

ANNUAL PLANNING SYMPOSIUM | MARCH 4, 2010 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A. Health Care Reform for Your Zoning Ordinance – Will it ever End?

Howard Brodsky, Community Planning Consultant

Jamie Sutphen, Planning Board Attorney, Town of DeWitt

Naomi Bray, Town Board Member, Town of Clay

Should we keep it the same, update parts of it, or outright replace it? These are questions that communities commonly ask themselves about their zoning ordinances. Panel members will present some of their experiences and perspectives on things to consider when making revisions to your zoning ordinance: what is the process like, who does the work, and what should and should not be considered.

B. Marcellus Shale Gas 101

Bill Kappel, Hydrogeologist, U.S. Geological Survey

The presentation will address the mechanics of the drilling and hydrofracking in the Marcellus and Utica Shale formations in New York. Topics addressed include where the black shales are found within New York, drilling techniques, the “slickwater” hydrofracking process, water needs, and the quality and treatment of flowback and formation waters. Concerns about habitat fragmentation and pipeline construction in regard to the collection of the produced gas throughout the region will also be addressed.

C. The NYSDOT Development Review Process – An Overview for Lead Agencies and Developers

Diana Graser, P.E., Regional Traffic Engineer, Region 3, New York State Department of Transportation

Mike Washburn, P.E., Acting Regional Permit Engineer, Region 3, New York State Department of Transportation

Sean Murphy, Transportation Analyst, Region 3, New York State Department of Transportation

The New York State Department of Transportation works with both local officials and developers in the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process to identify and address impacts to the State transportation system that may result from development projects. Additionally, New York State Highway Law mandates that no work shall be performed in a NYSDOT right-of-way prior to approval of proposed work activities and the issuance of a highway work permit. These two components of the review process are integrated at the Regional level to provide a comprehensive evaluation of transportation impacts resulting from local development and to ensure the implementation of measures that preserve the integrity of the transportation system. This course will provide local officials and private developers a step-by-step overview of the review process at Region 3 to facilitate coordination between stakeholders. It will also detail the advantages of a safe, balanced and efficient transportation system and provide a question and answer period to facilitate dialogue.

D. Planning Board Overview

New York State Department of State Land Use Training Specialist & New York State Department of State Attorney

This course will address the powers and duties of town, village and city planning boards and commissions. Both the administrative and regulatory roles of the planning board will be discussed, including comprehensive planning, site plan review, special use permits, and subdivision review. The role of the board in making recommendations to the zoning board of appeals will be discussed. The importance of board procedures, referral to the county planning agency, and making findings will be discussed.

(CEO credits – 2 hours In-Service, CLE credits – 2 hours)

E. Green Design & Energy Issues for Planning & Zoning Officials

Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University

This class will provide information and ideas about incorporating green design principles and technologies in new commercial and residential development. Knowledgeable and professional speakers will touch on a wide array of issues surrounding the subject of green design principles.

F. Stormwater Control in NYS is Going Green: New Strategies for Municipalities and Development

Ellen Hahn, CPESC, CPSWQ, Stormwater Control Specialist, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Stormwater management techniques and designs throughout the country are evolving to include green infrastructure, better site planning, runoff reduction, and low-impact development, and the NYS Stormwater Management Design Manual and Stormwater Construction and MS4 General Permits are “going green” as well. This session will focus on ways that municipalities can incorporate these concepts into their planning, zoning codes and ordinances, and update existing infrastructure to better manage and treat stormwater runoff.

Onondaga County’s “Save the Rain” Green Infrastructure Program

Bj Adigun, Public Affairs Director, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection

The session will focus on Onondaga County’s efforts in stormwater management practices throughout the community. The new “Save the Rain” program is the most comprehensive green infrastructure program in New York State and will provide comprehensive resources to encourage green infrastructure implementation across the Onondaga Lake watershed and beyond.

KEYNOTE: Understanding the I-81 Challenge

Carl Ford, P.E., Regional Director, Region 3, New York State Department of Transportation

James D'Agostino, Director, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

As many people in Onondaga County are learning, portions of I-81, particularly the elevated sections in downtown Syracuse, are nearing the end of their lifespan. Over the next decade, these portions of the highway will need to be replaced, reconstructed, removed, or otherwise changed. Given this reality, the Syracuse region, including the highway owner, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), is faced with a challenge: what should be done with I-81? The official decision-making process, *The I-81 Challenge*, is being led by the NYSDOT with assistance from the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC), the region's metropolitan planning organization (MPO). The keynote address will discuss the issues involved with the decision, the initial outreach undertaken during the fall of 2009 and winter of 2010 and the other steps in the process that are expected to occur in the coming months and years.

