

CHAPTER 31
SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

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CHAPTER 31
SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS
ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 31.1 Authority

- A. This Law is adopted under the authority provided to the Town of Rockland by the New York State Town Law, Municipal Home Rule Law and the State Environmental Quality Review Act.
- B. The Town of Rockland Planning Board shall be authorized and empowered to approve preliminary and final plats of subdivisions showing lots, blocks, or sites, with or without streets or highways, within the Town of Rockland, pursuant to § 276 of the Town Law.
- C. The Planning Board shall be also authorized and empowered, to approve the development of those plats, filed in the office of the County Clerk prior to January 8, 1971, where twenty percent or more of the lots are unimproved unless existing conditions such as poor drainage have prevented their development.
- D. The Planning Board shall be further authorized and empowered, pursuant to § 278 of the Town Law and simultaneously with the approval of a plat or plats, to modify applicable provisions of the Town of Rockland Zoning Law, subject to the conditions set forth in § 278 and later herein.
- E. The regulations which follow have been prepared by the Town of Rockland Planning Board and are approved and adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Rockland as local law pursuant to the authority of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

§ 31.2 Purposes

This Law is adopted for the following purposes;

- A. Promoting the orderly growth and development of the Town in accordance with the Town of Rockland Comprehensive Plan.
- B. Affording adequate facilities for the housing, transportation, distribution, comfort, convenience, health and safety of Town residents.
- C. Minimizing foreseeable maintenance and improvement problems as well as economic burdens associated with development of land.
- D. Conserving the Town's natural resources and protecting its attractive environment so as to maintain property values and otherwise provide for the general welfare of residents of the Town of Rockland.

§ 31.3 Jurisdiction

- A. Regardless of whether or not any formal conveyance by metes and bounds shall be made, when any subdivision of land is proposed and before any offer is made to sell any part or all of a subdivision and before any permit for the erection of any structure in such subdivision shall be issued or any grading, clearing, construction or other improvements shall be undertaken, the subdivider or his authorized agent shall first obtain the appropriate approval of the proposed subdivision in accordance with the requirements of this Law.
- B. It shall further be the obligation of each prospective purchaser or developer of a lot which forms any part of a subdivision to ensure that appropriate subdivision approval has been obtained. In the absence of such subdivision approval, a prospective purchaser shall not commence the erection of any structure on such lot, nor commence any grading, clearing, construction or other improvements.
- C. The regulations of this Law shall not apply to lot improvements as defined herein (see § 31.18). The Planning Board shall be authorized, where requested and for legal recording purposes, to indicate in writing on any qualifying plat presented that "These plans are acknowledged by the Town of Rockland, and for recording purposes only, to represent an exempt lot improvement in accord with Section 31.18 of the Town of Rockland Subdivision Regulations. No subdivision approval is required or given." No plat so submitted, however, shall indicate that a subdivision is being created or approved through action of the Planning Board.

§ 31.4 Interpretation, Conflict and Separability

- A. The provisions of this Law, in their interpretation and application, shall be held to be the minimum requirements for the promotion of the public health, safety, and general welfare.
- B. This Law is not intended to interfere with, abrogate, or annul any other law, rule or regulation, statute or provision of law. Where any of the provisions of these regulations impose restrictions different from any other law, rule or regulation or other provision of law, whichever provisions are more restrictive or impose higher standards shall control. This Law, however, shall repeal and replace in their entirety the Subdivision Regulations approved by the Town Board on January 16, 1987, including all amendments thereto preceding the enactment of this Law as local law.
- C. If any part or provision of these regulations is judged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in application to the part or provision directly on which judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this Law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances. The Town hereby declares that it would have enacted the remainder of these regulations even without such part or provision or application.

§ 31.5 Waivers

- A. Applications for waivers of standards or procedures shall ordinarily be submitted in writing by the subdivider at the time the preliminary plat is filed. The application shall state fully the grounds on which it is made.
- B. The Planning Board may, by resolution, authorize a waiver or modification of the regulations of this Law when, in its opinion, unreasonable restriction will result from strict compliance.
- C. Waiver applications shall, in those instances where the Planning Board determines they could, if granted, have an impact on adjoining properties, be subjected to a public hearing at the applicant's expense.
- D. Any resolution by the Planning Board authorizing a waiver of these regulations shall include the basis for its finding that unreasonable hardship will result from strict compliance with this Law.
- E. In authorizing a waiver, the Planning Board shall attach conditions and require such guarantee or bond as it may deem necessary to assure compliance with the objectives of these regulations. No waiver shall be granted which would substantially change the character of an area or compromise the purposes of these regulations.

§ 31.6 Appeals

Any person or persons, jointly or severally aggrieved by the decision of the Planning Board, ZBA or Town in regard to the administration of this Law may apply to the Supreme Court for review under Article 78 of the Civil Practice Laws and Rules.

§ 31.7 Violations and Penalties

- A. Any person who shall lay out, construct or open any street, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main or other improvements for public use, travel, or other purposes or for the common use of occupants of buildings located or abutting thereon, or who sells, transfers, rents, leases, conveys by other means, or agrees or enters into an agreement to do the same with any land in a subdivision, unless and until a final plat has been prepared, approved and recorded in full compliance with the provisions of this Law, shall be deemed to have committed a violation of this Law and shall be liable for such violation.
- B. Any person found in violation of this Law shall be subject to a fine not exceeding three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) per lot, parcel or dwelling. All fines collected for such violations shall be paid to the Town of Rockland.
- C. Each day that a violation continues shall be a separate violation, but nothing herein shall require the Town to post separate notice each day that a violation continues.

- D. The description by metes and bounds in the instrument of transfer or other documents used in the process of selling or transferring shall not exempt the seller or transferor from such penalties or from the remedies herein provided.
- E. The Town shall be authorized to initiate and maintain a civil action to obtain a writ of injunction against subdividers who attempt the improper sale, lease, or conveyance of land, or to set aside and invalidate any conveyance of land made prior to Town approval. It shall take other action as necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

§ 31.8 Amendments

Amendments to this Law shall be made pursuant to the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law. Also, should provisions of New York State Town Law be amended to require actions different from those specified herein, the State requirements shall prevail.

§ 31.9 Effective Date

This Law shall be effective immediately upon enactment.

ARTICLE II
GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 31.10 General

As used in this Law, words in the singular include the plural and those in the plural include the singular. The words "shall" and "will" for the purpose of this Law are defined as mandatory.

- A. For the purpose of this Law, the following terms shall be considered interchangeable:
1. The words "Law," " regulation(s)" and "Law."
 2. The terms "Town" and "Town of Rockland."
 3. The terms "subdivider" and "developer" and the terms "subdivision" and "development."
 4. The terms "State Environmental Quality Review Act" and "SEQRA."
- B Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following definitions shall, for the purpose of this Law, have the meaning herein indicated. Any pertinent word or term not a part of this listing shall be construed to have its legal definition.

§ 31.11 Glossary of Terms

The following is a list of specific terms, found elsewhere in the Law, along with definitions of their intended meaning:

ALLEY - A permanent service way providing a secondary means of access to abutting lands.

ALL-WEATHER SURFACED - The surfacing of a street, parking area, access or walkway to a mud-free or otherwise permanently passable condition during all seasons of the year and under adverse weather conditions. Macadam, gravel, crushed stone and shale surfaces will all suffice to meet this test but the depth and installation of the material shall be subject to the approval of the Engineer for the Town.

APPLICANT - A landowner, developer or subdivider, as hereinafter defined, who has filed an application for subdivision plat approval, including heirs, successors and assigns.

BERM or SHOULDER - That portion of a roadway between the outer edge of the traveled way or pavement and the point of intersection of the slope lines at the outer edge of the roadway, for the accommodation of stopped vehicles and for lateral support.

BLOCK - A tract of land or a lot or group of lots bounded by streets, public parks, railroad rights-of-way, watercourses, bodies of water, boundary lines of the Town, or by any combination of the above.

BUILDING - A structure formed of any combination of materials which is erected on the ground and permanently affixed thereto, and designed, intended or arranged for the housing, shelter, enclosure or structural support of persons, animals, or property of any kind.

CENTRAL SEWAGE or WATER SUPPLY - A sewage system or water supply system designed to serve more than one dwelling unit or building; not including the use of a single well or disposal system for two dwellings on the same parcel of land. See "ON-SITE SEWAGE or WATER SUPPLY " for further information.

CLEAR SIGHT TRIANGLE - An area of unobstructed vision at a street intersection(s), defined by lines of sight between points at a given distance from the intersecting street right-of-way lines.

COMMON OPEN SPACE - A parcel or parcels of land or an area of water, or a combination of land and water, within a subdivision, which parcel or parcels have been designed and intended for the use or enjoyment of residents of the development. It does not include streets, off-street parking areas and areas set aside for utility placement, rights-of-way or similar public facilities.

COMMON PROPERTY - All of the land and improvements part of a subdivision which is to be jointly owned and maintained by the lot owners, lessees and/or members of the subdivision and identified as such by the subdivider on any plat offered to the Town for approval.

CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION - A form of development for single-family residential subdivisions that permits a reduction in lot area and other development standards, provided there is no increase in the number of lots permitted under a conventional subdivision, given the specific site conditions, and no less than 50% of the total land area is devoted to permanent open space.

COUNTY - The County of Sullivan, State of New York, and its planning agency.

