STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING COORDINATION

April 22, 2026

Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc.
Attn: W. Zachary Crouch, P.E.
1 Park Ave
Milford, Delaware 19963

RE: PLUS review – 2026-03-03 Cunningham Property

Dear Mr. Crouch:

Thank you for meeting with State agency planners on April 1st, 2026 to discuss Cunningham Property. According to the information received, you are seeking review of a proposed site plan for a 120 unit townhouse community.

Please note that changes to the plan, other than those suggested in this letter, could result in additional comments from the State. Additionally, these comments reflect only issues that are the responsibility of the agencies represented at the meeting. **The developers will also need to comply with any Federal, State, and local regulations regarding this property. We also note that Sussex County is the governing authority over this land, the developers will need to comply with any and all regulations/restrictions set forth by the County.**

Strategies for State Policies and Spending

- This project is located in a Level 2 investment area. Investment Level 2 reflects areas where growth is anticipated by local, county, and State plans in the near-term future. Development in Level 2 is consistent with the 2025 Strategies for State Policies and Spending; therefore, the Office of State Planning Coordination has no objections to this site plan as submitted provided it meets the relevant codes and ordinances of the county

- This property is within the Town of Frankford annexation area; however it is not adjacent to the existing town boundary so could not be annexed. It is recommended that the applicant should reach out to the Town of Frankford to ensure this development is compatible with the plans the town has for that area in the future.

Code Requirements/Agency Permitting Requirements

Department of Transportation – Contact Stephen Bayer 302-760-4834

- Armory Road is a state-owned and state-maintained road. As such, any access point onto Armory Road must be designed in accordance with DelDOT's Development Coordination Manual, which is available at http://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/index.shtml?dc=changes.

- Pursuant to Section 1.3 of the Development Coordination Manual, a Pre-Submittal Meeting is required before plans are submitted for review. The form needed to request the meeting and guidance on what will be covered there and how to prepare for it is located at https://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/pdfs/Meeting_Request_Form.pdf?08022017.

- Section 1.7 of the Development Coordination Manual addresses fees that are assessed for the review of development proposals. DelDOT anticipates collecting the Initial Stage Fee when the record plan is submitted for review and the Construction Stage Fee when construction plans are submitted for review.

- In terms of traffic analysis and based on the expected trip generation this project will qualify for the area wide study fee. Please continue to work with our office to determine any additional specifics necessary for that analysis.

- As necessary, in accordance with Section 3.2.5 and Figure 3.2.5-a of the Development Coordination Manual, DelDOT will require dedication of right-of-way along the site's frontage with Armory Road. By this regulation, this dedication is to provide a minimum of 30 feet of right-of-way from the physical centerline. The following right-of-way dedication note is required, "**An X-foot wide strip of right-of-way from the centerline is hereby dedicated in fee simple to the State of Delaware, acting by and through the Delaware Department of Transportation."**

- In accordance with Section 3.2.5.1.2 of the Manual, DelDOT will require the establishment of a 15-foot wide permanent easement across the property frontage on Armory Road. The location of the easement shall be outside the limits of the ultimate right-of-way. The easement area can be used as part of the open space calculation for the site. The following note is required, **"A 15-foot wide permanent easement is hereby established for the State of Delaware, as per this plat."**

- Referring to Section 3.4.2.1 of the Development Coordination Manual, the following items, among other things, are required on the Record Plan:

  - A Traffic Generation Diagram. See Figure 3.4.2-a for the required format and content.

  - Notes identifying the type of off-site improvements, agreements (signal, letter) contributions and when the off-site improvements are warranted.

- Section 3.5.4.2 of the Development Coordination Manual addresses requirements for Shared Use Paths (SUP) and sidewalks. For projects in Level 2 Investment Areas, installation of paths or sidewalks along the frontage on State-maintained roads is required. DelDOT anticipates requiring an SUP along the site frontage on Armory Road.

- In accordance with Section 3.8 of the Development Coordination Manual, storm water facilities, excluding filter strips and bioswales, shall be located a minimum of 20 feet from the ultimate State right-of-way along all frontage roads.

- In accordance with Section 5.2.9 of the Development Coordination Manual, the Auxiliary Lane Worksheet should be used to determine whether auxiliary lanes are warranted at the site entrances and how long those lanes should be. The worksheet can be found at http://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/index.shtml.

