Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

105-40 - SPECIAL REVIEW PROVISIONS

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105-40 - SPECIAL REVIEW PROVISIONS

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

The provisions of this Section shall apply to all #developments#, #enlargements# or #site alterations# located within a #Special Natural Area District#.

Prior to the issuance by the Department of Buildings of any permit for a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# within a #Special Natural Area District#, the City Planning Commission shall certify to the Department of Buildings that the #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# is approved pursuant to Sections 105-41 (Certification), 105-42 (Authorizations to Alter Natural Features), 105-43 (Authorizations to Modify Bulk, Parking, Grading and Private Roads Regulations) or 105-44 (Special Permit), inclusive.

The provisions of Article VII, Chapter 8 (Special Regulations Applying to Large-scale Residential Developments), shall apply to a #large-scale residential development#, as modified by the provisions of Section 105-701 (Applicability of large-scale residential development regulations).

105-41 - Certification

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

When it is not necessary for the applicant for a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# to apply for an authorization or special permit, the Chair of the City Planning Commission shall certify to the Department of Buildings that such #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# complies

with the regulations of this Chapter, and that no authorization or special permit is required pursuant to this Chapter.

Where #natural features# are to be protected and maintained under Section 105-60 (MAINTENANCE OF NATURAL FEATURES), the Commission shall indicate in the certification specific conditions and safeguards appropriate to the designated area.

105-42 - Authorizations to Alter Natural Features

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

For a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# located within the #Special Natural Area District#, the City Planning Commission may authorize:

(a) modification of topographic features including existing natural topography and #topsoil# pursuant to Section 105-421 (Modification of topographic features on Tier I sites) and modification of #steep slopes# pursuant to Section 105-422 (Authorization of a development, enlargement or site alteration on a Tier II site or portion of a zoning lot having a steep slope or steep slope buffer);

(b) modification of geologic features including the relocation of erratic boulders, and the alteration of rock outcrops pursuant to Sections 105-423 and 105-424;

(c) modification of botanic environment, pursuant to Section 105-425;

(d) alteration of aquatic features, pursuant to Section 105-426 in NA-1, NA-2 and NA-3 Districts.

The Commission may prescribe appropriate additional conditions and safeguards to protect the character of the #Special Natural Area District#.

105-421 - Modification of topographic features on Tier I sites

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

The topographic features, including natural topography and #topsoil#, existing at the time of designation of a #Special Natural Area District# may be modified by the City Planning Commission, provided that the Commission finds that:

(a) #development#, #enlargement# and #site alteration# is not feasible without such modification, or that the requested modification will permit a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# that satisfies the purposes of this Chapter;

(b) such modification, including any removal of #topsoil#, will not disturb the drainage pattern and soil conditions in the area;

(c) such modification of topography has minimal impact on the existing topographic features of the surrounding area and blends harmoniously with it;

(d) such modification is the least modification required to achieve the purpose for which it is granted; and

(e) the #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# takes advantage of the natural characteristics of the site.

Where permits are required from a City agency, the Commission shall request a report from such agency, and the provisions of Section 105-93 (Inter-agency Coordination) shall apply.

105-422 - Authorization of a development, enlargement or site alteration on a Tier II site or portion of a zoning lot having a steep slope or steep slope buffer

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

The City Planning Commission may authorize #developments#, #enlargements# and #site alterations# on a #Tier II site# or on portions of a #zoning lot# having a #steep slope# or #steep slope buffer#.

In order to grant such authorizations, the Commission shall find that:

(a) the #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# is not feasible without such modification, or that the modification will permit a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# that satisfies the purposes of this Chapter;

(b) such modification is the least modification required to achieve the purpose for which it is granted;

(c) the modification has minimal impact on the existing natural topography and vegetation and blends harmoniously with it;

(d) the modification will not disturb the drainage patterns and soil conditions of the area; and

(e) the #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# takes advantage of the natural characteristics of the site.

The #lot coverage# regulations of Section 105-33 (Residential Lot Coverage Regulations on Sites Granted an Authorization Pursuant to Section 105-422) shall apply to any #residential# #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# granted an authorization pursuant to this Section.

Any #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# requiring an authorization pursuant to this Section shall be subject to all the requirements of this Chapter for which an authorization or special permit has not been obtained.

105-423 - Relocation of erratic boulders

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

No erratic boulder with a diameter at any point of six feet or more may be moved from its location at the time of designation of a #Special Natural Area District# to another location within the Special District during #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# except in compliance with the provisions of this Section.

