

# 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Planning Symposium

**March 7, 2019 • Marriott Syracuse Downtown**  
**PRESENTERS**

## KEYNOTE PRESENTERS



### **J. Ryan McMahon, II**

County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II is the 4th County Executive. He assumed office on November 2nd, 2018.

Ryan is a graduate of Bishop Ludden High School and LeMoyne College. He grew up in the Strathmore neighborhood in Syracuse and currently resides in the Winkworth neighborhood with his wife and three children.

Ryan started his career in public service as a Syracuse City Councilor in 2005 after being elected at the age of 25. He was reelected in 2007 for a second term and quickly earned a reputation as a bi-partisan problem solver.

In 2011, County Executive McMahon was elected to the 15th District of the Onondaga County Legislature which includes portions of the City of Syracuse, the town of Geddes and the town of Onondaga. Ryan was subsequently elected Chairman of the County Legislature in 2012 by his fellow legislators becoming the youngest Chairman in County history. As Chairman, his primary focus was job creation and ensuring good fiscal discipline

in the county. Under his leadership, property taxes were brought down to historic lows.

Upon taking office as County Executive, Ryan McMahon has placed a focus on three main initiatives: poverty, infrastructure and economic development.



### **Ben Walsh**

Ben Walsh is the 54th mayor in the history of the City of Syracuse. His approach to leadership and public service was shaped by growing up on the city's west side in a family of proud public servants. His own call to public service first came into focus during his time at the renowned Maxwell School at Syracuse University, where he earned his master's degree in public administration (MPA).

Ben has played a lead role in some of the most transformational projects in Syracuse's recent history. From the creation of the Greater Syracuse Land Bank to the successful redevelopment of the Hotel Syracuse, Ben has earned a reputation as a pragmatic and collaborative leader who brings the right people together to get the job done. In his six years working at City Hall, as the deputy commissioner of neighborhood and business development, he interacted with business owners and neighborhood residents on a daily basis.

His successful campaign for mayor emphasized people over politics. His platform focused on enhancing quality of life and safety in city neighborhoods; improving academic achievement and safety in city schools; and reducing poverty by increasing economic opportunity for all. Known as Syracuse Rising, the platform helped Walsh build a diverse coalition and garner support from across the political spectrum. It continues to guide his administration. Although he ran unaffiliated with any party, he appeared on the ballot on the Independence and Reform party lines. He won the four-person election with a 54 percent majority.

Most recently, Ben worked for Mackenzie Hughes LLP, where he helped small business owners navigate the municipal approval process. He previously worked for the Metropolitan Development Association (now CenterState CEO), developing and implementing innovative job creation and urban revitalization strategies.

Ben currently serves as the president of the Board of Trustees at The Gifford Foundation and on the Board of Directors at the Good Life Philanthropic Youth Foundation. In 2009, he was named one of Syracuse's 40 Under Forty winners, an award recognizing Central New York professionals and leaders under the age of 40 who exemplify leadership in the community.

Ben is a native of Syracuse and currently resides on the city's west side with his wife, Lindsay, and their two daughters. In his spare time Ben enjoys spending time with his girls, watching Syracuse University sports, and exploring urban and rural landscapes alike.

## BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS

### Julian Adams

#### Session: Accessing the Benefits of Historic Preservation

Julian Adams is the Director of the Community Preservation Services Bureau for the New York State Historic Preservation Office. A native of Georgia, he holds a Masters of Historic Preservation from the University of Georgia at Athens. He started New York State service in 1988, when he took a job in the SHPO's Technical Services Unit, overseeing rehabilitations and restorations across New York State under federal and state programs. During a sabbatical from the SHPO in 1995-1996, he worked with the Historic Natchez (MS) Foundation, overseeing low income housing development in historic neighborhoods, working with the local preservation commission and planning department, and assisting in heritage education. In 2000 he was named head of the Technical Services Unit. In 2005 he took a position as Sr. Architectural Historian/Historic Preservation Specialist with a nation-wide environmental consulting firm based in Dallas, Texas, working with military bases in their responsibilities under Federal Historic Preservation law. He returned to state service in 2006, and in 2013 was named Director of the Bureau of Community Preservation Services, overseeing several state and federal programs, including the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit, Certified Local Government program, National Register, Survey, and Capital Programs review within the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, assisting communities, municipalities and the agency across New York State with preservation issues.

### Kate Auwaerter

#### Session: Accessing the Benefits of Historic Preservation

Kate Auwaerter has over 20 years of experience working in historic preservation and planning-related fields in the private, non-profit, and public sectors. As Preservation Planner for the City of Syracuse, Kate oversees and advocates for the implementation of the City's preservation program, advises other City departments on historic preservation-related matters, provides professional staff assistance to the Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board and administers the City's Certified Local Government program. In addition to her preservation work, Kate is the City's Public Art Coordinator. Kate completed her undergraduate studies at Oberlin College and has a Masters degree in Historic Preservation Planning from Cornell University.