CUL-DE-SAC - A minor street providing a single access to a group of lots with a turn-about area at the end of such street.

DEC - The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

DEVELOPER - The owner, or authorized agent of the owner; including but not limited to, any individual, partnership or corporation that undertakes a subdivision or any of the activities covered by this Law, particularly the preparation of a subdivision plat showing the layout of the land and the public improvements involved therein. The term "developer" is intended to include the term "subdivider," even though the personnel involved in successive stages of this project may vary.

DRIVEWAY - A defined private access from an individual lot to a public or approved private right-of-way.

DWELLING - A building arranged, intended, designed, or used, as the living quarters for one or more families living independently of each other upon the premises. The term "dwelling" shall

not be deemed to include hotel, motel, rooming house or tourist home.

- A. DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY - A building arranged, designed and intended, for and occupied exclusively by, one family.
- B. DWELLING, TWO-FAMILY - A building arranged, designed and intended for and occupied by two families living independently.
- C. DWELLING, MULTI-FAMILY - A building arranged, designed and intended for and occupied by three (3) or more families living independently and having no cooking or sanitary facilities in common with any other dwelling unit; including apartment houses, apartment hotels, flats and garden apartments.

EASEMENT - A right-of-way granted, but not dedicated, for limited use of private land for a public or quasi-public or private purpose, and within which the lessee or owner of the property shall not erect any permanent structure, but shall have the right to make any other use of the land which is not inconsistent with the rights of the grantee.

EIS - An Environmental Impact Statement as required by the New York State Environmental Quality Review Law.

ENGINEER, TOWN (ENGINEER FOR THE TOWN) - A Professional Engineer licensed as such by the State of New York and appointed or hired on a consulting basis to provide engineering advice to the Town.

FRONTAGE - That side of a lot abutting on a street or way and ordinarily regarded as the front lot, but it shall not be considered as the ordinary side of a corner lot.

LOT - A tract or parcel of land held in single or joint ownership, not necessarily shown on a duly recorded map, which is occupied or capable of being occupied by buildings, structures and accessory buildings, including such open spaces as are arranged, designed, or required. The term lot shall also mean parcel, plot, site, or any similar term.

- A. LOT AREA - The area of land contained within the limits of the property lines bounding that lot. Any portion of a lot included in a street right-of-way shall not be included in calculating lot area.
- B. LOT IMPROVEMENT - A division or redivision of land wherein lot area is shifted from one parcel to another so as to improve the shape or dimension of each. See Section 31.18 for further clarification.
- C. LOT WIDTH - The average of the widths of a lot at the building setback line and the rear lot line.

MAJOR SUBDIVISION - Any subdivision or land development which is not a minor subdivision or lot improvement. Any subdivision which involves the utilization of central

sewage disposal systems or water supplies, the construction of any streets, or the utilization of conservation subdivision techniques shall also be considered a major subdivision, regardless of the number of lots.

MINOR SUBDIVISION - A subdivision or development containing not more than ten lots, or a cumulative development on a lot-by-lot basis for a total of ten (10) lots, of any original tract of land of record (i.e., not previously subdivided or developed subsequent to the effective date of this Law, by the owner or the owner's duly appointed agent) where no new streets or accesses are required. Notwithstanding this, the Planning Board may, however, by waiver classify any subdivision as minor which does not involve new improvements.

ON-SITE SEWAGE or WATER SUPPLY - Any sewage system designed to; (1) treat sewage by subsurface means or (2) to provide water from a drilled well or spring; within the boundaries of an individual lot. See "CENTRAL SEWAGE or WATER SUPPLY " for further information.

PARCEL - An area of land resulting from the division of a tract of land for the purposes of transfer of ownership, use or improvement.

PAVEMENT - Improvement of the traveled portion of a roadway with a hard, solid surface material conforming to the standards of the Town of Rockland road specifications.

PERFORMANCE or COMPLETION GUARANTEE - A surety bond, certified check or other security meeting the requirements of Section 277 of the Town Law, and the terms of which are satisfactory to the Town Attorney, guaranteeing the subdivider will install all required or planned improvements.

PERSON - Any individual, firm, trust, partnership, public or private association or corporation, or other entity.

PLAT - A drawing, map, chart, plan or plotting indicating the subdivision or re-subdivision of land, which in its various stages of preparation can include the following:

- A. **SKETCH PLAN** - A general plan, identified as such with the title "Sketch Plan" on the map, indicating existing site features of a tract and its surroundings and the general layout of the proposed subdivision, to be used as a basis for conceptual consideration by the Town Planning Board; or, in the case of conservation subdivisions, determining allowable density.
- B. **PRELIMINARY PLAT** - A complete plan prepared by a registered professional engineer or licensed land surveyor, identified as such with the wording "Preliminary Plat" in the title, accurately showing proposed streets and lot layout and such other information as required by this Law.
- C. **FINAL PLAT** - A complete and exact plan, identified as such with the wording "Final Plat" in the title, with a professional engineer's or registered surveyor's seal affixed, and prepared for official recording with modifications as required during the review and

approval of the Preliminary Plat.

SECRETARY - The clerk or secretary designated to accept applications, plats, fees and correspondence on behalf of the Town of Rockland Planning Board.

STREET - A highway or road intended primarily for the purposes of vehicular traffic, including the following:

- A. STREET, MINOR - A road. the primary purpose of which is, to collect vehicular traffic from individual dwellings or places of business.
- B. STREET, COLLECTOR - A road. the primary purpose of which is, to collect vehicular traffic from minor streets and deliver it to major traffic streets.
- C. STREET, MAJOR - A road. the primary purpose of which is, to collect vehicular traffic from collector streets and deliver it to destination points or arterial highways such as NYS Route 17.

SUBDIVIDER - Same as DEVELOPER.

SUBDIVISION - the division or redivision of a lot, tract or parcel of land by any means into two or more lots, tracts, parcels or other divisions of land including changes in existing lot lines for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of lease, partition by the court for distribution to heirs or devisees, transfer of ownership or building or lot development.

SURVEYOR - A land surveyor licensed by the State of New York.

TOWN - Town of Rockland, Sullivan County, New York.

TOWN ATTORNEY (ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN) - The attorney appointed by the Town Board to represent the Town of Rockland in any given matter.

TOWN BOARD - Governing council - the Town of Rockland.

TOWN LAW - The New York State Town Law which governs the operation of all Towns within the State.

TOWN ROAD SPECIFICATIONS - The standards of the Town of Rockland pertaining to the approval of streets by the Town Highway Superintendent and the acceptance of such streets for formal dedication to the Town.

WATERCOURSE - A discernible, definable natural course or channel along which water is conveyed ultimately to streams and/or rivers at lower elevations including intermittent streams but excepting drainage ditches, swales or diversion terraces.

ARTICLE III
GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 31.12 Procedures and Requirements for Minor Subdivisions

The following procedures and requirements shall apply to minor subdivisions only (See Definitions). All other subdivisions and re-subdivisions, regardless of the total number of lots involved, shall be processed as major subdivisions according to the procedures and requirements specified herein.

- A. **Sketch Plan required.** Submission of a sketch plan showing existing site features and a tentative layout of the subdivision shall be required as part of the plat approval process for all minor subdivisions. The Planning Board shall use the sketch plan for determining the number of lots permitted, arranging and conducting a site inspection of the property and establishing whether the subdivision is located in an Agricultural District.
- B. **Application.** Any person proposing to create a minor subdivision shall submit along with plans required below, five copies of an application for minor subdivision approval. This application may be in letter form and shall specify and/or be accompanied by:
1. The name, address and telephone number of the property owner of record and those of the subdivider, if different.
 2. The name or number of the road where the proposed subdivision is to be located.
 3. The name, address and telephone number of the surveyor or engineer preparing the subdivision plans.
 4. The type of water supply proposed.
 5. The type of sewer system proposed.
 6. The required fee or receipt for the same from the Planning Board Secretary.
 7. A completed Environmental Assessment as required by SEQRA.
- C. **Final Plat.** The subdivider shall submit seven (7) copies of a Final Plat and required supplementary data for the proposed subdivision. This plat shall be prepared by a Professional Engineer or Surveyor and shall show all the lots proposed to be created. The Final Plat shall meet the following requirements:
1. The subdivision plat shall, ordinarily, be not less than 8 1/2" X 11" nor more than 24" X 36" in size.
 2. The names of all abutting property owners and the size of any remaining acreages in the tract from which lots are being taken shall be shown.

