

26th Annual Planning Symposium

March 13, 2014

PRESENTERS



Charlotte (Chuckie) Holstein

Keynote Address: Age-Friendly CNY: Challenge for Planners

Charlotte (Chuckie) Holstein is founder and Executive Director of F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse, a citizen driven organization that fosters change in Central New York by enabling citizens to work together with government, nonprofit organizations, and businesses to improve the quality of life and economic future of citizens living in Central New York.

In honor of her service to national and international communities, in 1998 she received an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, from LeMoyne College.

She is an Honorary Vice President of the American Jewish Committee where she chaired the National Committee on the Role of Women and participated in the AJC sponsored "Women's Interreligious Mission" to Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Israel. She delivered a paper on elderly women at the 1985 United Nations NGO Conference for Women in Nairobi, Kenya and led an AJC delegation to the 1995 U.N. World Conference in Beijing, China. She co-led a delegation to four countries in South America where they met with the President of each country. She also met with Pope John Paul at his residence in the Vatican.

On October 16th, 2007 the City of Syracuse Mayor Matthew J. Driscoll proclaimed the day as "Charlotte (Chuckie) Holstein Commitment to Community Day" and planted a red maple tree downtown in her honor. In June, 2010 she was named F.O.C.U.S. "Wisdom Keeper" and a plaque was installed in the Wisdom Keeper Garden adjacent to City Hall Commons.

She is the recipient of many national and local awards for citizen trusteeship. The State of New York Court of Appeals appointed Holstein a member of the Board of Trustees of the New York State Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection. She is also a member of the Central New York District Board for Key Bank. In 2007 she was one of the Civic Ventures and Atlantic Philanthropies national Purpose Prize awardees for community service by senior citizens.

She served for 13 years as chair of Loretto, a multi-service cluster of organizations that provides care for older people. She spearheaded the development of The Nottingham, the first retirement community in New York State. Loretto honored her by naming the Loretto Administration building the "Charlotte G. Holstein Administration Building". Holstein was Vice-chair of the board at Manlius Pebble Hill School during the merger of the Manlius Military Academy and Pebble Hill School.

She is a founder of Leadership Greater Syracuse and Youth Leadership Greater Syracuse, the Syracuse Commission for Women, Meals on Wheels, and the City/County Office on Aging. Chuckie also served President Jimmy Carter on the Advisory Committee for the White House Conferences on Families, Governor Nelson Rockefeller on the New York State Board of Social Welfare, and Governor Hugh Carey as a member of the New York State Division for Youth. In partnership with University College of Syracuse University, she was instrumental in founding the "Citizens' Academy", a course of study about government. A graduate of SUNY College at Brockport, she served on the board of the Brockport Foundation. She has spoken to groups abroad and at home on a variety of topics. A number of her speeches and articles have been published.

Mike Alexander

Session: Improving the Bicycle and Pedestrian Environment in Onondaga County

Mike Alexander, AICP, is a Transportation Planner at the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC). Since joining the SMTC in 2010, Mr. Alexander has contributed to studies that identify opportunities to improve multiple modes of transportation, safety, and wayfinding. He also has seven years' experience working as a private community planning consultant on a variety of public and private sector planning projects across the country. Mr. Alexander graduated from Cornell University with a Master of Regional Planning and a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Studies.

Robert F. Baldwin, Jr.

Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning

Robert F. Baldwin, Jr. is a partner in the Syracuse Law Firm of Baldwin & Sutphen, LLP. Mr. Baldwin has over 35 years of legal experience and has published and lectured extensively on various legal topics. He is a member of the New York and Florida Bars and has practiced before various Federal courts. He has been a municipal attorney, representing a local village, together with its planning and zoning boards, for over 25 years and has prosecuted and defended actions involving municipalities, including code enforcement and Article 78 Proceedings. Mr. Baldwin is a Martindale Hubbell rated "AV" attorney and has been honored in "Best Lawyers in America" and "Who's Who in American Law" for over 25 years.

Nadine C. Bell

Session: Planning and Zoning: An Introduction

Ms. Bell graduated early from the State University of New York at Geneseo College with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Environmental Studies in 1998. At SUNY Geneseo, she was a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society. Ms. Bell received her Juris Doctor from the University at Buffalo Law School in 2002. While in Law School, Ms. Bell won first place in the Intramural ABA Mediation Advocacy Competition, allowing her to participate in the program's Regional Competition. Ms. Bell also served as Publications Editor and Book Review Editor for the Buffalo Environmental Law Journal. In addition to New York State, she is admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the U.S. District Court for the Middle and Eastern Districts in Pennsylvania and the Northern District of New York.