### Allison Bodine

#### Session: SOCPA Hour with Dan and Allison

Allison Bodine is a planner for the Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency, working with the Division of County Planning and as staff to the Onondaga County Planning Board since 2017. Prior to joining SOCPA, Allison worked with the U.S. Forest Service and Davey Tree doing urban forestry research as part of the i-Tree development team. Allison has a Bachelor's degree in environmental design and geography from the University at Buffalo and a Master's degree in natural resource management from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

## **Nathan Brown**

### **Session: Whatever Floats Your Zone: A Case Study of the DeWitt Mixed-Use Overlay District**

Nathan Brown is an Associate and Project Architect at HOLT Architects. With experience managing and designing projects on both the West and East coasts, his expertise is in design and construction administration work for higher education, housing, healthcare and community clients. Mr. Brown's portfolio includes a broad range of clients and projects, from small interior retrofits to multi-million-dollar office buildings and large-scale additions and renovations. Mr. Brown is an active member of the Syracuse and Central New York community. In 2017 he was named one of Central New York's 40 Under 40 winners. Mr. Brown was in the Leadership Greater Syracuse class of 2015, an organization dedicated to inspiring people to make a difference in the community where they live and work. He currently serves on the Town of DeWitt Planning Board and the Housing Visions Construction Board.

A native of Maine, Nathan has a Bachelor's of Architecture degree from Syracuse University and a Construction Management minor from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

## **Patricia Burke**

### **Sessions: Planning and Zoning: An Introduction, Walkable Communities, and Community Design Tools**

Patricia Burke is a local government 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.

## **John Camp**

### **Session: NYS Harmful Algae Blooms and the Planning Response**

John Camp leads the Infrastructure and Environment service group at the C&S Companies. John manages business markets that include environmental remediation, stormwater, wastewater, potable water, site development, and other consulting services to municipalities. John sits on the Board of Directors of C&S Engineers, Inc. John has been a part of various projects that involve hydrology, hydraulics, stormwater management and erosion control, site design, project review, and storm and sanitary sewer design. John has created drainage master plans that include consideration of hydrologic and hydraulic impacts of projected development, design of potential drainage conveyances, and design of stormwater management facilities to mitigate increased stormwater runoff both during and after development. John is a licensed Professional Engineer in several states. He is a certified floodplain manager, a certified professional in stormwater quality, and a certified professional in erosion and sediment control. John serves as the Town Engineer for the Town of Skaneateles, where the management and planning of land uses and the subsequent effect on lake water quality is of paramount concern.

## **Diane Carlton**

### **Session: Understanding the New Changes to SEQRA**

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.

## **Mark Coon**

### **Session: Small Cell Wireless Network Technology and Planning: Presentation and Panel Discussion**

Mark Coon is a Principal Engineer with Verizon Wireless' Upstate NY Network Engineering team. His primary responsibilities include working to obtain permitting and other approvals from local municipalities, agencies and utilities for the deployment of wireless small cells. Mark is also a licensed land surveyor and spent 20 years in consulting engineering in Upstate NY prior to joining Verizon.

## **Khristopher Dodson**

### **Session: Where's the Money and How to Get It**

Khristopher Dodson is Associate Director for the Environmental Finance Center. Khris provides technical assistance to local municipalities on topics related to resiliency, comprehensive planning, workforce planning, stormwater management and other topics related to local infrastructure management and finance. Khris has master's degrees from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Syracuse University.

## **Christopher Eastman**

### **Sessions: Planning and Zoning: An Introduction, Walkable Communities, and Community Design Tools**

Christopher Eastman has been manager of the Local Government Training program at the New York Department of State since 2009. He received a master's degree in regional planning from the State University of New York at Albany in 2002 and has also worked as a city planner and as a county planner.

## **Timothy A. Frateschi**

### **Sessions: Small Cell Wireless Network Technology and Planning: Presentation and Panel Discussion and Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning**

Mr. Frateschi is a Member of the Baldwin, Sutphen & Frateschi, PLLC law firm.

Mr. Frateschi was trained as a corporate attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC. He was a long-time Member in the law firm of Harris Beach PLLC where he practiced in the Public Finance & Economic Development Practice Group. He represents governmental, quasi-governmental agencies and Industrial Development Agencies in all aspects of municipal and economic development law.

Mr. Frateschi is also the Attorney for the Town of Manlius where he represents the Town in all areas of general municipal law, which has included State Environmental Quality Review Act review, municipal bonding, labor and employment, collective bargaining agreements, creating special districts, and negotiating tax certiorari cases. Mr. Frateschi knows all sides of the municipal table, being the Chairman of the Planning Board in the Town of Salina for nearly a decade and representing developers in front of Boards. Other municipal clients include the Town of Lysander, Town of Salina, Town of Elbridge, Town of Fabius, and the Village of Fabius.

Before resuming his private practice in 2015, Mr. Frateschi served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office. This experience has provided significant and effective trial experience that he can use in all areas of his legal practice.

From 1997-1999, Mr. Frateschi served Governor George E. Pataki as the Regional Director for the Empire State Development Corporation, where he oversaw all state related economic development activities within Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties. From 1992-1997, Mr. Frateschi was chief of staff for State Senator John A. DeFrancisco.