- In accordance with Section 5.4 of the Development Coordination Manual, sight distance triangles are required and shall be established in accordance with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards. A spreadsheet has been developed to assist with this task. It can be found at http://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/index.shtml.

- In accordance with Section 5.14 of the Development Coordination Manual, all existing utilities must be shown on the plan and a utility relocation plan will be required for any utilities that need to be relocated.

Delaware Department of Agriculture – Milton Melendez – 302-698-4534

- No restrictive comments regarding this PLUS project

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Contact Beth Krumrine 302-735-3480

Staff from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) reviewed the project submitted for PLUS review. The absence of comments regarding specific resources does not indicate that there are not additional constraints or environmental issues on site, nor does it indicate DNREC support of a project. Developers and municipal officials are

encouraged to reach out to Beth Krumrine at (302) 735-3480 or Beth.Krumrine@delaware.gov if they have any specific requests for information.

Requirements Identified Within the Development Footprint

Stormwater Management
The project proposes greater than 5,000 square feet of land disturbing activities and will be subject to Delaware's *Sediment and Stormwater Regulations*.

- A Sediment and Stormwater Plan must be developed, then approved by the appropriate plan review agency, prior to any land disturbing activity taking place on the site. For this project, the plan review agency is the Sussex Conservation District.

- Additionally, to address federal requirements, construction activities that exceed 1.0 acre of land disturbance require Construction General Permit coverage through submittal of an electronic Notice of Intent for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity. This form must be submitted electronically https://enoi.dnrec.delaware.gov/, (select Construction Stormwater General Permit) to the DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship, along with the $195 fee.

- Schedule a project application meeting with the appropriate plan review agency prior to moving forward with the stormwater and site design. As part of this process, you must submit a Stormwater Assessment Study.

Plan review agency contact: Sussex Conservation District at 302-856-2105 or 302-856-7219. Website: https://www.sussexconservation.org/

General Stormwater contact: DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program at (302) 739-9921. E-mail: DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/sediment-stormwater/

Wastewater Disposal Systems – Large Systems
For wastewater conveyance offsite by way of a new sewer connection, flow rates exceeding 2,500 gallons of liquid waste per day will require a Wastewater Pollution Collection and Conveyance (WPCC) permit from the Commercial and Government Services section.

Contact: DNREC Commercial and Government Services Section at (302) 739-9948.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/commercial-government/

Electric Vehicle Charging Requirements
Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is now required for all residential dwellings in Delaware (see 80 Del. Laws, c. 145 § 8001- § 8006) for which:

1. A building permit is issued on or after January 1, 2024 (single family), or

2. The final site plan is approved on or after January 1, 2025 (multi-family).

Requirements for multi-family dwellings are summarized below. Consult the Delaware Code directly for further details.

Multi-family Dwellings, effective 2025:

- The developer of a multi-family residential dwelling shall install electric vehicle parking spaces, where at least 5% of the total parking spaces for the multi-family residential dwelling must be electric vehicle capable parking spaces.

- In addition, a developer of a multi-family residential dwelling shall provide at least one electric vehicle charging infrastructure parking space in an area available for use by all residents of the multi-family residential dwelling (example: community centers).

- Construction documents must indicate the location of proposed electric vehicle charging infrastructure parking spaces and electric vehicle capable parking spaces.

- Parking space dimensions must comply with the county or municipal building code applicable to the multi-family residential dwelling.

Air Quality – Particulate Emissions
Particulate emissions are regulated by DNREC's Division of Air Quality. To control particulate emissions from construction and materials handling operations, the following is required:

- The applicant must use dust suppressants and other measures during demolition activities, grading, land clearing, excavation of non-paved roads, material movement or storage, and sandblasting activities.

Contact: DNREC Division of Air Quality at (302) 739-9402.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/air/permitting/

Delaware Emergency Management Agency – Contact Phillip Cane 302-659-2325

Proposed Project Parcel Flood Concern

- This parcel is located within an area of **Minimal Flood Concern of 1000 years or greater**.

Parcel Status within County Evacuation Zone Location

- The parcel is located within Sussex County Evacuation Zone D.

Parcel Status within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) for the Salem Nuclear Power Plant

- The parcel **is not** located within the 10-mile EPZ for the Salem Nuclear Power Plant.

