

36th Annual Planning Symposium

March 26, 2025 – Marriott Syracuse Downtown

PRESENTERS

KEYNOTE PRESENTER



Paul Steely White

Keynote: *The Yellow Brick Greenway: Visions and Strategies for Successful Trail – Oriented Development*

Paul Steely White is the Executive Director of Parks & Trails New York, an Albany-based, non-profit membership organization that strives to make parks and greenway trails integral to our everyday lives. Through projects, policy advocacy, planning and legislation, Parks & Trails is working statewide to improve parks, expand greenways, and maximize the economic, health and community benefits of public lands.

Paul has devoted his career to improving bicycling, walking and public open space. While Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives from 2004 - 2018, he grew New York City's network of greenways and bike paths and led campaigns to reclaim city parks from automobile traffic. For this work he received, with co-awardee NYCDOT Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan, the Rockefeller Foundation's Jane Jacobs Medal, which recognizes those whose creative uses of the urban environment build a more diverse, dynamic, and equitable city. Paul was also recognized by the New York Academy of Medicine for his work to make streets safer and healthier. Paul spends his weekends brick-oven baking, bicycling, and hiking the parks and trails of the Hudson River Valley with his wife Zoe and their three rascally children.

BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS

Karen Barkdull, Planning and Zoning Officer, Town of Skaneateles

Session: *Case Study: Skaneateles Northern Hamlets Master Plan*

Ms. Barkdull has been the Planning and Zoning Officer for the Town of Skaneateles since 2014. She has also worked with the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Development Committees, the Open Space Committee, the Shoreline Committee, and the Zoning Code Update Committee in the Town. Additionally, Ms. Barkdull received the New York Planning Federation Pomeroy Award for Zoning Excellence in 2021, and has been Codes Enforcement Officer Certified since 2018.

Diane Carlton, AICP, Emeritus, Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Adjunct Professor in Environmental Sustainability, SUNY, Oneonta

Session: *Overview of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Process*

Diane Carlton is the former Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Syracuse. She is a certified planner who served as the Otsego County Planning Director (Cooperstown, NY) for over 15 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. 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.

Christopher Eastman, Division of Local Government Services, New York State Department of State

Sessions: *Skills That Make Great Board Members; Planning and Zoning: An Introduction; and Affordable Housing*

Christopher Eastman managed the Local Government Training program at the New York Department of State from 2009 until 2024. He's also worked as a city planner, a county planner, and for the Preservation League of New York State. He received his Master's in Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany in 2002.

Andrew Frasier, Senior Transportation Analyst, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

Session: *Regional Transportation Goals & Strategies: From Planning to Local Implementation*

Andrew joined the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council in 2014 and is currently a Senior Transportation Analyst with the agency. Andrew earned his Bachelor's degree in Geography at Syracuse University. His work at the SMTC includes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyses and mapping, with a focus on Census, transit, asset, and safety data. Andrew takes a keen interest in alternative forms of transportation and serves on the board of Adapt CNY, a local non-profit organization in Syracuse.

Joseph Frateschi, Esq., Associate, Harris Beach Murtha

Session: *Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning*

Joseph Frateschi is an Associate with Harris Beach Murtha. Joseph has extensive experience as a transaction counsel on real property, intellectual property and corporate matters. He also advises municipal agencies and public benefit corporations on a range of issues under New York municipal law. He serves as bond counsel and issuer counsel on taxable and tax-exempt bond financings undertaken by local issuers. He also serves as special transaction counsel on large projects throughout New York State.

During law school, he served as a law clerk for the Hon. Glenn T. Suddaby of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York and the Hon. Frank P. Geraci, Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. Joseph taught music industry law and ethics at Syracuse University and maintains an active playing schedule as a jazz saxophonist throughout Central New York.

Paula Gilbert, Division of Local Government Services, New York State Department of State

Sessions: *Skills That Make Great Board Members; Planning and Zoning: An Introduction; and Affordable Housing*

Paula Gilbert is the Local Government Training Manager for the New York State Department of State, Division of Local Government Services. Prior to joining the Department of State in 2017, she worked for three years as the Executive Director and two years as an Urban Policy Associate at the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of NYS, Inc., a technical assistance and advocacy not-for-profit organization working with a group of more than 140 affordable housing and community development organizations within the urban and suburban neighborhoods of New York State. Paula received a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning and a Master's in Regional Planning from the University at Albany, where she interned with the New York Planning Federation.