G. Planning and Zoning Case Law

New York State Department of State Attorney

An attorney from the Department of State will discuss the latest developments in state and federal courts in the area of land use. They will discuss current judicial trends in decision making, as well as how judicial decisions in other parts of the state impact local planning boards, zoning boards of appeals, and governing bodies. New and relevant opinions issued by the Attorney General, Comptroller, and Committee on Open Government will also be discussed. *(CEO credits – 1 hour In-Service, CLE credits – 1 hour)*

H. SEQR Basics

Joanne March, Deputy Regional Permit Administrator, Region 7, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Have you been wondering what this SEQR thing is, or what a Type I, Type II or Unlisted Action is? This session is an introduction to the State Environmental Quality Review Act. It will include a review of the regulations and the role of local government in complying with SEQRA.

I. The Relationship Between Built Environment & Transportation: How Does Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Fit Into This?

Georges Jacquemart, P.E., AICP, Principal, BFJ Planning

Mr. Jacquemart will explain the built environment variables that affect transportation behavior, which can be summarized as the four D's: density, diversity, destinations and design. Mr. Jacquemart will illustrate the relationship between density and travel behavior (percentage of trips made by automobile) and will show examples of diversity (mix of uses) in various environments. The concept of "destinations" implies maximizing the number of destinations within a walkable area without introducing elements and distances that can become barriers. The variable that is the most difficult to define is "design". Examples of design elements (positive and negative) that affect travel behavior will be shown. Mr. Jacquemart will discuss the key elements of TOD, which takes advantage of the four "D's" effect and captures travel demand as much as possible on transit.

J. Smart Growth: Tools and Strategies for Municipalities

New York State Department of State Land Use Training Specialist

This course defines Smart Growth and illustrates its key principles within the context of New York's Quality Communities Initiative. Examples of county planning that encourage inter-municipal cooperation and healthy patterns of community change are also featured. A review of several innovative land use tools allows municipalities to consider approaches of implementing the principles of Smart Growth and Quality Communities. Tools reviewed include official maps, incentive and performance zoning, planned unit development, cluster subdivision, and transfer of development rights. *(CEO credits – 1 hour In-Service)*

K. Case Study: Transfer of Development Rights – A Winning Solution for Farmland Protection and Smart Growth Planning

James S. Laird, RLA, Managing Landscape Architect, Barton & Loguidice, P.C.

Bill Price, President, Pooler Enterprises

Edward T. Reed, Lysander Town Board

Moderator: Barry Bullis, Supervisor, Town of Lysander

This session will introduce Central New York's first Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program, now underway in the Town of Lysander. A panel of key TDR participants will discuss this unique program aimed at protecting quality farmland by transferring the value of development potential (Development Rights) to other areas of town deemed appropriate for increased housing density and development. The session will be moderated by Town Supervisor, Mr. Barry Bullis, who will oversee a panel discussion covering the program's key aspects and mechanics, requirements of the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets' grant, conservation easements, the Town's 'Revolving Fund' Development Rights registry, and benefits of receiving development rights from a private developer's perspective.

L. Perspectives on I-81: A Roundtable Discussion

Dennis Connors, Curator of History, Onondaga Historic Association

Joe Flint, Acting Director of Planning and Program Management, New York State Department of Transportation

Rebecca Livengood, Onondaga Citizens League (OCL)

Moderator: Meghan Vitale, Senior Transportation Planner, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

There has been a lot of discussion in the community recently about the future of I-81. Some community members have expressed clear opinions about what should be done with this aging piece of local infrastructure. This roundtable will present different perspectives on I-81. Mr. Connors will speak about the history of I-81 as currently constructed and reference earlier parallels of how the canal and railroad once divided downtown. Ms. Livengood will discuss the Onondaga Citizens League's recent report that explored the potential impacts of removing I-81. Mr. Flint and Ms. Vitale will talk about *The I-81 Challenge*, the official public involvement and decision-making process for the future of I-81. This session's goal is that these speakers, combined with audience participation, will elevate the general knowledge level of the participants about this once-in-a-generation community effort.