After practicing law for a private firm in Pennsylvania, Ms. Bell joined Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC in 2007 and is a partner in the firm. A member of the municipal law practice group at the firm, her practice focuses on the areas of municipal law, land use and zoning, with emphasis in regulatory interpretation and compliance, legislation, code litigation and environmental law. Ms. Bell also has experience representing municipal and private clients in a variety of commercial and residential zoning and land development issues. In this capacity, Ms. Bell has had the privilege and opportunity to represent such entities as wireless communication companies, nonprofit organizations, school districts, and municipal town, village and city zoning and planning boards; as well as serving as special counsel for a governing county body.

Ms. Bell is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Onondaga County Bar Association, Madison County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Ms. Bell also held the office of Secretary of the Lancaster Bar Association. In addition to her professional interests, Ms. Bell is active in many community organizations. She has participated as a Junior Achievement volunteer and served on the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross of the Susquehanna Valley and as Chairwoman of the organization's Public Support Committee. In her capacity as Chairwoman of the Public Support Committee, she was also on the Executive Committee for the Red Cross. Currently, Ms. Bell is on the Board of Directors for BRiDGES, Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc. and is on the Board of Trustees for Oneida Healthcare.

Kevin Bliss

Session: Wetland and Waterways Regulation and Protection

Kevin Bliss is a Senior Environmental Analyst and certified Professional Wetland Scientist with the State Department of Environmental Conservation, where he supervises natural resource permitting from within the DEC's Cortland Bureau of Habitat office. Kevin also teaches evenings as an adjunct instructor at both SUNY ESF and Bryant and Stratton College. Previous employment includes private consulting and local (City and County) government planning. Kevin is a former president of the New York State Wetlands Forum, and current member of the Board of Directors. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Great Swamp Conservancy, a non-profit nature education center, which Kevin helped to establish. Kevin holds a Master's degree in Environmental Science, and undergraduate degrees in Hydrology, and Fisheries and Wildlife Technology.

Mark Burger

Sessions: *Emerald Ash Borer Management Challenges and Considerations for Municipalities*

Mark Burger has been with the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for twelve years and oversees a staff of 10 employees. At the SWCD, Mark is the Executive Director of the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Program Manager for the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program. He also spent two years working for OCRRA as the Compost Site Manager and spent seven years in the private sector providing wetland mitigation services. He attended Paul Smith's College and received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Mark is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and a NYS Cooperating Consulting Forester.

Patricia Burke

Sessions: *Public Meetings and Hearings, Planning and Zoning: An Introduction, and Aging in Place*

Patricia Burke is a Land Use Training Specialist with the New York State Department of State. Prior to her service at the Department of State, she worked at the New York State Office of Real Property Services. Ms. Burke holds a master's degree in Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany, with an environmental concentration that studied wind turbine planning considerations, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. John Fisher College in Rochester. Prior to her public service, she was an editor for a national legal publishing firm.

Diane Carlton

Sessions: *Basic State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and Advanced State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)*

Diane Carlton is the Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Syracuse, New York. Her job includes public outreach and education regarding DEC programs and policies, working with the media, updating the DEC's website, facilitating public meetings, and writing and editing DEC publications. Diane is a certified planner; before working for the DEC she was the Otsego County Planning Director (Cooperstown, NY) for over 10 years where she assisted many local planning and town boards with SEQRA. Diane also is an adjunct professor at SUNY/Oneonta where she teaches courses on environmental planning and environmental impact assessment, which includes NEPA and SEQRA. She sits on the board of directors for the Upstate New York Chapter of the American Planning Association. Diane has a Master's of Public Administration in Environmental Planning from the University of Delaware and a Bachelor's degree in history and environmental studies from SUNY/Geneseo.

Chris Carrick

Sessions: *Has Sustainability Become a Dirty Word? and Municipal Energy Savings Made Easy*

Chris Carrick has more than 20 years of experience in community development and planning and has worked on renewable energy and sustainability projects in British Columbia, California, Maine and New York. He currently directs the Energy Management program at the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, a public agency that serves Cayuga, Cortland, Madison and Onondaga counties. Since joining the CNY RPDB in 2008, he has secured more than five million dollars in state and federal funding for energy and climate change projects, and managed the development of VisionCNY, a regional sustainability plan created under the auspices of the New York State Cleaner, Greener Communities Program. He has a Master's degree in Community Development from University of California-Davis and was a Fulbright scholar as a doctoral student in City and Regional Planning at Cornell University.