## **Sam Gordon**

### **Session: Whatever Floats Your Zone: A Case Study of the DeWitt Mixed-Use Overlay District**

Sam Gordon is the Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of DeWitt and a life-long Central New Yorker. He is passionate about all that our community has to offer. Since arriving in DeWitt in 2015, Sam has set out to reinvent the Town through initiatives like Moving DeWitt, Elevating Erie, and the Mixed Use Village Floating Overlay District (now that is a mouthful!) that have focused on improving alternative mobility, sense of place, and quality of life within the Town. When he is not busy sorting through the challenges of the local development process, he can be found running about with his wife and three amazing daughters; cycling in the great outdoors; or trying his hand (and other's ears) on the acoustic guitar.

## **Kevin Hanna**

### **Session: Small Cell Wireless Network Technology and Planning: Presentation and Panel Discussion**

Kevin Hanna is Regional Director, External Affairs, for AT&T in Upstate NY. In his position, Mr. Hanna is responsible for the company's communication to government officials and agencies as well as community engagement. He is an investor board member in several chambers of commerce, co-chair of the CenterState CEO Government Relations Committee and is an active member of not-for-profit organizations in Central and Western NY.

Mr. Hanna's professional experience includes both business and technical disciplines. He began his career as a computer programmer in New York City and was Marketing Director for Xerox Corporation in New Jersey. A 20-year wireless industry veteran, Mr. Hanna has held leadership positions in Marketing and Network, with focus on Voice and Data Product Development, Cost Management and Customer Lifecycle Management.

Mr. Hanna has an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and Information Systems from Pace University and received his MBA from New York University. He and his wife and children currently reside in the Buffalo area.

## **Daniel Kwasnowski**

### **Sessions: SOCPA Hour with Dan and Allison and Keynote Facilitator**

Dan Kwasnowski is the Planning Director for SOCPA and lives in Marcellus with his wife Karen and two boys Jonah and Colden. Dan is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and has been working as a planner in varying applications for 17 years. Dan was the Director of Planning for the Town of Dryden for 8 years and has practiced as a consulting planner for the last 6 years. Dan also has experience as a River Restoration Specialist, Hydropower Regulatory and Environmental Specialist, and more recently as the Executive Director of the Lake Placid Land Conservancy.

## **Donald J. Leopold**

### **Session: Best Trees for the Most Benefits**

Donald J. Leopold earned his Ph.D. in forest ecology from Purdue University, and his M.S.F. in forest ecology and B.S. in ornamental horticulture/nursery management from the University of Kentucky. He is a Distinguished Teaching Professor at SUNY-ESF and has served as Chair in the Department of Environmental and Forest Biology for nearly fourteen years. Don has published nearly seventy journal papers, six books (including Trees of New York State), and many additional publications, all generally about topics in forest and wetland ecology, and native plants. His research primarily focuses on the drivers of diversity and rarity at micro to macro scales; the restoration of unique plant communities on highly degraded sites; and applications of this research to sustainable, urban landscapes and green solutions.

## **Lewis McCaffrey**

### **Session: NYS Harmful Algae Blooms and the Planning Response**

Lewis McCaffrey originates from Cambridgeshire in England. He obtained degrees in geology and mineral exploration in Great Britain, then completed graduate work in South Africa on groundwater chemistry and health. His doctoral work looked at the occurrence of high fluoride groundwater and its effects on dental fluorosis. Upon returning to the UK he worked for a large water utility and the British military as an environmental manager, and as a humanitarian worker in war-torn Angola, then migrated with his US wife to Central New York 6 years ago. After teaching a broad range of environmental classes at SUNY ESF, Clarkson University and Le Moyne College, Dr McCaffrey joined NYS DEC's newly-established Finger Lakes Water Hub in 2017 as a senior research scientist. His work combines GIS, statistics, modeling, field work, environmental health and limnology in seeking to protect water quality in the Finger Lakes.

## **David Nowak**

### **Session: Best Trees for the Most Benefits**

David Nowak is a Senior Scientist and Team Leader with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station in Syracuse, NY. His research investigates urban forest structure, health, and change, and its effect on human health and environmental quality. He has authored over 300 publications and leads teams developing the i-Tree software suite that quantifies the benefits and values from vegetation.

## **Jamie L. Sutphen**

### **Session: Whatever Floats Your Zone: A Case Study of the DeWitt Mixed-Use Overlay District**

Jamie L. Sutphen is a partner in the Syracuse law firm of Baldwin, Sutphen & Frateschi, PLLC. She focuses her practice in the areas of Real Property and Municipal Law. Ms. Sutphen maintains an active real estate practice representing lenders, purchasers and sellers in residential and commercial transactions. Ms. Sutphen represents applicants and developers before municipal boards and also maintains a practice as counsel for various town, zoning and planning boards. She has represented clients in a variety of Article 78 matters in the NY Supreme and Appellate Courts. Ms. Sutphen is a member of the Onondaga County Planning Federation, the Real Property Section of the Onondaga County Bar Association and is member of the bars in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York.