3. The plat shall show the name of the municipality, name of the owner of record, North Point, graphic scale, and date.
 4. Soil types found on the site shall be shown unless the lots involved are lot improvements or contain existing sewage systems. Soil Conservation Service Classifications shall be used.
 5. Existing public roads shall be identified by traffic route numbers and private roads by their posted names and numbers.
 6. Proposed lot or parcel lines shall be drawn to scale and dimensions given in feet and hundredths of a foot. Lot areas shall be shown in acres or square feet. The plat shall depict the proposed subdivision as a part of the contiguous holdings of the subdivider, and show adjacent lots already taken from the parcel.
- D. **Soil tests.** Documentation as may be required by the New York State Department of Health, along with a soils evaluation by the test pit method and/or other required supplemental data relating to sewage disposal shall be submitted.
- E. **Street encroachment permits.** A completed application to the Town of ~~Rockland~~ Rockland Highway Superintendent, the State Department of Transportation or County Department of Public Works, as the case may be, for a street encroachment permit, shall also be required.
- F. **Public Hearing.** The Planning Board shall, within sixty-two (62) days of the receipt of a complete Final Plat by the Planning Board Secretary, hold a public hearing, advertising such hearing at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town at least five (5) days prior to the hearing and providing such other notice as it deems appropriate. The hearing shall be closed on motion of the Planning Board within one-hundred-twenty (120) days after it is opened and be used to guide the Planning Board in acting upon the Environmental Assessment.
- G. **Action on Final Plat.** The Planning Board shall, by resolution, conditionally approve with or without modification, disapprove or grant final approval and authorize signing such plat within sixty-two (62) days of the close of the public hearing, provided it has first acted upon the Environmental Assessment and made a Negative Declaration with respect to environmental impacts. Should the Board be unable to make a Negative Declaration, it shall proceed in the manner provided by New York State Town Law § 276.
- H. **Certification, filing and signing of Final Plat.** Within five (5) business days of the adoption of the resolution granting conditional or final approval of the final plat, such plat shall be certified by the Secretary as having been granted conditional or final approval and a copy of such resolution and plat shall be filed in such Secretary's office and with the Town Clerk and shall be mailed to the subdivider. In the case of a conditionally approved plat, such resolution shall include the requirements which, when completed, will authorize

the signing thereof. Upon completion of such requirements the plat shall be signed by a duly authorized officer of the Planning Board and filed with the Secretary.

- I. **Time limits on conditional approvals.** A conditional approval of a final plat shall expire within one-hundred-eighty (180) days unless all conditions are satisfied and certified as completed. This period may be extended for not more than two additional periods of ninety (90) days where particular circumstances so warrant in the judgment of the Planning Board.
- J. **Approvals by default.** In the event the Planning Board fails to take action on a plat within the time periods prescribed herein or within such extended periods as may have been established by mutual consent of the subdivider and Planning Board, the subdivider shall be entitled to an approval by default pursuant to the Town Law.
- K. **Recording of final plats.** All final plats shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk within sixty-two (62) days of approval, subject to the provisions of § 276 of the Town Law.
- L. **County Planning Board review.** Applications for preliminary or final plat approval shall be subject to referral to the County Planning Board pursuant to Section 239-m of the General Municipal Law, if located within five-hundred (500) feet of:
 - 1. the Town boundaries; or
 - 2. the boundaries of any existing or proposed County or State park or other recreation area; or
 - 3. the right-of-way of any County or State highway; or
 - 4. the right-of-way of any existing or proposed stream or drainage channel owned by the County or for which the County has established channel lines; or
 - 5. the boundary of any existing or proposed County or State land on which a public building or institution is situated; or
 - 6. the boundary of a farm operation in an Agricultural District.

§ 31.13 Procedures for Major Subdivisions

Major subdivision plat submissions shall be subject to SEQRA review and be processed as follows:

- A. **Sketch Plan required.** Submission of a sketch plan as provided in § 31.14 shall be required as part of the Preliminary Plat approval process for all major subdivisions. This plan shall be used to determine the number of lots permitted, determine whether the subdivision will involve other agencies and make a preliminary classification of the

subdivision as a Type I or Unlisted SEQRA action. The Planning Board shall also use the sketch plan for purposes of determining lead agency status, arranging and conducting a site inspection of the property and establishing whether the subdivision is located in an Agricultural District. A sketch plan shall be considered filed at the first regular meeting of the Planning Board following the Secretary's receipt of the plan and all determinations with respect to the plan shall be made within twenty (20) days of said meeting.

- B. **When Planning Board is not lead agency or an EIS is required.** Should the Planning Board not assume lead agency responsibilities in the SEQRA review of the subdivision, or should an Environmental Impact Statement be required, the provisions contained herein pertaining to public hearings, notices and decisions shall be modified as provided in § 276 of the Town Law.
- C. **When the Planning Board is lead agency and no EIS is required.** If the Planning Board acts as lead agency and determines an Environmental Impact Statement is not required, the subdivider shall complete preparation of the Preliminary Plat as required herein and provide Part 1 of the SEQRA Long Form Environmental Assessment. The Planning Board, within sixty-two (62) days of the receipt by the Secretary of a Preliminary Plat which is complete except for a negative declaration filed pursuant to SEQRA, shall hold a public hearing on this Preliminary Plat, advertising such hearing at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town at least five days prior to the hearing and providing such other notice as it may deem appropriate. The hearing shall be closed on motion of the Planning Board within one-hundred-twenty (120) days after it is opened and be used to guide the Planning Board in acting upon the Environmental Assessment.
- D. **Action on Preliminary Plat.** The Planning Board shall approve, with or without modifications, or disapprove the Preliminary Plat within sixty-two (62) days of the close of the public hearing, provided a negative declaration has first been filed pursuant to SEQRA.
- E. **Grounds for action.** The grounds for modification, if any, or the grounds for disapproval shall be stated in the records of the Planning Board. When so approving a Preliminary Plat the Planning Board shall state in writing any modifications it deems necessary for submission of the Final Plat.
- F. **Preliminary Plat certification.** Within five (5) business days of the approval of any preliminary plat, such plat shall be certified by the Secretary as approved and a copy of the plat and approval resolution shall be filed in the Secretary's office with a copy of the resolution provided to the subdivider and also filed in the office of the Town Clerk. Disapproval resolutions shall be filed and mailed in the same manner.
- G. **Time to submit final plat.** The subdivider, within six (6) months of the approval of the preliminary plat, shall install or, pursuant to § 31.16, financially guarantee all subdivision improvements and submit the plat in final form as provided in § 31.17. The Planning Board may revoke preliminary plat approval if a final plat is not submitted within six (6)

months or grant a limited extension of the preliminary approval provided that no preliminary plat shall remain valid if a final plat has not been submitted within three (3) years.

- H. **Action on final plat.** When the final plat is in substantial agreement with the preliminary plat, the Planning Board shall, by resolution, conditionally approve with or without modification, disapprove, or grant final approvals and authorize signing of such plat within sixty-two (62) days of its receipt by the Secretary. No additional public hearing shall be required. When the final plat is not in substantial agreement with the preliminary plat, the preliminary plat procedures shall apply to a final plat insofar as SEQRA review, public hearing, notices and decision making.
- I. **Certification, filing and signing of final plats.** Within five (5) business days of the adoption of the resolution granting conditional or final approval of the final plat, such plat shall be certified by the Secretary as having been granted conditional or final approval and a copy of such resolution and plat shall be filed in such Secretary's office and with the Town Clerk and shall be mailed to the subdivider. In the case of a conditionally approved plat, such resolution shall include the requirements which, when completed, will authorize the signing thereof. Upon completion of such requirements the plat shall be signed by a duly authorized officer of the Planning Board and filed with the Secretary.
- J. **Final plats by section.** The Planning Board may permit any subdivision for which preliminary plat approval has been granted to be submitted in sections for final plat approval.
- K. **Time limits on conditional approvals.** A conditional approval of a final plat shall expire within one-hundred-eighty (180) days unless all conditions are satisfied and certified as completed. This period may be extended for not more than two additional periods of ninety (90) days where particular circumstances so warrant in the judgment of the Planning Board.
- L. **Approvals by default.** In the event the Planning Board fails to take action on a plat within the time periods prescribed herein or within such extended periods as may have been established by mutual consent of the subdivider and Planning Board, the subdivider shall be entitled to an approval by default pursuant to the Town Law.
- M. **Recording of final plats.** All final plats shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk within sixty-two (62) days of approval, subject to the provisions of § 276 of the Town Law.
- N. **County Planning Agency review.** Applications for preliminary or final plat approval shall be subject to referral to the County planning agency pursuant to Section 239-m of the General Municipal Law, if located within five-hundred (500) feet of:
 - 1. the Town boundaries; or

2. the boundaries of any existing or proposed County or State park or other recreation area; or
3. the right-of-way of any County or State highway; or
4. the right-of-way of any existing or proposed stream or drainage channel owned by the County or for which the County has established channel lines; or
5. the boundary of any existing or proposed County or State land on which a public building or institution is situated; or
6. the boundary of a farm operation in an Agricultural District.

§ 31.14 Sketch Plats for Major Subdivisions

The Sketch Plan should be at a scale sufficient to show the entire tract on one sheet, and should show or include the following:

- A. The location of that portion which is to be subdivided in relation to the entire tract.
- B. An existing and natural site features analysis which depicts all structures, wood area, stream, natural features, stone walls, wetlands, outstanding views and other aspects of the property around which a subdivision plan should be designed.
- C. The name of the owner and of all adjoining property owners as disclosed by the most recent deed or tax records.
- D. All streets or roads, streams, water, sewage and gas and power lines within 500 feet of the subdivision.
- E. The tentative layout of the remainder of the tract owned by the subdivider.
- F. North Point, graphic scale, date and name/address of subdivider and landowner.
- G. A location map with sufficient information to enable the locating of the property.
- H. Proposed open spaces.