David Coburn

Session: *Emerald Ash Borer Management Challenges and Considerations for Municipalities*

David came to New York/Onondaga County in 1984 to be the Executive Director of the Onondaga County Environmental Management Council. Before that time he was Program Coordinator for the Soil and Water Conservation District in DeKalb County, Illinois. In 1994 David became the Director of the Onondaga County Office of Environment. This County Department is responsible for developing environmental policy aimed at minimizing environmental liability and ensuring effective management with respect to environmental concerns. In 2009 Mr. Coburn was named Chairman of the County's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, which was also responsible for developing the County's Climate Action Plan. More recently Mr. Coburn has assumed responsibility for developing for the County a comprehensive strategy for dealing with emerald ash borer and ash trees on County-owned property.

Christopher Eastman

Sessions: *Form-Based Zoning: A Creative Approach and Aging in Place*

Christopher Eastman is manager of the Local Government Training program at the New York Department of State. He received a master's degree in regional planning from the State University of New York at Albany in 2002. The focus of his study included site-value taxation, an alternative approach to property taxation in which land is taxed at a rate greater than the buildings on it in infill areas to provide incentive for development. In addition to having been a planner at the city and county levels, Mr. Eastman has worked for the Preservation League of New York State and on his own, restoring old windows.

Kevin Gilligan

Session: *Public Meetings and Hearings*

Mr. Gilligan, a 1972 graduate of Hobart College (B.A.), received his Juris Doctor from Syracuse University in 1979. In addition to graduating magna cum laude, Mr. Gilligan received the Paul Shipman Andrews Award for leadership and was named to the Order of the Coif (top 10% of graduates), the Justinian Honor Society and the Dean's List. While at Syracuse, Mr. Gilligan served as Research Assistant to the late Prof. Robert Anderson, nationally renowned author of *American Law of Zoning*, *New York Zoning Law and Practice* and numerous other works dealing with issues of land use law. Mr. Gilligan joined Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC in 1979 and became a partner of the firm in January, 1985. In addition to New York Courts, Mr. Gilligan is admitted to practice before Federal Court for the Northern and Western Districts of New York and the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Gilligan heads the environmental law, land use and municipal practice groups at Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC. He has represented numerous public and private clients before various agencies, boards and courts. Much of his practice is advisory in nature, guiding clients through the maze of federal, state and local regulations in these fields. Mr. Gilligan is experienced in a wide range of environmental and land use issues, including permits, enforcement actions, audits, hazardous waste, environmental reviews, regulatory interpretation and compliance, landfill closure, sewage treatment, variances, special permits, zone changes, site plan reviews, municipal finance, legislation, development, subdivisions, planning and zoning.

Mr. Gilligan co-authored *Major Land Use Laws in New York*, National Business Institute (1991) and *Health Law Update*, Environmental Law/Land Use Section, Lorman Education Services (1994). He is much in demand as a lecturer in both environmental and land use topics. He is a member of the Onondaga County, New York State and American Bar Associations where he belongs to both the environmental and municipal sections, serving as Chair of the County Bar's Municipal Law Committee. He is also a member of the Onondaga County, New York State and American Planning Federations.

Long a community activist, Mr. Gilligan was elected to the Onondaga County Legislature in 1991, serving one term before leaving office and becoming counsel to that body. While in the Legislature, Mr. Gilligan served as Chairman of the Public Works Committee and Vice Chairman of the Health Committee, key players in major Central New York environmental issues. In addition, Mr. Gilligan is Chairman of the local U.S. Air Force Academy Advisory Committee and is a member of the Board of Directors, Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

Steve Harris

Session: *Emerald Ash Borer Management Challenges and Considerations for Municipalities*

Steve Harris is City-County Arborist, Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs. Steve oversees the planting and management of Syracuse's Urban Forest including the planting of 8,500 street trees by 2018 for Onondaga County's Save The Rain Program. Steve previously worked in the nursery industry and as an urban forest educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. Stephen has associates and masters degrees in forestry and is a certified arborist.

Danielle Krol

Session: *Improving the Bicycle and Pedestrian Environment in Onondaga County*

Danielle Krol joined the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) in 1999 and is a Senior Transportation Planner with the agency. She has a background in both geography and urban planning, and has focused much of her time at SMTC on long-range planning and bicycle/pedestrian planning efforts. Ms. Krol holds a BA in Geography from SUNY Geneseo, and a MA in Geography from SUNY Binghamton with a concentration in Urban Planning.