Prior to the moving of an erratic boulder from its present location to a location elsewhere within the #Special Natural Area District#, an application shall be filed with the City Planning Commission showing the present location and the proposed location. Moving of an erratic boulder will be permitted only by authorization of the Commission under the following circumstances:

(a) where such a boulder is located in an area to be occupied by #buildings#, driveways, parking areas or recreation areas and it is not possible to avoid such location by minor adjustments in the arrangement of such #buildings#, driveways, parking areas or recreation areas on the site;

(b) where the boulder's continued existence in its present location would create hazards or dangers; or

(c) where authorizations granted by the Commission under the provisions of this Chapter require or clearly contemplate the boulder's relocation from its present position.

In issuing an authorization under this Section, the Commission shall require an appropriate relocation site, visible, if possible, from a public #street#, park, or public place, preferably on the #zoning lot# or elsewhere within the #Special Natural Area District#. The Commission may prescribe appropriate conditions to enhance the setting of the relocated boulder.

105-424 - Alteration of rock outcrops

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

The City Planning Commission may authorize the alteration of a rock outcrop, provided that:

(a) the #development# or #enlargement# is not feasible without such alteration, or that the requested alteration will permit a #development# or #enlargement# that satisfies the purposes of this Chapter; or

(b) such alteration is necessary to protect the health and safety of the site occupants; and

(c) such #development# or #enlargement#, as authorized, will result in the minimum #natural feature# interference that must be permitted in order to allow reasonable #development# or #enlargement# and #bulk# distribution under the regulations of the underlying district.

The Commission shall impose appropriate conditions and safeguards to assure protection of the portions of the area to be preserved in their natural state.

105-425 - Modification of botanic environment and tree preservation and planting requirements

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

The City Planning Commission may authorize modifications to the provisions of Sections 105-31 (Botanic Environment and Tree Preservation Requirements), 105-32 (Botanic Environment and Tree Planting Requirements) and paragraph (b)(8) of Section 105-35 (Tier II Requirements for Driveways and Private Roads).

In order to grant such authorizations, the Commission shall find that:

(a) the #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# is not feasible without such modifications, or that the requested modification will permit a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# that satisfies the purposes of this Chapter;

(b) such modification is the least modification required to achieve the purpose for which it is granted;

(c) the ecology and soil conditions of the site are such that the substitution of other plant material would be as appropriate as the botanic preservation or planting requirements being modified; and

(d) in order to modify requirements relating to tree preservation, planting or removal, the Commission shall also find that:

(1) such tree is located in areas which require excessive cut or fill of land deemed inimical to plant survival; or

(2) the continued presence of such tree would create hazards or dangers (such as an area affected by storm or plant disease) to persons, property or other plant material which it would not be possible or practical to eliminate by pruning.

Where on-site replanting of vegetation would result in overcrowding or would adversely affect the ecology of the site, the Commission may authorize planting of one or more trees on adjoining public sidewalks or in a nearby public area within the #Special Natural Area District#. The Commission may also allow the substitution of other plant material, provided a detailed landscaping plan is filed with the Commission for approval and certification.

105-426 - Alteration of aquatic features

No portion of an aquatic feature shall be altered or land operations affecting aquatic features undertaken by or on behalf of present or future applicants for permits except in compliance with the provisions of this Section. The City Planning Commission may permit the alteration of aquatic features, provided that:

(a) the #development# or #enlargement# is not feasible without such alteration or where such alteration will permit a #development# or #enlargement# that satisfies the purposes of this Chapter; or

(b) such alteration is necessary to protect the health and safety of the site occupants; and

(c) such #development# or #enlargement#, as authorized, will result in the minimum #natural feature# interference that must be permitted in order to allow reasonable #development# or #enlargement# and #bulk# distribution under the regulations of the underlying district; and

(d) such modification shall not disturb the drainage patterns in the area.

The Commission shall impose appropriate conditions and safeguards to assure protection of the portions of the area to be preserved in their natural state.

Where permits are required from a City agency for any work affecting #natural features#, the Commission shall request a report from such agency and the provisions of Section 105-93 (Inter-agency Coordination) shall apply.

In the event alteration of an aquatic feature is found inappropriate, the Commission may treat an application under this Section as an application for modification of #yard# and height and setback regulations under Section 105-432.