§ 31.15 Preliminary Plat Requirements for Major Subdivisions

- A. The Preliminary Plan shall be clearly and legibly drawn and ordinarily shall be not less than 11" X 17" nor more than 24" X 36" in size and should, when possible, show the entire tract to be divided.
- B. The Plat shall be based on the concepts presented in the Sketch Plan and contain the following information:

1. Proposed name of the subdivision. This name shall not duplicate in spelling or pronunciation any recorded subdivision within Sullivan County. The name and address of landowner and subdivider shall also be provided.
2. Location by Town, County and State. The plan shall also include tax map numbers for affected and adjacent parcels and a 1" = 2000' location map.
3. North point, date and graphic scale.
4. Boundaries of total tract and acreage contained within it. (Also see Section 31.17.G)
5. Locations, and where appropriate, dimensions of parks and public grounds, permanent buildings in or adjacent to the subdivision, open space easements and other significant existing site features.
6. Approximate locations of existing sanitary sewers, public water mains, storm sewers, electric power and transmission lines, gas lines, and all other items above or below ground with direction of flow and pressure.
7. Names of owners of abutting properties, and lines showing where they intersect.
8. Existing contours at intervals of at least every twenty feet. U.S.G.S. maps may suffice for the basis of this item. The Town reserves the right to request greater detail when the scope or nature of the development demands the same.
9. Proposed layout of streets, alleys and other public rights-of-way, including widths and proposed names which shall not duplicate existing names by spelling or pronunciation. The street proposals shall be accompanied by a submission of plans as required by the Town Road and Street Encroachment Laws, including profiles, cross-sections, and preliminary designs for bridges and culverts.
10. The proposed layout, numbering and approximate dimensions and acreage of lots.
11. Parcels to be dedicated to the public, or reserved for their use, or to be reserved by covenant for residents, shall be shown and marked as such.
12. Building setback lines. Where lots are located on a curve, or side lines are not parallel, the width at the building line shall be shown.
13. All drainage easements shall be shown and marked as such.
14. Approximate final grades in areas of cut or fill shall be shown.
15. Any lots designated for uses other than residential shall be indicated.

16. Proposed covenants and restrictions.
17. Evidence of water supply. In cases where no public water supply is planned as part of the subdivision, the subdivider shall supply acceptable evidence of the availability of other potable water source. This evidence may be in the form of recording logs made by professional well drillers for existing wells .
18. Letters from each utility servicing the area indicating that the utility company is aware of and will provide service to the proposed subdivision.
19. An erosion and sedimentation control plan indicating those measures to be employed during construction and as may be necessary to prevent loss of soil from erosion and to prevent resulting property damage, siltation and contamination of water courses or impoundments.
20. A storm water management plan prepared in accord with the requirements hereof and DEC guidelines and standards (see "Reducing the Impacts of Stormwater Runoff from New Development").
21. Documentation as may be required by the New York State Department of Health or the Planning Board, along with a soils evaluation by the test pit method and/or other required supplemental data relating to sewage disposal.
22. All applicable zoning data.
23. Completed applications to Town of Rockland, County of Sullivan or the New York Department of Transportation, as the case may be, for street encroachment or highway occupancy permits.
24. Detailed landscaping plans for such common areas or improvements as may require new landscaping.

§ 31.16 Requirements for Guarantee of Improvements

- A. After approval of the Preliminary Plat, the subdivider, in a manner consistent with the New York State Town Law, shall provide for the installation of the required improvements (those physical additions and changes which may be necessary to provide usable and desirable lots). Before requesting Final Plat approval the subdivider must:
 1. Install all the improvements approved on the Preliminary Plat or required by § 40.1 standards, or
 2. File with the Town Board a performance guarantee to insure installation and construction of those improvements at the standards required. Such guarantee shall meet with the approval of the Town Attorney as to form and procedure.

- B. The subdivider shall meet with the Engineer for the Town to develop a schedule, so that at the time each improvement is to be installed and upon its completion, adequate inspections can be made.
- C. This Section is designed to be consistent with § 277 of the New York State Town Law and the Town of Rockland hereby incorporates all authorities and requirements contained therein as part of this Law.
1. Posting - The performance guarantee must be approved by the Town Board and Town Attorney, with the advice of the Engineer for the Town, and must:
 - a. Be a corporate surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit from a bank or certified check, provided the same is satisfactory to the Town Board and Town Attorney and meets Town Law § 277 requirements.
 - b. Be payable to the Town of Rockland.
 2. Be in an amount sufficient to complete the improvements in compliance with these regulations plus any expected cost increases over the period of the guarantee. Costs shall be assumed to escalate a minimum of 10% per year for purposes of determining the amount of a guarantee.
 3. In the case of cash or its equivalent, be held in an escrow fund in the name of the Town of Rockland.
 4. Specify a satisfactory completion date for improvements which shall, unless extended by mutual consent of the subdivider and the Planning Board, be not more than three (3) years from the date of the Final Plat approval. Should an extension be granted the amount of the guarantee shall be increased as may be required to cover further cost increases as provided in sub-section 3. above. Provisions may also be made, pursuant to the aforementioned Town Law § 277, for completion of improvements in phases.
 - a. Return - When the improvements have been completed and approved for conformity with these regulations by the Planning Board and Engineer for the Town or other qualified individual designated by the Town and accepted by the Town Board, the guarantee must be released and returned. When any of the required improvements have been completed and approved or materials for the same have been secured on-site, a portion of the security commensurate with the cost of these improvements, may be released and returned.
 - b. Default - In the event of default, the obligor and surety shall be liable thereon to the Town of Rockland for the cost of the improvements or parts thereof not installed. If proceeds of such bond, or other security are

insufficient to pay the cost of installing or making repairs or corrections to all the improvements covered by said security, the Town Board may, at its option, install part of such improvements in all or part of the subdivision or land development and may institute appropriate legal or equitable action to recover the moneys necessary to complete the remainder of the improvements. All of the proceeds, whether resulting from the security or from any legal or equitable action brought against the subdivider, or both, shall be used solely for the installation of the improvements covered by such security, and not for any other municipal purpose.

6. Prior to the certification of any improvements or release of any guarantee, the subdivider shall pay all inspection and related costs (for professional services, meetings, advertisements and expenses) associated with the improvements or guarantees. These costs will be assessed as a special fee apart from the regular fees provided for in this Law. Said payment shall be made to the Town of Rockland.

D. Where improvements are being dedicated to the Town, the subdivider shall comply with the applicable requirements of any other Town Laws governing dedication of improvements and submit a maintenance bond or other approved performance guarantee to guarantee maintenance and repair of those improvements for eighteen (18) months from the date of dedication. The maintenance bond shall generally be a maximum of 15% of the costs of improvements, subject to approval of the Town Board. Similar maintenance agreements may be required for private streets and nothing herein shall be deemed to require acceptance of dedication by the Town under any circumstances.

§ 31.17 Final Plat Requirements for Major Subdivisions

The Final Plat shall be prepared on one or more sheets of a uniform size coinciding with requirements of the Sullivan County Clerk's office. Final Plat attachments and exhibits shall be numbered and labeled in accordance with the requirements of this Section and a "subdivision checklist" to be developed by the Town. The Final Plat shall include, in addition to the information required for the Preliminary Plat submission, the following:

- A. Exact locations, widths and names of all streets and all crosswalks within the subdivision.
- B. Complete curve data for all curves included in the Plat.
- C. Exact descriptions of all easements being provided for services or utilities in the subdivision, and any limitations placed on the use of such easements.
- D. Accurate outlines of any lots or areas to be reserved or dedicated for common use by residents of the subdivision, or for general public use, with the purpose indicated thereon, including all open space, conservation or drainage easements.
- E. Front building lines, shown graphically with dimensions.

- F. A final version of all restrictions and covenants, if any, the subdivider intends to place in the deeds to the lots in the subdivision. If no such restrictions or covenants are to be imposed, a statement to that effect shall be included.
- G. The total tract boundary lines of the area being subdivided, with accurate distances to hundredths of a foot and bearings to one minute. These boundaries shall be determined by accurate survey in the field; provided, however, that the boundary(s) adjoining additional unplatted land of the subdivider (for example, between separately submitted Final Plat sections) are not required to be based upon field survey, and may be calculated. The location of all boundary line (perimeter) monuments shall be indicated, along with a statement of the total area of the property being subdivided. In addition, the engineer or surveyor shall certify the placement of the monuments.
- H. The Final Plat shall contain a certificate signed by the project engineer indicating that all improvements have either been installed and approved by the proper officials or agencies, or that a guarantee in an amount satisfactory to the Engineer for the Town and sufficient to ensure their installation has been submitted to the Town.
- I. Complete final construction plans and profiles of installed or proposed public sanitary sewage disposal systems and storm drains, with grades and pipe sizes, unless on-site sewage disposal systems are to be used.
- J. Complete final construction plans of installed or proposed public water distribution systems showing pipe sizes and locations of valves and fire hydrants, if any, unless private wells are to be used.
- K. Evidence of actual arrangements made with utility companies or agencies for supplying each lot in the subdivision.
- L. A key map for the purpose of locating the site to be subdivided, at a scale of not less than 2000 feet to one inch, showing the relation of the property to adjoining property and to all streets, roads and municipal boundaries existing within 4000 feet or any part of the property proposed to be subdivided. U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps may suffice as a base for such a key map.
- M. Blank approval blocks for the Town Planning Board stamp and signatures shall appear on every sheet of the set of plans.
- N. A statement that Erosion and Sedimentation and Storm Water Management Plans, as required, have been prepared and where appropriate approved by the Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- O. Copies of street encroachment or highway occupancy permits and complete final construction plans, including agreements as may be required to ensure maintenance of private streets.

- P. Each Final Plat submission shall, in addition to the items required above, include new submissions of Preliminary Plat data in any instance where there has been a change in the plans or the circumstances surrounding them.