State Historic Preservation Office – Contact Carlton Hall 302-736-7400

- There are no known archaeological sites or known National Register-listed or eligible properties on the parcel. There is one archaeological site within a mile bordering Pepper Creek. The project area has low to moderate potential. However, based on the amount of tree removal and higher potential on the southern portion, the Delaware SHPO recommends an archaeological survey prior to any ground disturbing activities.

- Owners and developers who may plan to apply for an Army Corps of Engineers permit or for federal funding, such as HUD or USDA grants, applicants should be aware of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). If you need further information or additional details pertaining to the Section 106 process and the Advisory Council's role; please review the Advisory Council's website at the following: www.achp.gov If there are any questions, inquiries, or concerns, feel free to contact the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office for assistance at 302-736-7400.

Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office – Contact Duane Fox 302-739-4394
At the time of formal submittal, the applicant shall provide; completed application, fee, and three sets of plans depicting the following in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulation (DSFPR):

Fire Protection Water Requirements:

- Water distribution system capable of delivering at least 1000 gpm for 1-hour duration, at 20-psi residual pressure is required. Fire hydrants with 800 feet spacing on centers. (Assembly and Townhouses)

- One- and Two-Family dwellings are required by law to offer the homeowner an automatic sprinkler system, therefore infrastructure should accommodate water needs.

- Where a water distribution system is proposed for the site, the infrastructure for fire protection water shall be provided, including the size of water mains for fire hydrants and sprinkler systems.

Fire Protection Features:

- For townhouse buildings, provide a section / detail and the UL design number of the 2-hour fire rated separation wall on the Site plan.

Accessibility

- All premises, which the fire department may be called upon to protect in case of fire, and which are not readily accessible from public roads, shall be provided with suitable gates and access roads, and fire lanes so that all buildings on the premises are accessible to fire apparatus. This means that the access road to the subdivision from Armory Road must be constructed so fire department apparatus may negotiate it.

- Fire department access shall be provided in such a manner so that fire apparatus will be able to locate within 100 ft. of the front door.

- Any dead-end road more than 300 feet in length shall be provided with a turn-around or cul-de-sac arranged such that fire apparatus will be able to turn around by making not more than one backing maneuver. The minimum paved radius of the cul-de-sac shall be 38 feet. The dimensions of the cul-de-sac or turn-around shall be shown on the final plans. Also, please be advised that parking is prohibited in the cul-de-sac or turn around.

- The use of speed bumps or other methods of traffic speed reduction must be in accordance with Department of Transportation requirements.

- The local Fire Chief, prior to any submission to our Agency, shall approve in writing the use of gates that limit fire department access into and out of the development or property.

Gas Piping and System Information:

- Provide type of fuel proposed and show locations of bulk containers on plan.

Required Notes:

- Provide a note on the final plans submitted for review to read “All fire lanes, fire hydrants, and fire department connections shall be marked in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations”

- Proposed Use

- Alpha or Numerical Labels for each building/unit for sites with multiple buildings/units

- Square footage of each structure (Total of all Floors)

- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Construction Type

- Maximum Height of Buildings (including number of stories)

- Townhouse 2-hr separation wall details shall be shown on site plans

- Note indicating if building is to be sprinklered
- Name of Water Provider
- Letter from Water Provider approving the system layout
- Provide Road Names, even for County Roads

Recommendations/Additional Information

This section includes a list of site-specific suggestions that are intended to enhance the project. These suggestions have been generated by the State Agencies based on their expertise and subject area knowledge. **These suggestions do not represent State code requirements.** They are offered here in order to provide proactive ideas to help the applicant enhance the site design, and it is hoped **(but in no way required)** that the applicant will open a dialogue with the relevant agencies to discuss how these suggestions can benefit the project.

Department of Transportation – Contact Stephen Bayer 302-760-4834

- The applicant should expect a requirement that all PLUS and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comments be addressed prior to submitting plans for review.
- Please be advised that the Standard General Notes have been updated and posted to the DelDOT website. Please begin using the new versions and look for the revision dates of March 21, 2019 and March 16, 2021. The notes can be found at https://www.deldot.gov/Business/subdivisions/
- This location is within Level 2 according to Delaware Strategies for State Policies and Spending (SSPS). DelDOT prioritizes improving safety; expanding access to transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities; supporting economic development; and improving connections among existing, redeveloping, and new neighborhoods, public facilities, and commercial areas, consistent with local growth forecasts.
- The functional classification of Armory Road is major collector. Major collectors function is to gather traffic from local roads and funnel traffic volume to an arterial network. This project is generally in alignment with that function based on the expected trip generation.
- The project location is within 1 mile of Indian River High School. Please feel free to reach out to Chip Kneavel at (302) 760-2527 for resources that are available through the Department's Safe Routes to School Program.

