



DIVISION OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITY REPORT May 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
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
4/24/26	5/26/26	Walmart – OPD Expansiom	Site Plan Review	THO26-11	Ward
4/29/26	5/29/26	Local Law 1 of 2026	Other	WOO26-02	Perello
5/1/26	5/29/26	Camp Eisek Hatorah	Site Plan Review	MAM26-02	Perello
5/7/26	6/1/26	Cochecton Pump House	Use Variance	COC26-01	Scott
5/14/26	6/12/26	Strongtown Storage – Propane Tanks	Site Plan Review	THO26-12	Ward
5/15/26	6/1/26	Gelsomino & Davis Schoolhouse	Special Use Permit	LIB26-08	B. McPhillips
5/15/26	6/1/26	Weiss subdivision	Subdivision Review	LIB26-09	B. McPhillips
5/15/26	6/1/26	HASC	Special Use Permit	LIB26-10	B. McPhillips
5/18/26	6/11/26	Repeal of Village Zoning Law	Adoption / Amendment of Zoning	JEF26-01	M. McPhillips

5/19/26	6/10/26	Silberstien subdivision	Subdivision Review	FAL26-06	Ward
5/20/26	6/19/26	Add new Chapter to Thompson Town Code	Adoption / Amendment of Zoning	THO26-13	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. 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.

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 will continue to seek funding to support these efforts, and will apply to the NYS Department of State as part of the Consolidated Funding Application process.
- **Water Resources and Infrastructure**
 - The Countywide Assessment of Potable and Wastewater Infrastructure has been finalized, with presentations to the Sullivan County Legislature and Sullivan County Supervisor’s Association provided during the first two weeks of May. The assessment is now available on the County’s website: <https://www.sullivanyny.gov/Departments/PlanningEnvironmental/PlansandStudies/CAPWI>
 - Monthly meetings with the consultant, LaBella, will begin on June 9 for the study of the hydrogeology of in relation to subsurface conditions throughout the County to assess the County’s water resources. LaBella has already begun work on analysis of existing conditions. The process is anticipated to take a year to complete.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**
 - Sullivan County’s updated plan is now posted to MitigateNY 2.0, New York State’s updated web-based hazard mitigation planning platform and database. A link to the plan and survey for public feedback, are available on our website, in the *Plans and Studies* section.
 - The public review period will remain open until Friday, June 5th and all members of the public are encouraged to view the plan and submit comments. NYS DHSES is also

reviewing the plan to ensure that all requirements were met, and following their review, the plan will then be reviewed by FEMA.

Recreation, Quality of Life & Tourism-based Economic Development

• Sullivan O&W Rail Trail

- Sullivan Paving has made progress on the Neversink Crossing, and the prefabricated bridge was delivered and will be placed on the abutments after Memorial Day. 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 this summer.
- 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 apply 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.



- On April 25th, the Alliance hosted a new event, the FO&WL, which was well received. The Alliance teamed 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. The next event planned is the BowWO&W on Sunday, August 9th. The Alliance is planning this to be the first public event on the Neversink Crossing.



Community Development & Revitalization

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Master Plan**
 - Work continues on the draft Master Plan, as well as draft roadway and sidewalk inventory to guide infrastructure planning and 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.
 - The consultant continues preliminary design development on capital projects that were identified during the course of the planning process. Community stakeholders continue to be engaged during this process.
- **Housing**
 - A presentation is provided today to update the Legislature and the public about the activities of the Sullivan County Land Bank. A resolution authorizing the annual fiscal support for the SCLB is also presented.
 - A follow-up roundtable meeting with Assembly member Paula Kay has been scheduled for June 17, 2026.
- **Administrative**
 - Attended ribbon cutting in Village of Liberty for Broadband project
 - Attended monthly meeting of Sullivan County Land Bank
 - Continued 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 budget and information provided by the Office of Management and Budget to identify additional cost savings for the County.
 - Participated in Sullivan 180 review of municipal grant applications.
 - Attended quarterly meeting of the Sullivan County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board.

- 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 in the first half of June 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 contract has been awarded to Sterling Engineering Associates to provide 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 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.

III. PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION

- C Fisher Associates are working on the design and wetland delineation for the D&H Canal Trail Improvement project.
- 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.
- The Annual Countywide Litter Pluck began April 1st. All of the disposal coupons and informational packets have been distributed to the participating locations. To celebrate Earth Day, County Staff at the Monticello and Liberty Campuses litter plucked around the facilities and surrounding areas. Thank you to all who participated.
- All of the County Parks are open for the season. Lake Superior opens Memorial Day Weekend for swimming and boat rentals.
- The D&H Canal Interpretive Center opens Memorial Day weekend. There are two upcoming walks scheduled. The first one occurred on Sunday, May 24th at 1:00 pm, a two-mile walk learning about the history of the canal and O&W trail, led by Kerron Barnes. The second walk is a Nature Walk on Sunday, June 14th from 8:00-9:00am, led by Dr. Walter Jahn. Participants will get to study and learn about the birds and wildlife that live along the canal. These events are free! Advance registration is suggested, as space is limited. Email scparks@sullivanny.gov or call 845-807-0287 to register.
- The Delaware Company has opened Fort Delaware for the season beginning May 16 and are also hosting Student Days with the local schools.
- Park Maintenance staff have been preparing the parks for the upcoming season and mowing all of the parks and facilities. Lake Superior opened for Memorial Day Weekend, but unfortunately the weather did not cooperate.

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 attended 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 (FRRs) since the end of March. The primary categories of FRRs 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 years 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**
 - 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.
- **Parks**
 - Received from the State the NYS SWIMS grant \$25,000 re-imburement.
 - DGA staff has followed up with up w/ Dormitory Authority of State of NY (DASNY) on the sponsor approval for the Callicoon Riverside Park project. Shortly thereafter, the County immediately received the Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) for review and execution. DGA staff will work w/ County Management and County Attorney in the review and processing of the GDA for return to DASNY staff, and receipt of the fully executed GDA.

- **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 April 2026 Agriculture report attached