§ 31.18 Lot Improvements

Lot improvements shall be exempt from the requirements contained herein provided five (5) copies of a plan prepared by a licensed Land Surveyor or Professional Engineer have been submitted describing the conveyances involved by metes and bounds and in sufficient detail to determine the situation fits the criteria below. To qualify as a lot improvement, the parcels shall:

- A. Involve the addition of land to an existing parcel so as to:
1. Improve ability of that parcel to comply with setback or other building standards; or
 2. Increase suitability of the parcel for building development; or
 3. Add to the availability of open space; or
 4. Resolve a boundary line dispute or produce a corrected deed if a map reflecting the same is desired for recording purposes.
- B. Not substantially reduce the ability of the lot, from which the lot improvement parcel is taken, to comply with the applicable standards of this Law.
- C. Include a map restriction to the effect the improvement parcel will never be considered a separate building lot apart from the tract to which it is being added.

The Planning Board shall, within thirty-one (31) days of the receipt of the lot improvement plans, determine whether they comply with the exemption criteria found above. Should it fail to act in the provided time or find the plans do not meet the criteria, such plans shall be processed as a minor or major subdivision. If it finds they do qualify as a lot improvement, the Board shall sign the plans with the following notation: "These plans are acknowledged by the Town of Rockland, and for recording purposes only, to represent an exempt lot improvement in accord with Section 31.18 of the Town of Rockland Subdivision Regulations. No subdivision approval is required or given." No person shall record plans for any lot improvement without so first obtaining the Planning Board's clearance.

§ 31.19 Fees

At the time an application for subdivision approval is filed, a fee shall be paid to the Town by the subdivider; such fee to be determined from a schedule of fees as adopted by the Town Board by resolution. Additional fees may be imposed to cover the costs of inspections, professional reviews and SEQRA compliance, as well as the expenses connected with notices and hearings.

ARTICLE IV
GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 31.20 Design Standards

A. Application

The design standards and requirements set forth in this Article shall be observed as minimums by the subdivider in the design of each subdivision within the Town of Rockland. The Planning Board shall require more-restrictive standards where necessary to protect health, safety and welfare of the public, and where circumstances unique to the property so dictate.

B. General Site Requirements

1. Those areas which are subject to such hazards of life, health, or property as may arise from fire, flood or noise, or are considered to be uninhabitable for other reasons, may not be subdivided for building purposes unless the hazards have been eliminated or the plans show adequate safeguards correcting the hazards.
2. In addition, the Town may rely upon information contained in its Comprehensive Plan and, in determining and evaluating potential hazards use historical records, soil evaluations, engineering studies, expert opinions, established standards used by licensed insurance companies or in professional practice, and Federal, State, or local policies.
3. All portions of a tract being subdivided shall be taken up in lots, streets, public lands, dedicated open space or other proposed uses, so that remnants and land-locked areas shall not be created. The layout of a subdivision shall also be planned with consideration to existing nearby developments or neighborhoods, so that the development is coordinated in terms of traffic movement, drainage, and other reasonable considerations.
4. In all subdivisions, care shall be taken to preserve natural features such as trees, water courses, views, and historical features which will add attractiveness and value to the remainder of the land. Where a subdivision of land is on a site that has a slope of more than 15% the Planning Board may require larger lot sizes than the minimum standards set forth herein.
5. Damming, filling, relocating or other interference with the natural flow of surface water along any surface water drainage channel or natural water course shall not be permitted except with the approval of the Planning Board and, where appropriate, DEC.
6. Wherever possible, lot lines shall follow Town boundary lines rather than cross

them, and reserve strips controlling access to lots, public rights-of-way, public lands or adjacent private lands are prohibited.

C. Blocks and Lots

1. Blocks shall ordinarily not exceed 1200 feet in length.
2. Pedestrian interior walks or trails may be required, where necessary to assist circulation or provide access to community facilities and open space. Such walks or trails shall have a right-of-way width of not less than 6 feet and be all-weather-surfaced for not less than 3 feet in width.
3. Blocks shall be of sufficient width to permit two tiers of lots of appropriate depth, except where an interior street parallels a major street, or where it backs up to a railroad, creek, or other natural barrier unsubdivided area.
4. Where a subdivision adjoins a major highway (one which is designated and marked for two lanes or more and carries at least 1000 vehicles per day), the greater dimension of the block shall front along said highway, and interior streets may be required to minimize the number of points of access. Such streets may be required whenever topographic conditions, traffic density or lack of proper sight distance dictate for reasons of health and safety. Any subdivision of five lots or more with frontages averaging less than 300 feet along the highway shall be subject to this requirement, if the Planning Board determines, after inspection, that safety demands restricting access.
5. No subdivision shall include more than three (3) lots where the average depth of the lot is more than four (4) times its average width.
6. Cul-de-sac streets, permanently designed as such, shall not exceed 2,000 feet in length and shall furnish access to not more than 9 dwelling units. Cul-de-sac streets shall have, at the closed end, a turn-around with the right-of-way having an outside diameter of not less than 80 feet and not more than 120 feet and shall be paved to a diameter of not less than 80 feet and not more than 100 feet. An inside landscaped area of not more than 60 feet in diameter shall be encouraged. Drainage of cul-de-sacs shall preferably be toward the open end.
7. All side lines of lots shall be at approximate right angles to straight street lines and radial to curved street lines, except where a variation to this rule will provide a safer layout.
8. Double frontage lots shall ordinarily not be platted, except as specifically provided herein. In that event, a planting strip of at least 20 feet in width may be required along the back of the lot.
9. If remnants of land exist after subdividing, they shall be incorporated in existing or

proposed lots, unless designated as common area or dedicated to open space.

10. Either of the two sides of a corner lot may be designated as the front, provided the rear yard shall always be opposite the frontage so designated.
11. All lots shall front on a public or private street (existing or proposed) and the right-of-way of the principal access to any subdivision shall be a minimum of fifty (50) feet in width. However, upon written request by the subdivider, the Town may grant a waiver from this and other street requirements of this Law to permit access to no more than three (3) single-family residential lots from a private drive, provided a release has been given by the Town and approved by the Town Board making clear that the Town is exempted from all responsibility for the maintenance of the same and that the lot in question is not capable of being subdivided further or is so restricted. Evidence of satisfactory shared arrangements for ownership and maintenance of the drive shall also be provided. Also, see Section 40.1.I.18 hereof.
12. Monuments shall be placed at perimeter corners and the corner of each street, and markers set at the corner of each lot, consistent with surveyors' professional practice, to permanently and accurately define the metes and bounds of the block and lots created.

D. Common Open Space

Except where such area would be less than one acre or the Planning Board shall waive the requirement, not less than 10% of the gross area of the entire tract, exclusive of lakes or ponds, shall be reserved for common open space directly accessible from the lots to be created. Such open space shall be suitable for recreational use of the residents of the subdivision or the general community. The following and similar facilities shall meet this requirement: swimming pools, tennis courts, riding and cycling paths, playgrounds, community centers, and other open areas. Such areas as are designated for play lots, parks and other outdoor recreational facilities shall be of a size, shape and other physical characteristics so as to be free of health and safety hazards and suitable for the designated use. No portion of the 10% requirement shall be met with wetlands, slopes exceeding 15% in grade or other otherwise undevelopable areas. Sites so dedicated shall not be deemed to be accepted by the Town unless and until the Town Board has taken formal action to accept the same. The subdivider and the Town may also agree to otherwise provide recreational land for the use of residents pursuant to the authority of § 277 of the Town Law including fees in lieu of dedication.

E. Water supply

1. Where a central water supply is available within 1000 feet of the proposed residential development, the subdivider shall, if legally and practically feasible, construct a system of water mains tied to such system and provide a connection for each lot.

2. Plans and specifications for central water systems (i.e. extension of an existing system or a proposed new facility) shall be prepared by a professional engineer and shall conform to requirements of the New York State Department of Health and the local fire district(s). Suitable agreements shall also be established for the ownership and maintenance of such distribution system.
3. The applicant's proposed central water supply must demonstrate ability to provide a minimum of 100 gallons of water per capita per day (GPCD) and/or 400 gallons per day (GPD) for each residential dwelling unit to be serviced. Service to industrial or commercial establishments shall meet standards established by the American Water Works Association or insurance industry underwriting standards.
4. New central water supply wells shall be sited, drilled, and tested under the direct supervision of a professional engineer or a professional groundwater geologist. Wells shall be so located that no potential pollution sources can exist within a 100 foot radius (200 feet if located downslope from the pollution source). Wells shall also be located on reserved parcels.

F. Sewage Disposal

1. All residential lots shall contain suitable areas for on-site sewage disposal systems or be served by an approved central sewage disposal system. Plans and specifications for central systems, as required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC"), shall be submitted with all preliminary subdivision plats and design standards shall meet DEC requirements. Formal approval of DEC shall be required prior to final plat approval.
2. When a central sewage disposal system is located within 1000 feet of the proposed residential development, the subdivider shall, if legally and practically feasible, provide a system of collection lines to connect to said system. Regardless of this requirement, all subdivision and land developments shall be provided with an adequate sewage disposal system(s). Central sewage disposal systems shall also be required for all residential lots and non-residential developments where on-site soil conditions are unsuitable for on-lot subsurface sewage disposal systems.
3. Where connection to a central sewage disposal system is not required, on-site systems shall be provided in accordance with criteria set forth by the New York Department of Health. The applicant's professional engineer, subject to the approval of the Planning Board, shall determine the number and location of test pits and soil percolation tests necessary to determine the general suitability of soils throughout the subdivision for on-site subsurface sewage disposal.
4. Sanitary sewers shall not be used to carry storm water.