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Contact Beth Krumrine 302-735-3480

Removal of Mature Forest
According to the project application, approximately 17 of 30 acres of forest is proposed to be removed. An analysis of historical data indicates that the forested area on the has likely maintained some degree of forest cover since 1937 and could be considered mature forest. Mature forests possess the potential for rare, threatened, or endangered species that rely on this type of habitat. Forests filter water for improved water quality, provide habitat for wildlife, absorb nutrients, infiltrate stormwater, moderate temperatures, and store atmospheric carbon which would otherwise contribute to climate change.

- Removing forested areas for development, especially mature forests, should be avoided to the greatest extent possible.

- In general, contiguous forest and connected areas of natural habitat are more beneficial to wildlife, allowing for safer movement from one area to another while reducing roadway mortality.

- To reduce impacts to nesting birds and other wildlife species that utilize forests for breeding, it is recommended that tree clearing not occur from April 1st to July 31st.

Contact: DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife, Species Conservation and Research Program at (302) 735-3600. Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/contact-information/

Forested Wetlands and Vegetated Buffers
Maps from the Statewide Wetlands Mapping Project indicate the potential presence of a 3-acre isolated wetland designated as forested wetlands in the northcentral portion of the site. The current plan proposes removal of these wetlands. This habitat type is known to support an array of plants and animals, most notably wetland dependent species such as amphibians.

To reduce impacts, the following is recommended:

- Do not disturb forested wetlands.

- Establish an upland buffer of at least 100 feet along the wetlands. Vegetated buffer zones placed adjacent to wetlands help improve water quality by reducing sediment and pollutants loads.

- Vegetated buffers are not equivalent to setbacks, as residential lots, walkways, and stormwater management facilities should not be contained within the vegetated buffer zone.

- Vegetated buffer zones should be identified outside of the Limit of Disturbance on the engineering plans.

- Maintain vegetated buffer zones as native species meadows or forest.

- Vegetated buffer zones should be deeded as community open space and not contained within any lot lines. Signage should be installed at the edge and within the buffer zones to deter residents from encroaching into these common areas.

- Maintain habitat connections to undeveloped open space, which are especially important for species movement across the landscape.

Contact: DNREC Wildlife Species Conservation & Research Program at (302) 735-3600.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/contact-information/

Drainage

- All existing drainage ditches on the property should be evaluated for function and cleaned, if needed, prior to the construction of the project.

- Environmental permits or exemptions may be required by the County Conservation District (Standard Plan), the DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program (eNOI/NOT), Army Corp of Engineers, and/or DNREC Wetlands and Waterways Section prior to clearing and/or excavating ditch channels.

- All precautions should be taken to ensure the project does not hinder any off-site drainage upstream of the project or create any off-site drainage problems downstream by the release of on-site storm water.

Contact: DNREC Drainage Program at (302) 855-1930.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/drainage-stormwater/

Stormwater Management

- Where the site and soil conditions allow, integrate runoff reduction techniques including infiltration basins, bioretention (rain gardens), filter strips, and pavers to encourage on-site stormwater infiltration and reduce runoff.
- For improved stormwater management, preserve existing trees, wetlands, and passive open space.

Plan review agency contact: Sussex Conservation District at 302-856-2105 or 302-856-7219.
Website: https://www.sussexconservation.org/

General Stormwater contact: DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program at (302) 739-9921.
E-mail: DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/sediment-stormwater/

Water Quality
This site lies within the Indian River Bay Watershed. Surface water quality in this watershed does not meet Federal and/or State Water Quality Standards and a Pollution Control Strategy is in place for this watershed.

- Reduce impervious surfaces on the project site by eliminating areas of impervious pavement and/or using pervious pavement where practicable.

- Reduce the necessity for nutrient application by maintaining open space as meadow or forest planted exclusively with native plants. Native plants are well-suited to our climate and require limited maintenance.

