

# Board learns housing plan 'ahead of game'

## Final master plan draft is now expected by late June

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The Allendale Planning Board held a public hearing regarding the master plan's housing element at its April 15 meeting, a presentation that highlighted the borough's response to the latest Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) developments.

Mary Beth Lonergan of Trenton-based Clarke Caton Hintz planning firm, who's been retained by the borough to complete the housing aspect of the master plan, told the board that it is "ahead of the game," having received certification for its third-round COAH obligation last November.

Plans call for the construction of a 22-unit townhouse complex for people with developmental disabilities at the Orchard Commons site located at the corner of West Orchard Street and Franklin Turnpike, which is expected to be completed this summer. Additionally, several units of housing for residents with special needs will be built on West Crescent Avenue.

Because the housing accommodates special needs residents, the housing is mostly funded through funds provided by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, federal HOME grants, the Federal Home Loan Bank, and the Bergen United Way, Barra told Town Journal back in November. All units will feature sprinklers.

The master plan, which provides a blueprint for future building in the borough, is required by law to be updated every six years.

Mayor Vince Barra speculated that the Planning Board could review and pass a final draft of the plan by the end of June. Next, the Borough Council would review a final form with input from the public, and a final draft could be approved around Labor Day, Barra said.

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