G. Erosion and Sedimentation

In the event that any subdivider shall intend to make land changes by grading, filling, excavating or the removal or destruction of the natural topsoil or vegetative covering thereon in accordance with a subdivision plan submitted to the Town, the same shall only be approved and accomplished after the developer has submitted to the Town an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan. Erosion control measures shall be employed as necessary to prevent loss of soil from erosion and also to prevent resulting property damage, siltation and contamination of water courses or impoundments. Erosion control measures may include hay bales, silt fences or other provisions or combinations thereof.

H. Storm Drainage

1. A storm water drainage plan shall be required for major subdivisions. Such a plan shall be prepared using DEC guidelines and standards (see "Reducing the Impacts of Stormwater Runoff from New Development"), but complying with the following standards.
2. Stormwater drainage facilities shall be designed to accommodate storms of a 25 year frequency unless a more stringent standard shall be required by the Planning Board. The general performance standard shall be that the amount of uncontrolled stormwater leaving the site along any property line after development shall not exceed that estimated for the site prior to development. In instances where stormwater facilities are impractical for engineering reasons the Town may modify this standard as it applies to a particular project but shall provide for the maximum practical reduction in flow which can be achieved under the circumstances. The subdivider shall provide full information, prepared by a professional engineer, regarding the pre-development stormwater flows and estimates at the time of application.
3. The following additional requirements shall apply:
 - a. Lots shall be laid out and graded to prevent cross-lot drainage away from proposed building areas. Natural drainage courses shall be maintained.
 - b. The existing points of natural drainage discharge onto adjacent property shall not be altered, nor shall the rate of water runoff be increased because of development, without the written approval of all affected land owners.
 - c. No storm water runoff or natural drainage water shall be so diverted as to overload existing drainage systems, or create flooding or the need for additional drainage structures on other private properties or public lands, without complete approval of provisions being made by the developer for properly handling such conditions.
 - d. Stormwater calculations and design shall be prepared by a professional

engineer, land surveyor, landscape architect or others certified to perform such work.

- e. Storm drainage facilities should be designed to handle the anticipated peak discharge from the property being subdivided.
- f. Where a subdivision is traversed by a watercourse, there shall be provided a drainage easement of at least 25 feet to each side of the stream from that stream bank, or such additional width as will be adequate to preserve the unimpeded flow of natural drainage.
- g. Drainage structures that are located on State highway rights-of-way shall be approved by the New York State Department of Transportation, and evidence of the same shall be provided to the Town prior to final plan approval.
- h. All streets shall be so designed as to provide for the discharge of surface water from their rights-of-way. The slope of the crown on proposed streets shall be 1/4" per foot away from the center line.
- i. All proposed surface drainage structures shall be indicated on the preliminary plan.
- j. Drainage plans shall include all appropriate designs, details and dimensions necessary to clearly explain proposed construction materials and elevations.
- k. Whenever storm drains are required by the Town, such storm sewer systems shall be separate from the sanitary sewer system. Storm drains or storm sewer facilities may be required in any development situation where the Town Board determine that surface drainage facilities are inadequate to prevent excessive erosion and lot or road maintenance problems.
- l. Drainage systems shall be designed in accordance with engineering practice, using hydraulic computations to show effects of the flow of water. The general standard shall be that the amount of stormwater leaving the site along any property line after development shall not exceed pre-development stormwater flows for that area. In no case shall any pipe system of less than 15" in diameter be used underneath a street or driveway.
- m. Where a subdivision is traversed by a water course, drainage way, channel, or stream, there shall be provided a drainage easement conforming substantially with the line of such water course, drainage way, channel or stream, and of such width (minimum 20 feet) as will be adequate to preserve the unimpeded flow of natural drainage, or for the purpose of

widening, deepening, relocating, improving or protecting such drainage facilities.

- n. All drainage systems and structures shall be subject to the approval of the Engineer for the Town, or any such other qualified person as may be appointed for this purpose by the Planning Board.

I. Street Requirements

- 1. The arrangement, character, extent, width, grade and location of all streets shall conform to the provisions found herein. Every subdivision shall have access to a public right-of-way.
 - a. In general, all streets shall be continuous and in alignment with existing streets and shall compose a convenient system to insure circulation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
 - b. Streets shall be logically related to the topography so as to produce usable lots and reasonable grades as required by this Law.
 - c. Dead-end streets shall be prohibited, except as stubs to permit future street extension into adjoining tracts, or when designed as cul-de-sacs.
 - d. Where adjoining areas are not subdivided, the arrangement of streets in new subdivisions shall make provision for the extension of streets.
 - e. Streets shall be laid out to intersect as nearly as possible at right angles; in any event, no street shall intersect another at less than sixty (60) degrees. Intersections of more than two streets shall be avoided. Where this proves impossible, such intersections shall be designed with care for safety, and suitable curbs, barriers, signs and other devices as may be required. Streets entering opposite sides of another street shall be laid out directly opposite one another or offset a minimum of one-hundred-twenty-five feet (125').
 - f. Street and driveway intersections with arterial streets shall not be so numerous, nor so close to each other, as to impede the flow of traffic.
 - g. Clear sight triangles shall be provided at all street intersections. Within such triangles, no structure or vision-obstructing object other than utility poles, street lights, street signs, or traffic signs shall be permitted which obscures vision above the height of thirty-six (36) inches and below ten (10) feet measured from the centerline grade of intersecting streets. Such triangles shall be established from a distance of seventy-five (75) feet from the point of intersection of the centerlines.
 - h. Whenever, in connection with a major subdivision, the principal access

(whether public or private) to such subdivision, by virtue of bridge weight limits of less than ten (10) tons or other comparable limitations, would restrict access to the property by emergency vehicles or school buses, the subdivider shall so indicate in writing on the final plats to be recorded and shall provide for notification to prospective lot buyers through deed covenant provisions which shall be approved by the Planning Board as to form.

2. Alleys may be permitted in residential areas under special circumstances, but in no case shall an alley provide the only means of access to a lot. Alleys are required on the rear of all commercial and industrial lots, if no other provisions are made for adequate service access or for parking.
3. Profiles: No street grade shall be less than one (1) percent or exceed the following, with due allowances for reasonable vertical curves:

Type of Street or Way	Maximum Grade
Major Traffic and Collector Streets	10%
Minor Streets	15%

Streets shall have a grade not to exceed two percent (2%) for a distance within fifty (50) feet of the street right-of-way line of any intersecting street.

4. Cross Section: The cross-section gradients of streets shall be not less than two percent (2%).
5. Minimum vertical and horizontal visibility (measured 3.5 feet eye level to tail lights 1.5 feet above ground level), for curves.

Type of Street or Way	Minimum Visibility Distance
Major Highways	500 feet
Collector Streets	300 feet
Minor Streets	300 feet
Streets shorter than 500 feet	150 feet

6. The minimum right-of-way widths for streets are as follows:

Type of Street or Way	Minimum Right-of- Way Width
Major Streets	50 feet
Collector Streets	50 feet
Minor Streets	50 feet
Alleys	25 feet
Private Drives	(See § 4.9.18)

7. On all dead-end roads a turn-about area with an eighty (80) foot diameter right-of-way and sixty (60) foot diameter traveled portion shall be provided.
8. The entire width of the travel way of each street in a proposed subdivision shall be graded and suitably prepared for installation of paving and drainage structures, in accordance with the appropriate standards for the class of street. The subgrade shall be free of sod, vegetative matter, or other similar material. Where poor subsurface drainage conditions exist, adequate drainage shall be installed. The subgrade construction shall conform to minimum standards of the Town Road Specifications.
9. The width of pavement required shall vary, depending upon the character of the development served and the amount of traffic expected to utilize the street. The following are minimum street pavement widths:

Type of Street	Minimum Shoulder Width	Minimum Clearance Beyond Shoulder	Minimum Pavement Width
Major Streets	5 feet	2 feet	24 feet
Collector Streets	5 feet	2 feet	24 feet
Minor Streets	3 feet	2 feet	18 feet
Private Drives (See § 40.1.I.18)		None	(See § 40.1.I.18)

10. The pavement shall be constructed in accordance with specifications and standards contained in the Town Road Specifications.
 - a. Street shoulders shall be constructed with materials as specified by the Town Road Specifications. The entire shoulder area shall be uniformly and thoroughly compacted by rolling and should slope gently from the edge of the roadway surface to the drainage ditch.
 - b. Embankments at the sides of streets and cross-sections of drainage ditches

shall not exceed a maximum slope of three (3) feet horizontally to one (1) foot vertically in a cut or fill section. In special cases, the Engineer for the Town may require more rigid standards.