Jessi Lyons

Session: *Emerald Ash Borer Management Challenges and Considerations for Municipalities*

Jessi Lyons coordinates Natural Resource Programs for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, and facilitates the Onondaga County Emerald Ash Borer Task Force. Her work focuses on invasive species, water quality, urban agriculture and community development. She has a Master's of Landscape Architecture from SUNY ESF and a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Studies.

Aaron McKeon

Session: *Improving the Bicycle and Pedestrian Environment in Onondaga County*

Aaron McKeon, AICP, has been a transportation planner with the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council since 2010. His previous experience includes work as a consultant and seven years as an environmental planner with the California Department of Transportation in Sacramento, where his focus was on the land use and socioeconomic impacts of transportation projects. Aaron is a graduate of the University of Rochester and of Cornell University's Master of Regional Planning program.

Edward M. Michalenko

Session: *Has Sustainability Become a Dirty Word?*

Edward M. Michalenko, Ph.D. serves as President of the Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI), a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to public education, scientific research and remediation of the environment. Dr. Michalenko is currently administering several grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the revitalization of Onondaga Creek, habitat enhancement and non-point source pollution control to Onondaga Lake, and water quality monitoring and public education on behalf of the Onondaga Nation. He received a doctoral degree from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry (CESF) in 1991. Dr. Michalenko has performed research on the effects of chemicals in the environment including the Solvay wastebeds, molluscides used to control zebra mussels in industrial cooling waters, sewage sludge additions to strip-mined reclamation sites, and supplemental wood preservative applications to utility poles in Adirondack wetlands. Dr. Michalenko has co-authored five books and over 40 technical publications on environmental fate and effects of chemicals for the USEPA, National Library of Medicine, and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry. He also held adjunct faculty positions at CESF and Syracuse University, where he has taught courses in ecology, the American environmental movement, environmental science, and environmental education for teachers.

Dr. Michalenko also serves as the Town of DeWitt Supervisor after 10 years as Town Councilor. He has chaired the DeWitt Solid Waste Committee and Traffic Task Force, and has served on the Engineering, Budget, Fire Protection, and Advisory Conservation Committees. Dr. Michalenko designed DeWitt's tiered Solid Waste Removal System that lowers costs and promotes recycling, helped establish a Town Park at Fiddler's Green along Butternut Creek, and serves as a founding Director of the Fiddlers Green Park Association. He also created the DeWitt Sustainability Committee and oversaw development of the Town of DeWitt Sustainability Policy. In addition, he is working to reduce storm water runoff in flood prone neighborhoods and develop alternate energy systems for Town facilities.

Jane E. Rice

Session: *Form-Based Zoning: A Creative Approach*

Jane Rice is a Land Use & Community Planner and Attorney with more than 20 years professional experience, and manager of the Planning Practice Group at edr Companies. Her areas of expertise include waterfront community planning, inter-municipal planning, growth management analysis, zoning and land use regulations analysis and development, and community visioning and outreach. Ms. Rice earned a Master of Landscape Architecture from State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a Juris Doctorate from Creighton University. She serves as a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Onondaga County Planning Federation, the American Planning Association, the Syracuse Parks Conservancy Board of Directors, and the New York State Bar Association. She also serves as Chairperson for the Planning Board in Fayetteville, New York.

As an attorney, her practice focused on municipal, education law, and labor law, which included experience in the legal mediation process. Her most recent experience includes community planning and development initiatives for various towns, villages, and hamlets. Ms. Rice has facilitated these communities through community visioning, consensus building and community outreach, and engaged in complex smart growth management analysis with a focus on developing effective zoning codes, land use regulations, and other incentives for farmland protection, open space conservation, and character-based commercial and residential development.

Judy Robinson

Session: *Wetland and Waterways Regulation and Protection*

Judy Robinson attended the University of Florida, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Wildlife Ecology and a minor in Forestry. She attended SUNY Brockport and earned a Master of Science Degree in Wetland Biology for which she conducted two years of wetland field experiments that culminated in a thesis entitled *Follow-up Vegetation and Avifaunal Surveys of Wetlands Restored Through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners for Wildlife Program*.

