

Annual Planning Symposium

August 18, 2011

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

A. Coordinating New Stormwater Design Standards with Municipal Regulations

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

David Kubek, CPESC, CPSWQ, Senior Planner, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

This course will provide an overview of the types of land use regulations that affect municipal planning for stormwater management. The regulatory basis for preparing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) under the SPDES Stormwater General Permits will be presented and the five-step planning process for stormwater design required by the 2010 Runoff Reduction updates to the NYS Stormwater Management Design Manual will be discussed. Review of SWPPPs by Planning Boards, following and utilizing this new process, will be covered in detail. (Course is approved for 1.5 Professional Development Hours (PDH) for engineers and landscape architects.)

B. Case Study: Local Municipal Sustainability Initiatives

Chris Carrick, Energy Program Manager, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

David Coburn, Director, Onondaga County Office of Environment

Andrew M. Maxwell, MPA, Director of Planning & Sustainability, Office of the Mayor, City of Syracuse

Edward Michalenko, Supervisor, Town of DeWitt and President, Onondaga Environmental Institute

Sara Pesek, Director, Environmental Finance Center

Panelists at the town, city, county and regional levels will discuss sustainability planning and implementation efforts that are occurring within their respective units of government and organizations. Topics of discussion will include local projects, programs, policies and opportunities aimed at making local government more sustainable. Initiatives include efforts to reduce carbon footprints associated with municipal operations, actions to improve energy efficiency, policies to promote sustainable land use and transportation practices, and programs to address stormwater runoff, all with an eye toward reducing long-term costs.

C. Understanding the Fiscal Impacts of Land Use Planning Decisions

Michael N'dolo, Vice President, Camoin Associates, Inc.

This course will explore the link between zoning and regulatory decisions made by cities, towns and villages and their long term fiscal health. Those that achieve a balance in areas such as growth and preservation, residential and commercial tax base, or greenfield and infill development stand a better chance of maintaining positive long term fiscal conditions. Using real data from Onondaga County, we will show how patterns of development can change municipal revenue and expenditure streams over time in your communities. We will describe how land use planning can positively or negatively affect that balance, and provide you with tools to promote fiscal sustainability through land use planning in your communities.

D. Site Plan Review

Catherine M. Hamlin, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

Jamie Sutphen, Esq., Partner, Baldwin & Sutphen, LLP and Planning Board Attorney, Town of DeWitt

This course is an overview of the statutory authority local governments have to review site plans. It will address the scope and content of a site plan and the role of the site plan in municipal review of development projects. A discussion of design and the reasons some approaches might be preferable to others is included in the course. (CEO credits - 1 hour In-Service, CLE credits – 1 hour)

E. The Power of the Vision Plan

Roger E. Brown AIA, President Rochester Regional Community Design Center

This course will feature a highly graphic PowerPoint presentation on how Vision Planning for your town, village, hamlet, or neighborhood can be a blueprint for creating a vibrant, sustainable place for your community, taking your comprehensive plan to the next level. Case studies from a variety of neighboring communities in the Rochester region, as well as other east coast areas, will be illustrated. Learn how a community-based Vision Plan can help strengthen the core of your community through implementation strategies of compactness, walkability, density, mixed-use, and excellence in architectural and urban design.

F. Navigating Through the SEQRA Process

Diane Carlton, AICP, Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

The SEQRA process is one of the most difficult and least understood planning processes with which local agencies must comply. Fortunately, there is a great deal of information available about the process, both written and on the DEC's website. This presentation will lead planning, zoning and other local officials through the SEQRA process and give them a clear understanding of their role and responsibility under SEQRA.

G. The Comprehensive Plan

Patricia Burke, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

John R. Langey, Esq., Partner, Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC and Municipal Attorney

This session will include a discussion of the practical and legal benefits of adopting a comprehensive plan. Included are the importance of involving the public in the development of the plan—early on; strategies for compiling essential data to set the direction of the plan; plan contents; and steps leading to the adoption of a comprehensive plan. There will be a review of the comprehensive plan statutes as well. (CEO credits - 1 hour In-Service, CLE credits – 1 hour)

H. Zoning Board of Appeals Overview

Timothy Frateschi, Esq., Partner, Harris Beach PLLC; Planning Board Chair, Town of Salina; and Municipal Attorney

Richard (Dick) Robb, AICP, Consultant, Robb Planning & Land Use Services and Planning Board Member, Village of East Syracuse

This introductory course to the Zoning Board of Appeals focuses on the statutory tests boards must follow to grant use and area variances and proper handling of special permits and zoning interpretations. Meeting procedures, notice requirements and the importance of making good findings will also be discussed along with the ZBA's relationship with enforcement officials and the Planning Board.

I. Sustainable Community and Economic Development: Smart Growth in NYS

Peter B. Fleischer, Executive Director, Empire State Future

Governments are increasingly hard-pressed to supply the services and infrastructure wanted or needed by communities large and small. Funds, already in short supply, may continue to be hard to find as tax bases shrink, populations age and infrastructure deteriorates. Current private and public sector approaches to land use and development planning and policy are increasingly understood not to work. This course will include an overview of the new Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act, adopted by New York State in 2010, and a discussion of other passed or pending smart growth legislation at the state level.

J. Aging in the Community of Your Choice

Patricia Burke, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

Catherine M. Hamlin, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

Is your community ready for its aging Baby Boomers? With our growing population of older residents, are local steps being taken to ensure that they can live independently for as long as possible? What makes a community livable for older citizens also benefits people of all ages and physical abilities. This presentation provides land use planning and regulatory tools to help people in your community to age in place. Topics include a variety of housing choices, accessory dwelling units, Golden Zones, and senior friendly sidewalk and street designs.

K. Open Space Planning: Guiding the Vision, Directing Development, Protecting Assets

Jane E. Rice, JD, AICP, Project Manager/Land Use & Community Planner, edr Companies

Meredith Perreault, Project Manager, Onondaga Environmental Institute

Zachary Odell, Director of Land Protection, The Nature Conservancy, Central and Western New York Chapter

This course will address several aspects of open space planning. Jane will focus on how the process and products can serve as a guide for future development, stewardship, and natural resource preservation to enhance cultural, environmental, and economic conditions. She will also address how to get this information to the reviewing boards so it adequately informs development decisions. Meredith will focus on a specific "open space," Onondaga Creek, including a summary of OEI's Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan (OCRCP) that provides a guide for enhancing environmental, social, and economic conditions along Onondaga Creek. The focus of Zachary's presentation will be the Active River Area (ARA), a conservation framework recently created by The Nature Conservancy, and how the ARA framework can be incorporated into open space planning exercises both through GIS and various steps in municipal planning processes.

L. Historic Preservation 101

Kate Auwaerter, Preservation Planner/Public Art Coordinator, Bureau of Planning & Sustainability, City of Syracuse

Christine Capella Peters, Historic Sites Restoration Coordinator, New York State Historic Preservation Office

This session will provide an introduction to the basics of historic preservation at the federal, state and local level, beginning with a brief overview of the American preservation movement and relevant legislation. Information will be provided on the State Historic Preservation Office and the programs it administers, local historic preservation law, and how the State and municipalities can work together to recognize and preserve historic resources.