Contact: DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship's Watershed Assessment Section at (302) 739-9939. https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/

Air Quality – Design to Minimize Mobile Source Emissions
Mobile sources include a variety of motor vehicles and mobile equipment that generate air emissions, such as ozone, particle pollution, and air toxics. The DNREC Mobile Sources Control Program reduces motor vehicle-related pollution from both on-road vehicles and non-road vehicles.

- This site lies within Sussex County. Ambient air quality in this area may not meet Federal Air Quality Standards.

- Consider designing the project to connect to local pedestrian and bicycle networks. Designing for travel alternatives has the potential to minimize the overall tailpipe emissions associated with the use of this site.

- Consider designing the project for low maintenance green spaces. Designing green spaces to be less dependent on gas-powered lawn and garden equipment has the potential to minimize emissions associated with the on-going maintenance of this site.

Contact: DNREC Division of Air Quality's Mobile Sources Program at (302) 739-9402.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/air/mobile-sources/

Sustainable Practices

- Incorporate nonmotorized connectivity and install bicycle racks and covered bike storage where feasible to help facilitate non-vehicular travel modes. Include covered

bike storage.

- Use renewable energy infrastructure such as solar or geothermal to reduce energy costs and further reduce pollution created from offsite generation. Grant funds and incentives are available for Delmarva Power customers through the DNREC Green Energy Fund, which includes several funding types through the state's major electric utilities (https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/renewable/assistance/).

- Use efficient Energy Star rated products and materials in construction and redevelopment. Energy efficient appliances use less energy over time. This saves consumers and businesses money, while also helping to reduce pollution from power generation.

- Include space for recycling dumpsters within the preliminary site design stage. These can be placed adjacent to trash dumpsters.

- Consider planting select areas with native trees. Native trees improve air, water, and soil quality. Planting and nurturing trees is also a nature-based solution to reducing the greenhouse gases that drive climate change. In addition, native trees have an increasingly important role in the survival of native birds and beneficial insects whose habitat is shrinking due to development and climate change.

- Consider planting select areas with meadow comprised of native species. Native plants are well-suited to our climate and require limited maintenance. Mowing in these areas should not occur between April 1st to July 31st to reduce impacts to nesting birds and other wildlife species that utilize meadows and grasslands for breeding habitat.

- Use structural paint coatings that are low in Volatile Organic Compounds to help protect air quality. Air pollution from new construction is generated through the use of maintenance equipment, paints, and consumer products like roof coatings and primers.

- Use recycled materials, such as reclaimed asphalt pavement, to reduce heat island effects on paved surfaces, prevent landfill waste, and lower material costs.

Contact: DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy at (302) 735-3480.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/

Delaware Emergency Management Agency – Contact Phillip Cane 302-659-2325

Population

- The county has a population density of 265.60 per square mile based on the US 2020 Census report; an increase from 2010 at 208.90 persons per square mile. The specific census block(s) the project is located on has a total population of 18, though, with development, this will undoubtedly change. The 9 adjacent blocks aggregated bring the area to a total population of 514.

FEMA National Risk Index

- The FEMA National Risk Index is an online mapping application that identifies communities most at risk to 18 natural hazards: Avalanche, Coastal Flooding, Cold Wave, Drought, Earthquake, Hal, Heat Wave, Hurricane, Ice Storm, Landslide, Lightning, Riverine Flooding, Strong Wind, Tornado, Tsunami, Volcanic Activity, Wildfire, and Winter Weather. The FEMA National Risk Index is calculated by multiplying the Expected Annual Loss times the Social Vulnerability and dividing that by the Community Resilience.

Expected Annual Loss
× Social Vulnerability
÷ Community Resilience

= Risk Index

- According to FEMA's National Risk Index, the parcel **is** considered **relatively moderate** for overall natural hazards risks.

- Community Resilience is a consequence reduction risk component and a community risk factor that represents the ability of a community to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions and withstand/recover rapidly from disruptions. Social Vulnerability is a consequence-enhancing risk factor that represents the susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards.

- Its community resilience is rated as **relatively moderate** whereas its social vulnerability is rated as **relatively high.**

Renewable Energy Commitment

- Regarding energy use and consumption, the census tract utilizes **electricity** as the predominant fuel type for heating purposes.