Dereth Glance, Director, Region 7, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Session: *Changes in Wetland Regulations*

Dereth Glance is the Director for Region 7 for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which includes the Central New York counties of Oswego, Onondaga, Madison, Cayuga, Cortland, Chenango, Tompkins, Broome, and Tioga. Glance joined NYSDEC as Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Remediation and Material Management in January 2022.

Formerly, Glance served as the Executive Director for Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) and was appointed to the NYS Climate Action Council Waste Emissions Advisory Panel.

Prior to that, Glance was appointed by President Obama to serve as a U.S. Commissioner at the International Joint Commission (IJC) charged with preventing and resolving disputes and promoting cooperation for the shared waters of the United States and Canada. Previously, she served as the Executive Program Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), directing water, energy, and waste reduction programs for five regional offices in New York and Connecticut.

Glance also chaired the Citizen Participation Working Group for the Onondaga Lakes Bottom Subsite of the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site, chaired the OCRRA recycling committee, and has served on New York State's Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council, the Clean Water Network and the Onondaga Lake Partnership Outreach Committee. She graduated from James Madison College of Public Affairs at Michigan State University with a degree in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy.

Sam Gordon, AICP, Planning Practice Leader, Environmental Design & Research

Session: *Case Study: Skaneateles Northern Hamlets Master Plan*

Sam Gordon has over 20 years of community planning experience. He has worked in the public and private sector as well as internationally. As a Planning Practice Leader with EDR, Sam is the principal point of client and public interaction on many projects. Sam served as the project manager and lead author for Plan Onondaga. He has assisted the District East project in DeWitt with the development of updates to the Town of DeWitt Zoning Code to facilitate the redevelopment of the former Shoppingtown Mall. From 2014 to 2019 Sam served as the Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of DeWitt where he oversaw the development of the Town's mixed-use Village Overlay District. Sam received a Fellowship in 2005 to work with the Center for Environmental Studies in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, which was selected as the 2012 European Green Capital. He has Master's degrees in Landscape Architecture and Environmental and Community Land Use Planning from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Shannon Harty, P.E., Commissioner, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection

Session: *Managing Growth and Sustainability: Sewer Infrastructure and Capacity Planning in Onondaga County*

A zealous advocate for all things public utilities, Shannon has over 24 years of experience providing engineering and management support to many municipalities across New York State. She has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Clarkson University, a Master of Science Engineering degree in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Certificate of Water Innovation Leadership Development from Duke University.

As the Commissioner at Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection (WEP), she is leading the County-wide sewer department through a comprehensive workforce redevelopment initiative to strengthen the WEP team's talents, improve the culture and inclusivity, and enhance the use of technology to support data driven financial planning, and supporting the County's economic development visions and strategies while continuing to expand WEP's Asset Renewal and Capital Improvement Program.

Irene Holak, Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure, New York State Department of State

Session: *Using Model Local Laws to Increase Resilience*

Irene has worked for the NYS DOS under the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Unit for over five years managing planning and implementation projects, including watershed management plans. She has worked with communities on projects throughout the State, including Long Island, the North Country, and the Finger Lakes Region, and has recently taken over as regional lead for the Central New York and Mohawk Valley Region for the unit. Irene received her Master's in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England in New Hampshire.

Christopher Legg, Supervisor, Town of Skaneateles

Session: *Case Study: Skaneateles Northern Hamlets Master Plan*

For over five years, Chris has acted as Town Board liaison to the Skaneateles Hamlet Committee, first as a town councilor and now supervisor. The Northern Hamlets Master Plan was initiated prior to his election to the Town Board. He is a seventh-generation resident of Skaneateles with several generations who resided in Skaneateles Falls and Mottville. He has fond memories of staying with his great grandfather in Skaneateles Falls in fascination of the Skaneateles Shortline Railroad crossing the front yard and spending time with his cousins in Mottville exploring ruins of the old mills on the Skaneateles Creek. His professional career includes 22 years as a naval officer and 23 years as a high school teacher.

Amelia McLean-Robertson, Esq., Associate, Harris Beach Murtha

Session: *Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning*

As a member of the Harris Beach Murtha Commercial Real Estate Practice Group, Amelia focuses on environmental, land use, zoning, energy, and municipal work. She advises clients on the responsibilities, exposures and liabilities resulting from federal, state and local environmental legislation and regulations. She guides clients through the environmental impact review processes and regulations related to traffic patterns, air pollution, coastal areas and wetlands.

Amelia previously served as an environmental attorney at a private law firm and as assistant corporation counsel for the City of Syracuse. Her legal experience also includes working as an intern in the law department of a national chain of convenience stores and gas stations, and as a legal assistant at two other law firms, focusing on commercial real estate transactions and civil litigation.

