  - Planning staff attended a roundtable discussion organized by Assemblywoman Paula Kay to discuss housing opportunities with large employers, housing developers, and municipal representatives.
  - Planning has been working with Assemblywoman Kay to reach municipalities and encourage/assist them with becoming certified Pro Housing Communities. This is important as there are certain grant funding opportunities that are only available to communities with this certification. Currently, Sullivan County has five certified communities:
    - Bloomingburg
    - Fallsburg
    - Liberty (Town)
    - Liberty (Village)
    - Rockland
  - The Sullivan County Land Bank will be marketing four recently completed single family homes at a price point that is affordable to Sullivan County residents/workforce at or below 120% of median household income. Additional funding will be sought to support additional construction projects as well as home rehabilitation for Sullivan County homeowners.
  - Planning continues to work with RUPCO to identify funding opportunities on which it can partner. Infrastructure to support housing as well as mobile home replacement programs are in discussion.

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

- OSE staff continues to follow developments on three cases before the Public Service Committee which could have impacts on the residents of Sullivan County – Clean Path, Town Line Solar and the NYSEG rate case.
- OSE staff have 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 ongoing issues with meter readings and monthly billings. NYSEG staff have been in contact with OSE to address the billing errors and we believe a resolution to the ongoing issue is imminent. Additionally, we are working to ensure that all electric meters have been converted to smart meters, which will eliminate estimated billings and address many of the problems encountered for the long term.
- Staff have reviewed allocations of credits generated by the hydroelectric generator, with current off takers including the Sullivan County Jail, Government Center and

Courthouse. Additionally, the new Airport Terminal has been added to the list of satellite accounts for the solar generation project.

- OSE staff are analyzing the County's energy usage to determine if there are opportunities to procure favorable rates for any facilities not currently served by a long-term renewable contract, either through purchase of aggregated electrical load or to identify affordable renewable options.

### III. PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION

- Callicoon Park: SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) has been completed. We are currently waiting on NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) determination before a bid can be issued and construction can begin.
- Fisher Associates have completed an inventory and analysis of the D&H Canal Trail Improvement project and are currently working on developing a plan for the trail rehabilitation.
- Final paperwork for the NYSWIMS grant has been submitted. The County and five local municipalities that participated in the grant are receiving approximately \$3,500 to help offset the costs of operating their public swim areas for 2024-2025.
- The department is beginning to advertise for the Lifeguard and Lifeguard Recertification courses that we are offering during the spring, which will be held at the Fallsburg Central School swimming pool.
- The department is beginning to advertise for the seasonal positions at D&H Canal Interpretive Center, Lake Superior State Park and ground maintenance.
- The Frederick Cook Society presented a free folk band concert at the Sullivan County Museum on Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

### IV. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION (DGA)

- **Building Capacity for Grant Funding**
  - County staff are enrolling in additional *Grants Best Practices*, *Project Planning 101*, and *Grant Management 101* trainings. The Department of Grants Administration will continue to collaborate with Management and Division/Department heads to increase enrollment and to engage staff in ongoing training efforts.
  - Staff continue to monitor the federal grant funding landscape and are on standby to offer recommendations to County stakeholders about preparedness actions, upon request.
  - Staff scan the grant landscape regularly and route funding opportunities to County staff as appropriate.

- **Support to Outside Entities**
  - DGA received five (5) community inquiries since the end of December related to starting a small business, general grant questions, and septic system repair and replacement.
  - DGA staff provided guidance to the Town of Bethel related to the Statewide Financial System grant platform.
  - A community-facing *Grant Project Planning Workshop* will be offered on Tuesday, February 24th, from 9-10 am and 6:30-7:30 pm (snowdate of February 25th.) The workshop is for municipal leadership, not-for-profits, and small business entities. To date, twenty-four (24) people have registered. *Flier attached.*
  
- **Support to County Staff: January Highlights**
  - **County Manager**
    - DGA staff assisted the County Manager in administering a \$15,000 Semiquincentennial award, which was granted to Sullivan County and allocated to the Delaware Company.
  - **Community Resources**
    - DGA staff met with staff from the Office for the Aging/Sullivan Volunteers to review current grant opportunities and to discuss funding-related needs, and will continue to monitor the grant landscape for volunteer-related funding opportunities.
    - DGA staff is actively engaged with Center for Workforce Development to research funding opportunity programs for their current needs.
  - **Health and Human Resources**
    - DGA staff is collaborating with Community Services to match funding resources for their respective projects.
  - **Public Works**
    - DPW staff is providing support assistance as needed for the 2026 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Household and Hazardous Waste program grant application.
  - **Planning**
    - DGA staff provided ongoing assistance to Parks and Recreation staff related to the NY SWIMS (Statewide Investment in More Swimming) program, and is providing support to Planning staff in preparing the 2026 US DOT Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant program application.
  - **ITS**
    - DGA staff participates in regular weekly Municipal Infrastructure Program (MIP) / Broadband project meetings and assists in the monitoring of the project.



- **Public Safety**

- Sullivan County was listed among awardees for the Combined 2024-2025 NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Statewide Interoperable Communications (Targeted Grant Program) and awaits official award notification for a \$2,000,000 award.
- The County was awarded \$25,000 for the 2025-2026 NYS Department of Homeland Security Recruitment and Retention Grant Program.
- The County received notice of declination for the 2026 NYS CARES UP Grants for NYS Uniformed Personnel Organizations.
- On January 28<sup>th</sup>, DGA staff will meet with representatives from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Fiscal Monitoring Unit to discuss any findings related to the management of Public Safety grant programs.

- **Board of Elections**

- DGA staff met with Board of Elections staff to review open grant programs and to provide technical assistance as needed.
- The NYS Board of Elections 2024 Electronic Poll Book grant extension contract was fully executed, officially awarding the County \$68,116.59 to offset costs associated with streamlining voter processes.

- **County Clerk**

- DGA staff assisted with the preparation of the 2024-2025 Local Government Records Management Improvement (LGRMIF) Program final report narrative. The County awaits final reimbursement for the historical tax map scanning project, successfully implemented in collaboration with County Clerk, Real Property, and Information Technology Services staff.
- DGA is watching for the release of the 2025-2026 LGRMIF program and is on standby to assist the County Clerk's Office as needed with the preparation of an application.



# Grant Workshop

## PROJECT PLANNING 101

*Presented by the Department of Grants Administration  
for Non-Profits, Municipalities, & Small Businesses*

**Interested in grants for your non-profit, business,  
or municipality? Don't know where to begin?**



*The first and most crucial first step in obtaining grants is effective Project Planning. In fact, in the absence of good project planning, most proposals fail. This workshop will provide a high-level introduction to the steps your organization should take to prepare for grant funding.*

**Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026\***

**9-10 am or 6:30-7:30 pm**

**Legislative Hearing Room**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sullivan County Government Center  
100 North Street, Monticello, NY**

***\*Snow Date: Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
at 9-10 am & 6:30-7:30 pm***

**Pre-registration requested.**

**Register at: [www.sullivanyny.gov/Departments/grants](http://www.sullivanyny.gov/Departments/grants)**

*For additional information, contact the Sullivan County  
Planning Division at 845-807-0527.*



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

- Cornell Cooperative Extension December 2025 Agriculture report attached