- DEMA strongly encourages the use of renewable energies and high-efficiency appliances and utilities. Regarding utilities, DEMA suggests incorporating 90% series furnaces/HVAC systems; the closer to 99%, the better, as well as A/C units of 20 Seer or greater. DEMA recommends using tankless water heaters, and battery backup systems for sump pumps to reduce potential water damage from power failure. Lastly, DEMA encourages the integration of modern and emerging technologies, such as the potential for electric vehicles in garages/parking lots, green roofs or solar panels where applicable and allowable, and the like.

- Lastly, in reference to the county evacuation zones, DEMA encourages this information be made readily available to any and all persons residing there. This can be done simply through pamphlets or a neighborhood sign.

Delaware State Housing Authority - Contact Rachel Alfano (302) 739-4263

- This project is in a Distressed area according to DSHA's Housing Reform Map. These are areas where there are weak markets, suffering from concentrated poverty. We encourage sustainable homeownership in these areas, this is shown by building townhomes and multi-family homes over condos and single-attached. Because this project offers diverse housing types at entry-level ownership, it will balance the rental units and close the gap. So DSHA has no objections and supports this project.

Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office – Contact Duane Fox 302-739-4394
Preliminary meetings with fire protection specialists are encouraged prior to formal submittal. Please call for appointment. Applications and brochures can be downloaded from our website: www.statefiremarshal.delaware.gov, technical services link, plan review, applications or brochures.

This document is informational only and does not constitute any type of approval from the Delaware State Fire Marshal's office.

Fire Department Comments:
The volunteer fire department is obligated to provide Fire and EMS service to this property. In addition, new developments in their Fire and EMS district have put a financial strain on their volunteer fire service. As their call volume increases yearly due to the unprecedented growth within the service area, current funding does not keep up with development within the district. State, County, and Local funding does not keep up with the growth of the fire district, so the developer and future residents need to help financially support the Volunteer Fire Department. Future residents need to consider joining the fire department to serve their new community.

Following receipt of this letter and upon filing of an application with the local jurisdiction, the applicant shall provide to the local jurisdiction and the Office of State Planning Coordination a written response to comments received as a result of the pre-application process, noting whether comments were incorporated into the project design or not and the reason, therefore.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 302-739-3090.

Sincerely,



David L. Edgell, AICP
Director, Office of State Planning Coordination

Attachments:

- Sussex County Planning & Zoning Comments
- Sussex County Engineering Department Comments
- Sussex County Community Development & Housing Comments

JAMIE WHITEHOUSE, AICP MRTPI
PLANNING & ZONING DIRECTOR
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Sussex County
DELAWARE
sussexcountyde.gov

Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) Meeting
April 1, 2026
April PLUS Comments
Sussex County Department of Planning & Zoning

Review and Discussion: Cunningham Property (2026-03-03)
County: Sussex County
Municipality: Unincorporated
Location: Armory Rd, +/- 4,000-ft South of Vines Creek Rd, Southeast of Dagsboro
Project: Review of a proposed site plan for a 120-unit townhouse community within an MR (Medium Residential Zoning District) comprised of approximately 29.9-acres +/-.

Sussex County Department of Planning & Zoning Comments

The applicant is required to participate in a pre-application meeting with the County. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Department to schedule a pre-application meeting with staff to discuss the proposed project by calling (302)855-7878.

Following submission to the County, staff will review the Preliminary Site Plan, where more detailed comments will be provided to the Applicant. At the PLUS stage of review, staff wish to limit comments to high-level comments only.

Please note that the following are informal staff comments, and do not prejudice any decision that the Sussex County Planning & Zoning Commission or County Council may wish to make as part of any application submitted to the Department.

Tax Parcel ID: 233-11.00-202.00 & 233-11.00-203.00

Proposed: The Plan proposes 120 townhouse units within (20) buildings, parking, sidewalks, internal roads, and stormwater management on two Parcels comprised of 29.9-acres +/-.

Zoning: The Parcel is currently zoned Medium Residential Zoning District (MR). The Proposed multifamily structures required approval as a Conditional Use in the MR Zoning District.

The Planning & Zoning Office will require more detailed site plan at the time of application submission per §115-83.25(F).

Density: The proposed density of ≈ 4.01 dwelling units per acre complies with Code requirements.