11. In commercial or multi-family subdivisions or any other case where other similar intensive uses exist or are anticipated, curbs may be required, if such construction is deemed necessary for public safety by the Planning Board, based on consultation with the Engineer for the Town and shall be constructed according to good engineering practice. Curbs shall not be constructed, however, where pavements are less than 22 feet in width.
12. Where the grade of the street is above or below the grade of the adjacent land, walls or slopes shall be constructed in a manner satisfactory to the Planning Board, and shall be sufficient to support the street or the adjacent land, as the case may be. Where the grade of the street is three (3) feet or more above the grade of the adjacent land, guards shall be built to protect travel, if required by the Engineer for the Town.
13. All streets, including cul-de-sacs and alleys, shall be constructed as shown on the Preliminary and Final Plat approved by the Planning Board and in conformity with the Town Road Specifications. Where such Law does not provide a clear standard, the Town may rely upon the standards promulgated by the New York State Department of Transportation for local streets.
14. Four-way street name signs of a design approved by the Planning Board will be installed at each street intersection by the subdivider at his own expense. Streets that are extensions of, or obviously in alignment with, existing streets shall bear the name of existing streets. Street names shall not be repeated within the Town and shall be subject to Planning Board approval.
15. Street lighting is the responsibility of the applicant to provide, and the lot owners to maintain and operate. The Engineer for the Town will determine when and if streetlighting is necessary, evaluating need on the basis of safety considerations and commonly accepted standards of lighting. Whether or not street lights are initially installed, the developer shall be responsible for providing utility easements for future street lighting installation, upon consultation with the public service utility company involved.
16. Shade trees and other natural buffers along any proposed street right-of-way shall be retained to the maximum extent possible and cuts and fills which would necessitate removing such cover shall be minimized. Wide swath cuts or removal of natural vegetation shall not be permitted without compelling safety reasons.
17. No driveway, street or drainage facility or structure shall be constructed or altered within a state right-of-way, and no drainage facility of the New York State Department of Transportation shall be altered or connected onto without first

obtaining a permit from the New York State Department of Transportation. No driveway, local road or drainage facility or structure shall be constructed or altered within a Town right-of-way, and no drainage facility of the Town of Rockland shall be altered or connected onto without first obtaining a permit from the Town of Rockland Highway Superintendent.

18. Individual driveways serving only one single-family dwelling each shall not be subject to street improvement requirements of this Law or on the Town Road Specifications. Also, private drives to service no more than three (3) single-family dwellings shall be permitted provided the Town is given satisfactory evidence, in the form of declaration of restrictive covenants, that the private status of said road is permanent and the following standards are met:

Street Standard	Minimum
Minimum Right-of-Way	50 feet
Minimum Pavement Width	16 feet
Minimum Shoulder Width	3 feet

Pavement may consist of any all-weather surface satisfactory to the Engineer for the Town. If there is a potential for re-subdivision of any of the lots to be serviced by a private drive such that eventually more than two lots might result, the subdivider shall provide additional right-of-way as necessary to serve the maximum potential number of lots. All drainage plans shall be subject to approval of the Engineer for the Town.

19. Nothing contained herein shall be construed in any way to require the Town of Rockland to accept dedication of any street. These regulations are intended, rather, to set standards of construction for private streets and a proposed dedication of any such streets shall be subject to the specific dedication requirements of the Town Road Specifications.

J. Multi-Family Residential Subdivisions

1. Multi-family dwelling projects shall be considered major subdivisions as well as Special Uses under the Town of Rockland Zoning Law. This "major subdivision" classification shall apply to all subdivisions of property in connection with the development, regardless of whether or not the same are connected with building development, and the approvals required shall be requested and acted upon concurrently as one subdivision. Application for preliminary approval of multi-family dwelling projects, accordingly, will be made to the Town in the manner provided under these Subdivision Regulations. The subdivider shall also submit all information required by the Special Use procedures of the Town of Rockland

Zoning Law plus the following additional data:

- a. An application for multi-family dwelling approval on a form to be supplied by the Town or, in the absence of such form, by a letter or brief from the developer or his or her representative indicating how the development will specifically comply with or meet the criteria set forth herein.
 - b. A proposed plot plan showing the approximate (generally within five feet) locations of all buildings and improvements including parking areas, planting strips (if any), signs, storm drainage facilities, water supply, sewage treatment and collection systems and the specific areas provided as open space in connection with the requirements of this Law. Building layouts, floor plans and profiles shall also be provided indicating building dimensions, numbers, and sizes of units, common ownership or use areas (apart from the open space referenced below), lighting and such other information as shall be required to determine compliance with the design standards contained herein and any other building standards which may be applicable in the Town of Rockland. Setbacks from property lines, improvements and other buildings shall also be indicated.
 - c. A schedule or plan of proposed agreement(s) either with the Town or a property owners' association for the purpose of dedicating, in perpetuity, the use and/or ownership of the recreation area and open space required by this Law to the prospective dwelling owners or occupants. Such agreement may be incorporated in the applicant's proposed covenants and restrictions, but shall in any event, provide to the satisfaction of the Town that maintenance and use of the property, regardless of ownership, be restricted to either; (1) activities intended for the sole benefit of the occupants of the particular project proposed or, (2) permanent open space as hereinafter provided.
2. The Planning Board shall act on the Preliminary Plat and Special Use application concurrently provided an Environmental Assessment is also conducted pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). No building permit shall be issued to the applicant, however, until all conditions attached to the approval of any preliminary Plat, shall have been satisfied and nothing herein shall be construed as permitting the issuance of a building permit prior to Preliminary approval. This requirement notwithstanding, the building permit application shall be made with the Preliminary Plat and shall, if granted, be valid for a period equal to that for Preliminary Plat approval. If the Preliminary Plat shall be rejected no building permit shall be granted.
 3. Following Preliminary Plan approval, the developer shall provide for the installation of required or proposed improvements including but not limited to streets, parking areas, storm drainage facilities, recreational facilities and lighting.

Building improvements shall similarly be completed or guaranteed prior to the applicant's request for Final Plat approval. No Certificate of Occupancy (where the same is required) shall, however, be issued until such time as; (1) Final Plat approval shall have been granted in accordance with the procedures and requirements of this Law and (2) buildings have been completed and inspected by the Town Code Enforcement Officer.

4. Complete final building plans shall also be submitted as part of the Final Plat Application.
5. No person shall sell, transfer, lease or agree or enter into an agreement to sell or lease any land and/or buildings or interests in the individual dwelling units to be created, or erect any building thereon except in accord with the provisions of this Chapter, unless and until Final Plat approval shall have been granted (unless the improvements shall have been guaranteed), and the Plan has been recorded in the Office of the Sullivan County Clerk.
6. Multi-family dwelling projects shall be granted a 100% density bonus above the number of dwelling units per acre which would be permitted within the district if the parcel on which the units are to be constructed were to be developed for single-family residential use. Density shall be calculated by taking the total acreage of the development and deducting the following acreages:
 - a. Land contained within public rights-of-way;
 - b. Land contained within the rights-of-way of existing or proposed private streets. Where formal rights-of-way are not involved, the width of the street shall be assumed as fifty (50) feet wide;
 - c. Land contained within the boundaries of easements previously granted to public utility corporations providing electrical or telephone service; and dividing by the number of proposed units; and
 - d. All wetlands, floodplains, slopes of 15% or greater grade, water bodies and other undevelopable areas.
7. All areas of a multi-family development not conveyed to individual owners and not occupied by buildings and required or proposed improvements shall remain as permanent open space or be dedicated to recreation areas to be used for the sole benefit and enjoyment of the residents of the particular units being proposed. No less than 50% of the tract shall be used for this purpose and fees in lieu of dedication may not be substituted for such space. Such open space shall be subject to the following regulations:
 - a. No less than 50% of the open space to be provided (25% of the total tract) shall be dedicated to recreational areas for the sole benefit and enjoyment

of the residents of the particular units proposed. Recreation areas (as distinct from other open space) shall be immediately adjacent (part of the same parcel and contiguous) to the proposed units and freely and safely accessible to all residents of the development. They shall not be used to fulfill open space requirements or provide recreational areas for residents of other units, excepting as provided for in sub-section (2) below. They shall be usable for active recreational activities and shall not include wetlands, quarries, slopes over 15% in grade, water bodies or acreage used for improvements such as storm drainage facilities or sewage effluent disposal areas.

- b. Land designated simply as open space shall be permanently maintained as open space and may not be separately sold, used to meet open space or recreation area requirements for other developments, subdivided or developed excepting that a holding zone may be reserved for future development pursuant to density and other zoning requirements as they presently exist, provided such lands are specifically defined and indicated as "reserved for future development" on all plats. Such lands shall not be included in calculating permitted density for the proposed development. These provisions, however shall not be construed as granting or reserving to the developer any rights or privileges to develop on the basis of a "pre-approved plan" if density or other zoning requirements shall have been modified to preclude such development.
- c. Open space areas shall be permanently maintained so that their use and enjoyment as open space are not diminished or destroyed. Such areas may be owned, preserved and maintained by either one or both of the following mechanisms:
 - (1) Dedication to a property owners association which assumes full responsibility for maintenance of the open space.
 - (2) Deed-restricted private ownership which shall prevent development of the open space, provide for its maintenance and protect the rights of owners or occupants of dwelling units to use and enjoy, in perpetuity, such portion of the open space as shall have been dedicated to recreation areas for the project. This is intended to allow the owner/developer to retain ownership and use of a portion of the property (for hunting, fishing, etc.) provided the permanence of the open space is guaranteed.
 - (3) Whichever mechanism(s) may be used, the developer shall provide, to the satisfaction of the Town Attorney and prior to the granting of any Final Plat approval, for the perpetual maintenance of the open space and also the use and enjoyment of the recreation areas by residents of the units being approved. No lots shall be sold nor

shall any building be occupied until and unless such arrangements or agreements have been finalized and recorded.

