



Onondaga County
Planning Federation
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28th Annual Planning Symposium

March 9, 2016

SESSIONS

A. Public Meetings and Hearings

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

Kevin Gilligan, Esq., Senior Counsel, Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC; Municipal Attorney

This session addresses the goals and requirements associated with holding meetings, in contrast to the purposes and legal requirements surrounding a public hearing. It explores the role of the chairperson in conducting effective meetings and hearings, and includes a discussion of how to manage the public and the media in the context of a hearing or meeting. Also addressed are aspects of the Open Meetings Law, including executive sessions, quorums, minutes, and public notices.

Code Enforcement Officers may receive 1 hour of In-Service Credit.

B. Stormwater Planning and Infrastructure Improvement

Kristopher Dodson, Associate Director, Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (SU-EFC)

How can we reduce runoff from private property to public rights-of-way? What happens at the intersection of roads and stormwater infrastructure? This talk will cover how to manage stormwater through an asset management approach to mapping and assessing this infrastructure, and then begin an improvement process to ensure all stormwater infrastructure is right-sized and in good condition to reduce localized flooding, road maintenance and damages from storm events.

C. Going Solar Together with Solarize CNY

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

The use of solar energy has taken off, increasing more than 300% in Central NY and statewide in the last three years. This tremendous growth is due in part to Solarize campaigns. Solarize is a community-focused marketing campaign that makes it easier and more affordable to go solar by combining four main components: competitively-selected installers, discount pricing, community-driven outreach, and a limited-time offer. In this session, you will learn how the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board has worked with municipalities and other partners to manage Solarize campaigns that have accounted for 25% of the region's new solar capacity over the last few years. You will also learn about the new campaign for 2016 and how it will take advantage of the state's new "shared solar" policy to make solar available to more customers than ever before.

D. Planning and Zoning: A Brief Introduction

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

Erin Thomas, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

The most elementary of the Training Unit's course offerings, Planning and Zoning: A Brief Introduction is designed for new members of both planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. The course provides a basic overview of the functions of planning boards and zoning boards of appeals and the land use tools they work with, the role of the comprehensive plan, procedures for holding meetings and hearings, and the enforcement of the boards' decisions.

Code Enforcement Officers may receive 1 hour of In-Service Credit.

E. The Expanding Role of Planning and Planners in State Governance

Paul Beyer, State Director of Smart Growth Planning, New York State Department of State

Jaime Reppert, MLA, Coastal Resource Specialist, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, New York State Department of State

Julie Sweet, Revitalization Specialist, New York State Department of State

Planning opportunities are proliferating among state agencies and Governor's initiatives. The DOS Office of Planning & Development has provided planning grants and experience to several Governor's initiatives—including the NY Rising storm recovery and resiliency program and the Governor's Regional Economic Development Councils. And NYSERDA has gotten into the planning business through the Cleaner, Greener Communities from the energy/climate perspective. The speakers will talk about planning grant opportunities at DOS (primarily Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and Brownfield Opportunity Area) and NYSERDA, as well as the role of planning across state agencies.

F. Affordable Housing in Onondaga County

Sally Santangelo, Executive Director, CNY Fair Housing

Stephanie Pasquale, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, City of Syracuse

The Syracuse region recently received the dubious distinction of being the number one area in the country for African-Americans and Hispanics living in concentrated poverty and in the top five for Whites living in concentrated poverty. Affordable housing opportunities outside of the City of Syracuse are currently limited to a handful of scattered sites and senior housing. This session focuses on why addressing this issue in a timely and cohesive manner is vital to the overall success of our region and will explain the legal obligation of municipalities to develop more economically and socially diverse communities. The presenters will also discuss practical ways in which municipalities can encourage the development of affordable housing in their jurisdictions.

G. Enforcement of Zoning and Other Laws

Erin Thomas, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

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

Municipalities have various regulations that are an extension of the police power that aren't necessarily enforced by the police – zoning, property maintenance, and noise regulations, for example. This session reviews how these regulations are enforced, with discussion of the relationship between the enforcement officer and the review boards, the effect of an appeal of an enforcement action to the zoning board of appeals, and judicial enforcement of violations.

Code Enforcement Officers may receive 1 hour of In-Service Credit.

