



Borough of Rocky Hill New Jersey

Ms. Donna Rendeiro, Executive Director
New Jersey Business Action Center
Office for Planning Advocacy
Department of State
PO Box 820
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0820

June 3, 2020

Mayor
Bob Uhrik

Council President
Irene Battaglia

Council Members
Billy Dawson
Amy Kirtland
Connie Hallman
Rasheeda Pretto
Jenn Walsh

Chief Financial Officer
Nancy Costa

Tax Collector
Shari Phillips

Assessor
George Sopko

Engineer
Tom Decker

Borough Magistrate
Eric Perkins

Borough Clerk
Rebecca P. Newman

Deputy Borough Clerk
Christine Witt

Borough Attorney
Jolanta Maziarz

Prosecutor
Raymond J. Stine

RE: Borough of Rocky Hill – Village Center Designation
p/o future Somerset County Endorsed Plan
Request for Pre-Petition Meeting

Dear Ms. Rendeiro:

The Borough of Rocky Hill was pleased to learn that the New Jersey State Planning Commission recently extended existing center designations. As I'm sure you're aware, Rocky Hill was designated as a Village Center in the Suburban Planning Area in 2001. The designation has helped the Borough advance many of its local initiatives related to historic preservation, open space, recreation, downtown revitalization and infrastructure improvement. As we indicated in a letter to your office last year, the Borough would like to continue to participate in the State planning process, which we understand is changing from a center designation process to plan endorsements.

While Rocky Hill whole-heartedly supports the underlying objectives of municipally-based endorsed plans, the process of developing a plan endorsement for a town our size is overwhelming. The Borough is less than a square mile in size. The resident population is less than 700 people. Our annual budget is less than one million dollars. We have no full-time staff and our Governing Body has always been all volunteer. Obviously, our available funds and personnel resources are limited so we were very pleased to learn that the Somerset County Planning Department is actively pursuing a pilot initiative that would allow the County to spearhead an endorsed plan for the towns within the County's Investment Framework.

A collaborative effort with Somerset County would be ideal for Rocky Hill. We have been coordinating the Borough's local planning objectives with those of the County for the last couple of years. Our newest Re-Examination Report and Historic Preservation Amendment mirror many of the County's planning initiatives. We are confident that our local planning policies will help to advance the County's planning policies, thereby fulfilling some important underlying goals of a regionally based endorsed plan.

All bills and communications should be sent to

Rebecca P. Newman – Borough Clerk
P.O. Box 188
Rocky Hill, New Jersey 08553-0188
Tel: (609) 924-7445
FAX: (609) 924-2274
Website: www.rockyhill-nj.gov

With the County taking the lead on Plan Endorsement, Rocky Hill will be able to invest more of its limited resources in implementing a well-developed endorsed plan rather than drafting one. During a pre-petition meeting we would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the Borough's vision for integrating historic preservation, open space and recreation, circulation and economic revitalization planning policies.

In the meantime, please find attached the following electronic documents for your information and review:

- Current DRO
- Current Zoning Map
- Current Zoning Map – Draft Revisions
- 2019 Re-Examination Report
- 2018 Historic Preservation Plan
- 2018 Cottage Zoning Overlay
- 2008 Re-Examination Report
- 2008 Housing Element and Fair Share Plan
- 2006 Housing Element and Fair Share Plan
- 2005 Stormwater Management Plan
- 2004 Land Use Plan
- 2004 Open Space & Recreation Plan, Master Plan Implementation Matrix
- 2002 Demographic Characteristics
- 2001 Master Plan

Please let us know if you need anything else. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,
Mayor Robert Uhrik



Cc: Rocky Hill Council
Rocky Hill Planning Board
Jolanta Maziarz, Esq., Borough Attorney
Catherine DeAppolonio, Esq., PB Attorney
Tom Decker, PE, Municipal Engineer
Tamara Lee, PP, AICP, Municipal Planner
Walter Lane, PP, AICP, Somerset County Planner
Barry Ableman, PP, AICP, Office of Planning Advocacy