- (4) Developments of 50 units or more shall provide one-half acre of playground area per 50 units unless restricted to adult occupancy only.
8. All multi-family developments shall be served with off-site sewage facilities and water supplies. Effluent disposal areas shall also be subject to the setback requirements applicable to other multi-family buildings and structures as a minimum.
 9. The following design criteria shall apply to multi-family developments:
 - a. There shall be no more than ten (10) dwellings in each multi-family building.
 - b. No structure shall be constructed within fifty (50) feet of the edge of any access road to or through the development or within ten (10) feet of the edge of any parking area.
 - c. Access roads through the development shall comply with minor street requirements as specified in this Law and no parking space shall be designed such that a vehicle would be backing or driving out onto a through road. Instead, there shall be a defined entrance and exit to and from each parking area.
 - d. No multi-family development shall be served by more than one entrance and one exit from any public highway, unless topography or other physical circumstances would preclude the use of a single entrance in a safe manner.
 - e. Parking spaces of two (2) per unit shall be provided plus, for every two (2) units intended for rental or other transient occupancy, one additional space to accommodate parking needs during sales and other peak visitation periods.
 - f. No more than sixty (60) parking spaces shall be provided in one lot, nor more than fifteen (15) in a continuous row without being interrupted by landscaping (see landscaping requirements herein). All off-street parking shall be adequately lighted and so arranged as to direct light away from residences.
 - g. No structure shall be erected within a distance equal to its own height of any other structure.

- h. All multi-family structures shall be a minimum of 100 feet from any of the exterior property or boundary lines of the particular project involved and 75 feet from any public right-of-way.
 - i. Where a property line is not wooded, a planting strip of fifty (50) feet in width shall be required to buffer adjoining property owners and ensure privacy. Similar buffering of areas adjoining County and State highways shall be required. A detailed landscaping plan shall also be prepared and submitted to the Planning Board for approval.
 - j. Multi-family developments shall be subject to the stormwater management requirements of these Subdivision Regulations and facilities shall be designed to accommodate storms of a 25 year frequency unless a more stringent standard shall be recommended by the Engineer for the Town. The general performance standard shall be that the amount of uncontrolled stormwater leaving the site along any property line after development shall not exceed that estimated for the site prior to development. In instances where stormwater facilities are impractical for engineering reasons the Engineer for the Town may modify this standard as it applies to a particular project but shall provide for the maximum practical reduction in flow which can be achieved under the circumstances.
 - k. All electrical and other utilities shall be placed underground and buried to a depth determined by the Engineer for the Town as sufficient for safety purposes.
10. Maintenance of a multi-family project shall be vested in (1) an association or other legal entity organized prior to the offering of the first unit for occupancy, or (2) a manager, who may be the developer, or a person designated by the developer before the developer offers a unit for occupancy, or (3) the owners or occupants of units themselves if the total number of owners or occupants within the development is not more than five (5). If the developer shall opt to manage the project or designate a manager, the preliminary application shall include financial statements, a description of previous management experience and other data sufficient for the Planning Board to ascertain the financial responsibility of the manager.
11. The association or manager, as the case may be, shall be responsible for maintenance, repair and replacement of the common areas of the development including buildings and, if applicable, the furniture, fixtures and equipment within the units. The project instruments shall specify the expenses which the maintenance organization may incur and collect from purchasers as a maintenance fee and secure maintenance of the project as well as enforcement of applicable covenants and restrictions in perpetuity. The Planning Board may require that a Certified Public Accountant review such financial data for purposes of determining that proposed fees are, in fact, adequate to secure maintenance on a continuing

basis.

12. The developer shall, in filing a Preliminary Plat, provide a narrative description of how responsibility for maintenance and care of the units and common areas will be assured and a pro forma operating budget for the maintenance organization including a breakdown of the common expense to be borne by the maintenance organization and a separation of long-term maintenance costs from on-going routine maintenance costs. There shall also be provided a narrative description of how the developer proposes to assure maintenance and care of the units and common facilities during any sales program, based on which the Planning Board may require additional temporary facilities to accommodate service demands. Copies of all applicable instruments shall be provided, for purposes of determining that long-term arrangements for maintenance of common facilities have, in fact, been made by the developer and/or with the occupants.
13. Any developer who proposes to construct multi-family dwellings and convey the common elements of said multi-family dwelling project, including recreation areas, to an association of purchasers of units therein shall submit a maintenance bond or other performance guarantee acceptable to the Town Board and Town Attorney ensuring long-term maintenance and repair of said common elements. Such maintenance bond or other guarantee shall:
 - a. Be for a period of not less than fifteen (15) years from the date of the final approval of said multi-family dwelling by the Town;
 - b. Be in an amount equal to the amount collected or to be collected for long-term maintenance (as indicated in the budget referenced above) by the developer or other responsible parties from each purchaser, multiplied by the total number of expected purchasers.
14. If the development shall be subject to the New York State statutes governing the sale of real property used for multi-family occupancy, the developer shall certify as to his or her compliance with said statutes. To the extent the provisions of such statutes conflict with this sub-section such certification shall suffice as to conformance with these requirements.
15. Conversions of motels, hotels or other existing structures to multi-family dwelling use regardless of whether such conversions involve structural alterations, shall be considered subdivisions and, moreover, be subject to the provisions of this Law. If the proposed project does involve structural alterations, the Preliminary Plat shall include a certification of a registered architect or engineer to the effect that the existing building is structurally sound and that the proposed conversion will not impair structural soundness. However, the conversion of an existing single-family detached dwelling or single family semi-detached dwelling into not more than three residential units shall be exempt from these requirements, unless such units are intended to be a condominium. This shall not, however, exempt an owner from

any requirements of the State Building Code or the Town Zoning Law as they may pertain to such activities.

K. Conservation Subdivisions

1. The Town of Rockland Planning Board shall be authorized, pursuant to and in supersession of § 278 of the Town Law, to modify applicable provisions of the Town of Rockland Zoning Law and these Subdivision Regulations so as to accommodate conservation subdivision projects. Also known as "cluster development", conservation subdivisions offer flexibility in design, facilitate the economical provision of streets and utilities and preserve open space. They shall be allowed anywhere within the Town of Rockland and be processed pursuant to subdivision plat approval procedures.
2. The Planning Board may require conservation subdivisions, as a form of development, in those instances where conventional subdivisions or residential developments would cause significant loss of open space or otherwise result in significant negative environmental impacts.
3. Conservation subdivisions provide for single-family dwelling units wherein dwelling units are grouped in sections in order to maximize the amount of common open space and to preserve the natural settings. Proposed developments shall be processed in the same manner as major subdivisions and in accord with the standards below.
4. Conservation subdivisions shall include at least five (5) lots and 10 acres of land and the Planning Board shall have the authority to require an alternative Sketch Plat, for any subdivision of ten (10) lots or more, depicting how the property might be developed using this technique. If this alternative Sketch Plat is determined to provide a superior design in accord with the purposes of this Law and the same density can be achieved, the Planning Board may then require use of this technique.
5. The maximum permitted number of dwelling units shall be determined by deducting from the total tract area:
 - a. All areas within the rights-of-way of any existing or proposed streets; and
 - b. All areas occupied by public utility easements; and
 - c. All wetlands, floodplains, slopes of 15% or more, water bodies and other undevelopable areas.

The net figure shall then be divided by the minimum lot size applicable and rounded to the nearest whole number of dwelling units permitted.

6. Only single-family detached and two family dwellings shall be employed in this concept. All other dwelling types shall be considered multi-family dwellings.
7. Development standards for lot size, lot width and lot depth may be reduced, provided no dwelling structure (single-family or two-family) is located on less than one (1) acre of land where on-site sewer and water facilities are to be provided or one-half (1/2) acre of land where off-site sewer and water facilities are to be provided; and further provided the total density (in individual dwelling units) for the tract shall not exceed that which would result from a conventional subdivision plan designed in accord with this Law, as determined from the basic Sketch Plan submission. Yard requirements may also be reduced, but in no instance to less than forty (40) feet for the front yard and thirty (30) feet for the side and rear yards.
8. No individual parcel of common open space shall be less than one (1) acre except as to roadway median strips, traffic islands, walkways, trails, courtyards, play areas, recreation facilities, drainageways leading directly to streams, historic sites or unique natural features requiring common ownership protection. No less than 50% of the total land area of the conservation subdivision shall be dedicated to permanent open space and at least 50% of such open space shall be usable for active recreational activities and not include water bodies, wetlands, floodplains, slopes over 15% in grade or other undevelopable areas.
9. The open space resulting from conservation subdivision design shall be permanently protected through a conservation easement and generally titled to a property owner's association (POA) prior to the sale of any lots or dwelling units by the subdivision. Membership shall be mandatory for each property owner within the subdivision and successive owners with voting of one vote per lot or unit and the subdivider's control, therefore, passing to the individual lot/unit owners on sale of the majority of the lots or units. All restrictions on the ownership, use and maintenance of common open space shall be permanent and the POA shall be responsible for liability insurance, local taxes, and maintenance of all open space, recreational facilities and other commonly held amenities. Each property owner must be required to pay their proportionate share of the POA's cost and the POA must be able to file liens on the lot/unit owner's property if levied assessments are not paid. The POA must also have the ability to adjust the assessment to meet changing needs.