105-43 - Authorizations to Modify Bulk, Parking, Grading and Private Roads Regulations

LAST AMENDED
1/19/2016

For a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# located within the #Special Natural Area District#, the City Planning Commission may authorize:

(a) modification of #lot coverage# controls in accordance with the provisions of Section 105-431;

(b) modification of underlying district regulations relating to #bulk# or #parking# in accordance with the provisions of Section 105-432 (Modification of yard, height and setback regulations, and parking location regulations);

(c) modification of grading controls in accordance with the provisions of Section 105-433; and

(d) modification of requirements for driveways and private roads on #Tier I sites# and #Tier II sites# in accordance with the provisions of Section 105-434.

105-431 - Modification of lot coverage controls

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

For any #development# or #enlargement# on a #Tier II site# or within a #steep slope# or a #steep slope buffer# on a #Tier I site#, the City Planning Commission may authorize variations in the #lot coverage# controls set forth in Section 105-33.

In order to grant such authorization, the Commission shall find that:

(a) the #development# or #enlargement# is not feasible without such modification, or that the requested modification will permit a #development# or #enlargement# that satisfies the purpose of this Chapter;

(b) by allowing the permitted #floor area# in a #building# or #buildings# of lower height to cover more land, the preservation of #hillsides# having aesthetic value to the public would be assured, and that such preservation would not be possible by careful siting of a higher #building# containing the same permitted #floor area# on less land;

(c) such modification is the least modification required to achieve the purpose for which it is granted;

(d) the modification has minimal impact on the existing natural topography and vegetation and blends harmoniously with it;

(e) the modification will not disturb the drainage pattern and soil conditions of the area; and

(f) the modification does not impair the essential character of the surrounding area.

105-432 - Modification of yard, height and setback regulations, and parking location regulations

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

For any #development# or #enlargement# that does not qualify under provisions of Section 105-701 (Applicability of large-scale residential development regulations), the City Planning Commission may authorize variations in required #front#, #rear# or #side yards#, parking lot landscaping or maneuverability requirements, location of parking, driveways or curb cuts and required space between #buildings# on the same #zoning lot#, and may modify height and setback regulations for the purpose

of preserving #natural features#, provided the Commission finds that:

(a) the proposed placement of #buildings# and arrangement of #open space# will not have significant adverse effects upon the light, air and privacy for existing #buildings# in adjacent areas or the opportunities therefore in future #development#; and

(b) will preserve significant #natural features#.

The Commission may condition such authorizations upon the joint submission of acceptable plans for #development# or #enlargement# of two or more adjacent #zoning lots# by the owners thereof.

105-433 - Modification of grading controls

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

For any #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# on a #Tier II site#, the City Planning Commission may authorize variations in the grading controls set forth in Section 105-34.

In order to grant such authorization, the Commission shall find that:

(a) the #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# is not feasible without such modifications, or that the modifications will permit a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# that satisfies the purposes of this Chapter;

(b) such modification is the least modification required to achieve the purpose for which it is granted;

(c) the modification has minimal impact on the existing natural topography and vegetation and blends harmoniously with it;

(d) the modification will not disturb the drainage pattern and soil conditions of the area;

(e) the modification does not impair the essential character of the surrounding area; and

(f) the benefits to the surrounding area from the modification outweigh any disadvantages that may be incurred thereby in the area.

105-434 - Modification of requirements for private roads and driveways

LAST AMENDED
1/19/2016

For any #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration#:

(a) the City Planning Commission may authorize variations in the requirements for #private roads# and driveways on any #Tier II site# as set forth in Section 105-35 (Tier II Site Requirements for Driveways and Private Roads), as well as the requirements of Sections 25-621 (Location of parking spaces in certain districts) and 25-631 (Location and width of curb cuts in certain districts) provided that:

(1) the #development# or #enlargement# is not feasible without such modification, or that the requested modification will permit a #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# that satisfies the purposes of this Chapter;

(2) such modification is the least modification required to achieve the purpose for which it is granted;

(3) the modification will not disturb the drainage pattern and soil conditions of the area;

(4) the modification has minimal impact on the existing natural topography and vegetation and blends harmoniously with it; and

(5) such modification will enhance the quality of the design of the #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration#; or