Applicability to Comprehensive Plan: Staff note that the Future Land Use Map Designation for the property is "Coastal Area" The 2018 Sussex County Comprehensive Plan outlines Zoning Districts by their applicability to each Future Land Use category. Under Table 4.5-2 "Zoning Districts Applicable to Future Land Use Categories," the Planned Commercial (C-4) Zoning District is listed as an applicable zoning district in the Developing Area (Sussex County Comprehensive Plan, 4-24).

The Comprehensive Plan notes that Coastal Area as "newer, emerging growth areas that demonstrate the characteristics of developmental pressures" and notes that most *Developing Areas* are "adjacent to municipalities, within or adjacent to potential future annexation areas of a municipality, or adjacent to Town Centers." In terms of guidelines for permitted uses, the Plan notes, "portions of the *Developing Areas* with good road access and few nearby homes should allow for business and industrial parks" (2018 Sussex County Comprehensive Plan, 4-14).

Open Space Provisions: The proposed plan includes (19.6) acres +/- (out of a total of (29.9) acres) of open space which equates to approximately (25%) of the project site. Staff note that C-4 requires open space be integrated with the pedestrian connectivity within the site (§116-83.25F(4)(a)).

Interconnectivity: The Plan does not include connectivity with adjacent parcels as required under (§115-83.25(F)(4)(b)).

Transportation Improvement District (TID): The property is NOT located in the Henlopen Transportation District. (TID).

Agricultural Areas: Staff note that the proposal is within the proximity of areas which appear to be actively farmed. In consideration of this, staff request that the Plans and copies of any subsequent Deeds for the property include the Agricultural Use Protection Notice found in (§99-6(G)(1)) of the Sussex County Code.

Forested Areas: Staff appreciate efforts to conserve as many mature trees as possible on project sites.

Wetlands/Waterways: N/A

Site Considerations (Flood Zones, Tax Ditches, Groundwater Recharge Potential etc.): Per the County's Online Mapping System and data from the State of Delaware, there are no Tax Ditches or related Tax Ditch Rights-Of-Way on the property. Staff note that the subject property is located within areas of "Good" and "Fair" groundwater recharge and in Flood Zone "X" – Areas determined to be outside the 1% annual chance flood and outside the 500-year floodplain. Staff note that there are no Wellhead Protection Areas present on the site.

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Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) Meeting
Meeting will be conducted on-line and in person
Room 133, Haslet Armory
122 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., South
Please see https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/ for link to on-line access
April 1, 2026

Applicants should arrive at least 15 minutes before their appointed time. Times are approximate and are subject to change.

Public comment will be heard at the end of each PLUS application after the State Agencies have shared their comments with the applicants. Each person wishing to comment on the application under review will have up to 3 minutes.

I. 8:30 AM **Pre-Meeting Discussion – PLUS Reviewers**

II. 9:00 AM **Review and Discussion: Millville Annexations (2026-03-01)**
County: Sussex **Municipality: Millville**
Location: Southwest of the current Municipal boundary.
Project: Review of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to amend map 6 in the Comprehensive Plan to include 6 additional parcels in the annexation area.

The proposed project is a Comprehensive Land Use Plan/Update/Amendment for the City/Town/Growth and Annexation Area of the Town of Millville. The parcels are in a Sussex County Tier 4 Area for sewer service. Sussex County has not included sewer capacity for parcels in the Tier 4 Area at our treatment facility.

For questions regarding these comments, contact Chris Calio, Sussex County Engineering Department at (302) 855-8384.

III. 9:15 AM **Review and Discussion: Sam Slaon Properties – Zoning Adjustment (2026-03-02)**
County: Sussex **Municipality: Millsboro**
Location: Union Street, Millsboro
Project: Review of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for a rezoning adjustment of three parcels to match current and future planned use. Zoning would be updated from Medium Density Residential (MR) to Urban Business (UB), with the future land use zoning map showing the parcels as Commercial (C).

The proposed project is a Comprehensive Land Use Plan/Update/Amendment for the City/Town/Growth and Annexation Area of the Town of Millsboro. The Sussex County Engineering Department does not have comments for this project.

For questions regarding these comments, contact Chris Calio, Sussex County Engineering Department at (302) 855-8384.