H. Overview of the SEQR Process

Kent P. Sanders, Deputy Chief Permit Administrator, Division of Environmental Permits, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Elizabeth Tracy, Deputy Regional Permit Administrator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

This session will provide an overview of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process from the time an application appears before your organization to the time you issue an approval or permit for an activity. It will discuss your initial review of the project, the information you may need from the applicant to make your final determination, how to avoid some of the common SEQR pitfalls (for example, segmentation), and what it means to take a "hard look" at environmental concerns. The session will focus primarily on review of projects, coordination with other agencies and citizen groups, and consideration of environmental review in your actions as a representative of local government.

I. Consensus – The Local Government Modernization Commission's Options & Preliminary Recommendations Report – Make Your Voice Heard

Hon. Mark Nicotra, Supervisor, Town of Salina

Hon. Mark Olson, Mayor, Village of Fayetteville

Kathy Murphy Pietrafesa, Board Chair, SYRACUSE 20/20

Consensus – the Commission on Local Government Modernization – was launched in 2014. The Commission's goal is to shape a vision for more effective and efficient governance across Onondaga County. In January 2015, Consensus released the data-based benchmark study of the current condition of local government in the region, called Who Does What & What it Costs. In January 2016, Consensus released the Options Report and Preliminary Committee Recommendations. The most recent report is comprised of an honest assessment of local government services along with suggested options for increasing collaboration and innovation at all levels of government.

Join Hon. Mark Nicotra, Town of Salina Supervisor, Hon. Mark Olson, Mayor of the Village of Fayetteville and Kathy Murphy Pietrafesa, Board Chair of SYRACUSE 20/20 for a lively discussion of the Consensus Options Report and Preliminary Committee Recommendations. Consensus is eager to get your feedback on what you like, what you don't like and how the options and draft recommendations would impact you and your community. No recommendations have been finalized and so now is the time to be heard. Your voice can help shape the recommendations for Better Government included in final Consensus report.

J. Solar Energy Regulation

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

Erin Thomas, Land Use Training Specialist, New York State Department of State

This course addresses the authority of local governments to regulate photovoltaic solar energy systems – from modest residential and agricultural systems to large-scale institutional and commercial solar arrays and sun farms. Environmental and economic benefits and aesthetic challenges are discussed, and tools such as the New York State Unified Solar Permit are provided to allow solar arrays and regulate their impacts.

K. Community Planning and Design – From Rural to Urban

Jean Gleisner, Program Manager, Community Development and Comprehensive Planning, CNY Regional Planning & Development Board

This session will present some of the best techniques in use in community planning and design practice including how to preserve your Town's rural character through 'Conservation Subdivision Design Process', and introduction to 'Shared Space' for reconfiguring transportation at the heart of Community. 'Shared Space' is essentially an open air plaza designed for various kinds of commuters to share. It is an innovative idea conceived by a Dutch traffic engineer that relies completely on intuitive thinking while creating more cautious and thoughtful travelers. It has been implemented in Europe and the U.S. and used to slow down automobile traffic, reduce accidents, and lessen travel times.

L. Anatomy of a Village Overlay – Baldwinsville's Four Corners

Robert F. Baldwin, Jr., Esq., Partner, Baldwin & Sutphen, LLP

Hon. Dick Clarke, Mayor, Village of Baldwinsville

Gregg Humphrey, Code Enforcement Officer, Village of Baldwinsville

Terrie King, Planning Board Member, Village of Baldwinsville

Hon. Joe Saraceni, Supervisor, Town of Lysander; former Mayor and Planning Board Member, Village of Baldwinsville

This session will discuss how Baldwinsville is preserving the core of its Village through the use of an overlay district. Creating a distinctive character in the historic center of the Village is a project that the Planning Board and the Village Board has been working on for some time, and it resulted in the adoption of the Four Corners Overlay District legislation this fall. The panel will discuss the project from its inception through the ultimate adoption of the legislation and discuss the details of the enhancements and restrictions in the legislation so that the historic nature of this Four Corners area will be preserved.

Closing Plenary Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning

Timothy A. Frateschi, Esq., Member, Frateschi Law Firm, PLLC

This session will summarize recent cases pertaining to land use and explore the implications of these cases on land use regulation at the local level.