(b) located on a #zoning lot# containing historic buildings designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission within the New York City Farm Colony-Seaview Hospital Historic District, as shown on Map 2 in Appendix A of this Chapter, the City Planning Commission may authorize modifications or waivers of the requirements for #private roads# as set forth in Section 26-20 (SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LOTS WITH PRIVATE ROADS) through Section 26-27 (Waiver of Bulk Regulations Within Unimproved Streets), inclusive, and Section 26-30 (SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LOTS WITH PRIVATE ROADS IN LOWER DENSITY GROWTH MANAGEMENT AREAS) through 26-33 (Screening), inclusive, provided that such modification or waiver:

(1) results in greater environmental conservation or preservation of existing natural features;

(2) results in a superior site and landscape plan that will not unduly disturb the drainage pattern and soil conditions of the area;

(3) results in greater preservation of historic #buildings# or other architectural elements of the Historic District designated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission;

(4) enhances vehicular and pedestrian connections between #buildings# on the site and the surrounding neighborhood;

(5) will not impair the essential character of the Historic District and the surrounding area;

(6) is the least required to achieve the purpose for which it is granted; and

(7) will not reduce the required minimum width of the #private road# to a width less than 34 feet unless the Fire Department has approved such reduction and determined that emergency vehicles can adequately access and move within the site.

105-44 - Special Permit

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

For any #development#, #enlargement# or #site alteration# within the #Special Natural Area District#, the City Planning Commission may grant special permits for modification of the underlying district regulations in accordance with the provisions of Sections 105-441 and 105-442.

105-441 - Modification of use regulations

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

In addition to any #use# modifications which may be granted under the provisions of Section 105-701 (Applicability of large-scale residential development regulations), the City Planning Commission may permit #semi-detached# or #attached# #single-family residences# in R2 Districts and #attached# #single-# or #two-family residences# in R3-1 Districts.

Furthermore, except in the #Special Natural Area District#-1 (NA-1), the Commission may permit #semi-detached# or #attached# #single-family residences# in R1-2 Districts provided that the #development# or #enlargement# is on a tract of land of at least four acres, and provided the Commission finds that:

(a) the preservation of #natural features# requires the permitted #development# to be concentrated to the extent feasible in the remaining portion of the tract;

(b) for such concentration of #development#, better standards of privacy and usable #open space# can be and are achieved under the development plan by inclusion of the proposed #residential building# types;

(c) the change of housing type constitutes the most effective method of preserving #natural features#;

(d) the #aggregate width of street walls# of a number of #residential buildings# separated by party walls shall not exceed 100 feet;

(e) the proposed #street# system for the tract of land to be #developed# is so located as to draw a minimum of vehicular traffic to and through #streets# in the adjacent area; and

(f) the existing topography, vegetation and proposed planting effectively screen all #attached# #single-family residences# from the #lot lines# along the perimeter of the tract of land to be #developed#.

105-442 - Natural area dedicated for public use

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

Where commonly or separately owned areas containing #natural features# of exceptional recreational, cultural or educational value to the public are dedicated to the City, without any cost to the City, pursuant to Section 105-701 (Applicability of large-scale residential development regulations), the City Planning Commission may by special permit allow, where appropriate, such portion of the #zoning lot# to be included in the zoning computation for #floor area#, #open space#, #lot coverage# and density regulations and other #bulk# computations.

105-45 - Certification of Restoration Plans

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2005

On any #zoning lot# to which the provisions of Section 105-02 (General Provisions) apply, no #natural features# as described in Section 105-11 (Description of Natural Features) or any other vegetation shall be removed, altered, relocated or replaced without prior approval by the City Planning Commission, as set forth in Section 105-40 (SPECIAL REVIEW PROVISIONS).

In the event that any such features are removed, altered, relocated or replaced from a #zoning lot# without prior approval by the Commission, the Commission may specify the manner of their replacement or restoration. If trees are to be planted, the Commission may require that they be three inches in #caliper#.

A copy of the restoration plan certified by the Commission specifying requirements for the replacement or restoration of the #natural features# shall be issued to the owner of the #zoning lot# containing such violations and to the Department of Buildings.

Upon receipt of the Commission's certified restoration requirements, the Department of Buildings shall require the owner of the #zoning lot# to remove the violations in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Commission. If such violations have not ceased within 90 days of receipt of the Commission's requirements, the Department of Buildings shall institute such action as may be necessary to terminate the violations. For compliance with new planting requirements to remove violations, the Department of Buildings may allow an additional 90 days.

No building permit or certificate of occupancy shall be issued by the Department of Buildings for any #development#, #enlargement#, #site alteration# or #use# on such #zoning lot# until the violations are removed from the #zoning lot# in accordance with the restoration plan certified by the Commission.