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NJMC PLANNING SERVICE HELPS RUTHERFORD PREPARE FOR FUTURE

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is assisting the Borough of Rutherford in attaining New Jersey Plan Endorsement, a designation that promotes responsible planning and offers valuable financial incentives. The NJMC is aiding the Borough at no cost through its Sustainable Communities Planning Service.

“Through programs such as the Sustainable Communities Planning Service, the NJMC is working everyday to continue to make the Meadowlands District a great place to live,” said Joseph V. Doria, Acting Chairman of the NJMC and Acting Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. “We are proud to use our professional staff expertise to benefit Rutherford residents by helping the Borough attain New Jersey Plan Endorsement.”

Municipalities that undergo the state Plan Endorsement process align their planning documents with the goals and policies of the New Jersey State Plan as they relate to smart growth principles and other planning initiatives. Municipalities that receive Plan Endorsement can qualify for financial and technical incentives to help implement their plans. Incentives include enhanced scoring for grant funding, low-interest loans, tax credits, and streamlined regulatory review.

Rutherford is the first town to enter into a partnership with the NJMC for Plan Endorsement. The NJMC has offered the assistance of its professional planning staff to all 14 Meadowlands District municipalities.

The NJMC helped Rutherford take the first step in the endorsement process by submitting nearly 1,000 pages of planning documents to the state Office of Smart Growth last week. The NJMC saved Rutherford thousands of dollars by scanning the Borough’s paper documents and creating the digital files that were submitted to the state. NJMC staff will work with and on behalf of Rutherford throughout the remainder of the Plan Endorsement process.

“The NJMC strives to be proactive in reaching out to the municipalities and demonstrating the services we can provide to improve their residents’ quality of life without adding to the tax burden,” said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. “We want the municipalities to know that we are here to help them,” Ceberio said

The Sustainable Communities Planning Service was created in July to promote the NJMC’s planning services and gather them under one roof so that municipalities can better take advantage of them. The service can also assist District towns with many other aspects of planning, including affordable housing plans, downtown revitalization, and green building.

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