Judy's professional background includes positions as a project coordinator and field biologist for several USDA funded field trial experiments at the Cornell University New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, adjunct teacher for Conservation Biology at Palm Beach Community College in Florida, wetland delineator for private engineering and consulting firms in Virginia, and wetland regulatory biologist for the State of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. She is currently a regulatory biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Jamie Sutphen

Session: *Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning*

Jamie Lynn Sutphen is a partner in the Syracuse Law Firm of Baldwin & Sutphen, LLP. Ms. Sutphen's practice includes representation of municipal planning and zoning boards as well as town boards on land planning issues. As a member of a town board appointed committee, she was recently instrumental in advising the Town of DeWitt on the comprehensive redrafting of the town zoning and planning codes. Ms. Sutphen also represents clients on matters of development and zoning before various municipal boards and is currently the planning board attorney for the Town of DeWitt Planning Board. She has frequently represented both municipal and landowner clients on Article 78 proceedings involving zoning and planning issues. Ms. Sutphen is a member of the Onondaga County Bar Association and serves on the Board of Directors of the Onondaga County Planning Federation where she recently assisted in the redrafting of the Federation by-laws. Ms. Sutphen is a graduate of Temple University School of Law and is a member in good standing of the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Bar Associations.

Mary M. Thompson

Session: *Has Sustainability Become a Dirty Word?*

Mary M. Thompson is currently the Executive Director of the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Central NY. Mary made the move to Association management, after spending more than 10 years as the Director of Event Administration with the award winning Oncenter Complex in Syracuse, NY. Although a native of upstate New York, she started her career in Denver, CO where she worked as the marketing director for a cabaret theatre. Then, wanting to be a part of the revitalization of downtown, Thompson went to work for the Downtown Denver Partnership in 1991. Missing the quality of life and variety of seasons that Upstate New York has to offer, she returned and moved to the Syracuse area in 1994.

Mary is a Certified Meeting Professional and has been the recipient of numerous awards, including: two awards from the Empire State Society for Association Executives, the 40 Under 40 Award, Syracuse Women in Business Award and the NY State Hospitality & Tourism Association "Stars of Our Industry" Award. Always interested in continuing her education beyond her BA, Thompson is a graduate of the IAAM Public Assembly Faculty Management School, Leadership Greater Syracuse and the ESSAE Association Leadership Academy. Mary is proud to serve, or have served, on the Board of Directors for many great community organizations, such as FOCUS Greater Syracuse, Onondaga Citizens League, Leadership Greater Syracuse, Center State CEO's Government Modernization and Syracuse 20/20 - just to name a few. She has one son, Daniel, who is her inspiration.

Merike Treier

Session: *Downtown Crossroads: The Rebirth of Downtown Syracuse's 100% Corner*

Merike Treier serves as executive director for the Downtown Committee of Syracuse, Inc. In this role, Merike oversees all of the Downtown Committee programs involving advocacy, development and revitalization, marketing, security and environmental maintenance. She started at the Downtown Committee in 2004 as the economic development specialist and later worked as the Downtown Committee's deputy director and director of economic development. Merike also serves as the president of the Downtown Syracuse Foundation, Inc., and is a board member for the Gifford Foundation, the Onondaga Citizen's League, Onondaga County Public Library, Housing Visions Unlimited and Adapt CNY, Inc. Merike received a B.A. in Geography, with minors in Geology and Environmental Studies from the State University of New York at Geneseo and received an M.A. in Geography with a concentration in urban planning from Binghamton University.

Benjamin R. Walsh

Session: *Downtown Crossroads: The Rebirth of Downtown Syracuse's 100% Corner*

Ben Walsh serves as Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood and Business Development for the City of Syracuse and Executive Director of the Syracuse Industrial Development Agency (SIDA). In his current roles, Ben focuses his efforts on the economic revitalization of the City and surrounding region. Prior to his role at the City, Ben served as the Director of Urban Initiatives for the Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse and Central New York (MDA) – the region's business and economic development leadership organization. He also served as the Executive Director of the New York State Urban Council. In his previous roles, Ben focused his efforts on the redevelopment of the state's urban cores and the convergence of economic and community development. Ben is a graduate of Ithaca College and earned a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Ben has also lived in Dublin, Ireland where he interned in the Office of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of The Republic of Ireland. Ben currently serves on the Board of Directors at the Gifford Foundation and the Syracuse Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO), and volunteers as a Steward of Lipe Art Park. He is a native of Syracuse, New York and currently resides on the City's west side with his wife Lindsay and their two daughters.