Amelia has experience drafting and reviewing asset purchase agreements, real estate sale and lease agreements, power purchasing agreements, mining leases and environmental easements. Amelia also provides counsel to clients in the waste management and recycling, utilities, mining and electric and gas industries. She negotiates with regulatory agencies regarding permitting and enforcement matters. Amelia has drafted local legislation for municipalities concerning land use and zoning laws, commercial leases, license agreements, Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreements and shelter rental agreements. She negotiated contracts for leasing cell phone towers, drafted RFPs for real estate construction projects and provided counsel in tax certiorari proceedings.

Further, as a member of the Financial Restructuring, Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights Practice Group, Amelia represents creditors' interests when dealing with financially distressed organizations and individuals. She works with commercial, lending and consumer clients, counseling in commercial and financial planning, debt refinancing and restructuring, commercial contract dispute resolution, bankruptcy, foreclosure, distressed investments, commercial and consumer collection, and Uniform Commercial Code compliance.

Janet Oppedisano, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County

Session: *Agritourism: Land Use and Zoning Practices*

As Agriculture Team Leader, Janet is excited about opportunities to develop programming that meets the needs of individuals in the agricultural community. She appreciates being part of the process that communicates Cornell's research findings to the public and that develops viable economic avenues for local agriculture. A member of Cornell Cooperative Extensions Statewide Agritourism Program Work Team, she educates farmers on best practices in agritourism.

Janet has a Master of Science in Environmental & Evolutionary Biology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a Bachelor of Science from Columbus State University. She has worked in a variety of roles in higher education as director of grant-funded programs, lecturer, and researcher. Janet has over 22 years of experience in managing programs and collaborating with diverse stakeholders. Having benefited from interactions that range across cultures,

backgrounds, and life circumstances, Janet works to include multiple perspectives and to empower others. She believes that creativity, determination, hope, and scientific research are the keys to developing sustainable practices and building resilient environments.

Ray Schofield, P.E., Collections System Director, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection

Session: *Managing Growth and Sustainability: Sewer Infrastructure and Capacity Planning in Onondaga County*

Ray has over 21 years of experience in the engineering field, specializing in water and wastewater systems throughout most of his career. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a focus on Water Engineering from Utah State University in Logan, UT. He has extensive expertise in the design and construction of municipal water and wastewater projects. His professional experience also includes asset management, permitting, water system modeling, and capital project planning. As the Collections System Director at WEP, Ray is responsible for developing and implementing the departments Capacity Management and Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) program which includes review, evaluation and approval of new sewer services and sewer extensions under the Capacity Assurance process.

Nan Stolzenburg, FAICP CEP

Session: *Agritourism: Land Use and Zoning Practices*

Nan Stolzenburg, FAICP CEP has been the principal consultant on over 75 different planning projects throughout eastern and central New York. Her work concentrates on the planning needs of small and rural communities, and she has been the principal planner for dozens of comprehensive plans, strategic plans, SEQR reviews, zoning and regulatory development projects, ag and farmland protection plans, and economic development programs. Nan has been the award winner of multiple state and national planning awards, including one in 2014 for the development of the NYS DEC SEQR SEAF and FEAF Workbook and more recently for work in the Town of Ballston on a local purchase of development rights program. She has a BS in Biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, a MS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a MRP in Regional Planning from the University at Albany. Nan has been inducted as a Fellow in the College of American Institute of Certified Planners and is a Certified Environmental Planner and Certified Wildlife Biologist. In addition, Nan is an Adjunct Faculty member at University of Albany teaching comprehensive planning techniques.

Meghan Vitale, Principal Transportation Planner, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

Session: *Regional Transportation Goals & Strategies: From Planning to Local Implementation*

Meghan Vitale joined the SMTC in 2007 and is currently the agency's principal transportation planner. Meghan earned her undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering and also holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning and Policy. Her work at SMTC has included land-use transportation studies, corridor studies, the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and numerous public involvement and outreach activities. Prior to joining the SMTC, Meghan worked in the private sector as a transportation planner and traffic engineer.

Lisa Welch, Planner II, Onondaga County Department of Planning

Session: *Agritourism: Land Use and Zoning Practices*

Lisa received her BS from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry with concentrations in Natural Resources Conservation, and Environmental Law and Planning, and completed additional coursework in GIS and SQL. Her work has focused on water resources planning, agricultural planning, GIS, data development, County Planning Board GML reviews, and zoning administration in the City of Syracuse.