IV. 9:30 AM **Review and Discussion: Cunningham Property (2026-03-03)**
County: Sussex **Municipality: Unincorporated**
Location: Armory Road, approximately 4,000 feet south of Vines Creek Road, southeast of Dagsboro.
Project: Review of a proposed site plan for a 120 unit townhouse community within a MR zoning and land is categorized as State Strategies level 2.

The proposed project is located within a Tier 2 area and is contiguous to the Sussex County Unified Sanitary Sewer District. Annexation and connection to the sewer system is required.

A "Use of Existing Infrastructure Agreement" is required for new projects. Sussex County Code, Chapter 110, requires that the Engineer and/or Developer request a Sewer System Concept Evaluation (SSCE) from the Utility Planning & Design Review Department for the project by providing the parcel(s) estimated equivalent dwelling units (EDU) for the project, along with payment of a $1,000.00 fee for the evaluation and must be approved prior to approval of construction plans. The fee is to be payable to Sussex County Council. The Department will review the parcel(s) and EDU, confirm capacity, provide the connection point and define any additional parcels that must be served as part of the project. Should it be determined that a pump station is required for the project, additional information may be requested. This information will be conveyed to the engineer and/or developer. The Department will use this information when reviewing construction drawings to verify that the correct connection point is used, and all required parcels are served.

The proposed development will require a developer installed collection system in accordance with Sussex County standards and procedures.

One-time system connection charges will apply. Please contact the Utility Permits Division at 302 855-7719 for additional information on charges.

The Sussex County Engineering Department recommends that all subdivision streets meet or exceed Sussex County Standards.

For questions regarding these comments, contact Chris Calio, Sussex County Engineering Department at (302) 855-8384.

V. 10:00 AM **Review and Discussion: NCC Ordinance Electronic Variable Message Signs (2026-03004)**
County: New Castle **Municipality: Unincorporated**
Location: New Castle County
Project: Review of a local government ordinance to amend New Castle County Code regarding electronic variable message signs

VI. 10:15 AM **Review and Discussion: NCC Ordinance Notice of Public Hearings (2026-03-05)**
County: New Castle **Municipality: Unincorporated**
Location: New Castle County
Project: Review of a local government ordinance to amend New Castle County Code regarding notice of public hearings.

The agenda items times are approximate and subject to change. This agenda is subject to change to include additional items or the deletion of items, which arise at the time of the meeting.

BRANDY BENNETT NAUMAN
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Sussex County
DELAWARE
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April 9, 2026

Mr. W. Zachary Crouch
Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc.
1 Park Ave.
Milford, DE 19963

RE: PLUS Review (PLUS 2026-03-03) – Cunningham Property

Dear Mr. Crouch,

Sussex County endeavors to promote non-discrimination and affordable housing whenever possible throughout the County. In this regard, the developer and associated financial institutions are encouraged to provide and finance affordable housing opportunities to Sussex County residents in all new developments, and affirmatively market those affordable housing units to diverse populations.

For questions about opportunities available for affordable housing projects within Sussex County, please consult Sussex County's "Affordable Housing Support Policy". The policy along with other resources are available on the County's Affordable & Fair Housing Resource Center website: www.sussexcountyde.gov/affordable-and-fair-housing-resource-center. The County's Community Development & Housing Department can advise about existing affordable housing opportunities in Sussex County and the appropriate County Department to contact regarding specific development issues concerning future affordable housing projects within Sussex County.

The Community Development & Housing Department can also explain and assist with any financial support or incentives that may be available to a project from federal, state, and county sources, as well as private funding sources that also promote affordable housing in Sussex County. **Please visit www.sussexcountyde.gov/housing-trust-fund for information on the County's Housing Trust Fund.**

Further, the County's Work Force Housing Zoning Ordinance permits up to 12 units per acre, by right, in eligible areas for projects that set aside 25% of the total units for affordable rentals. For more information on eligibility and design criteria, please review the Ordinance at www.sussexcountyde.gov/affordably-priced-rental-units . The application can be found on the Planning & Zoning website at https://sussexcountyde.gov/sites/default/files/forms/SussexCountyRentalProgram_Application.pdf .

Please understand that all residential projects, including Affordable Housing Projects are subject to the applicable provisions of the Sussex County Subdivision and Zoning Codes, and the approval processes set forth in those Codes.

On behalf of Sussex County, we look forward to cooperating with you and your project as it moves forward.

Thank you,



Brandy B. Nauman
Director