



Onondaga County
Planning Federation
est. 1947

29th Annual Planning Symposium

March 2, 2017

SESSIONS

A. Site Plan Review

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

Christopher Eastman, Land Use Training Manager, New York State Department of State

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.

B. ReZone Syracuse

Owen Kerney, Assistant Director, City Planning Division, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency

Heather Lamendola, Assistant Director, City Zoning Division, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency

The City of Syracuse's zoning ordinance has not been comprehensively updated since the 1960s. A lot has changed since then and the *ReZone Syracuse* project will comprehensively revise and update the zoning ordinance and map to guide future land use and development in the City. Ensuring high-quality, attractive design, promoting environmentally sustainable land use patterns, transportation options and site plans, and ensuring development regulations and review processes are efficient and predictable are primary goals of this project. This session will discuss these goals in greater detail, present our work to date, and describe how the project will be implemented. We look forward to sharing our experience with others considering updates to their zoning rules and regulations.

C. The I-81 Viaduct Project

Mark E. Frechette, Project Director, I-81 Viaduct Project, New York State Department of Transportation

This session will provide an update on the recent status of the I-81 Viaduct Project. The I-81 Viaduct project is one of the largest single transportation projects that DOT has ever had to address. There are many challenges to provide a new transportation system that will address multiple deficiencies but also provide a solution that enhances the livability, sustainability, and economic vitality of greater Syracuse.

D. Planning and Zoning: An Introduction

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

Christopher Eastman, Land Use Training Manager, New York State Department of State

The most elementary of the Training Unit's course offerings, Planning and Zoning: An 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.

E. Municipal Transportation Planning: Projects, Tools, and Opportunities

James D'Agostino, Director, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

Mario Colone, Program Manager, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

Meghan Vitale, Principal Transportation Planner, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for all of Onondaga County and a few towns in neighboring counties. As with all MPOs in the country, the SMTC is charged with conducting transportation planning for municipalities and agencies in our region, and programming federal surface transportation funding for capital projects. In this session, planners from the SMTC will explain who participates in MPO committees and how the MPO functions, and will describe some of their current studies. SMTC staff will also explain the process through which municipalities can request planning assistance from the SMTC and the types of studies that SMTC could complete for municipalities in our region.

Bryan Roy, PMP, Commercial Sector Team Lead and Principal Engineer, Energetics Sustainable Transportation Solutions

Victoria McGarril, Assistant Project Coordinator, Energetics Sustainable Transportation Solutions

Municipal planning boards are in an influential position to recommend and encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in their jurisdictions. New York State expects plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) ownership to increase rapidly over the next few years, causing a demand increase for charging stations. To prepare communities for an increase in PEVs, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is supporting a project to share resources on PEVs and their charging stations with municipal planning board members so they are better prepared to facilitate this technological advancement. This presentation will provide an overview of PEV technology and benefits, the role municipal planning boards have in supporting this emerging sustainable mobility solution, and resources being developed to guide planning boards on the installation of charging stations in their communities.

F. Floodplain Basics: Development Requirements, Maps, and Insurance

William Nechamen, CFM, Chief, Floodplain Management Section, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

This session will review the function of floodplains and the regulatory requirements when development encroaches on floodplains. With new floodplain maps in Onondaga County, there is growing awareness and concern about what the maps mean, how community officials, property owners and developers can get accurate information, what happens if somebody disagrees with the flood maps, and flood insurance implications. The session will go over the basic requirements for design and construction in floodplains, as required in the Uniform Code of New York and FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. We will include easy to follow instructions about how to find a location on FEMA's flood maps and what the mapping and related information means. We will go over options should a municipality or property owner feel that there are errors in the maps. And we will provide some basic flood insurance information, including what to tell somebody who finds themselves newly mapped into a flood zone.

G. Hot Button Land Uses

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

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

Local governments are not able to regulate all uses the same way: some uses have special statutory protection or rules established through case law and require special consideration, such as religious uses, mining, and telecommunications facilities. Other uses might be new to the local officials attempting to regulate them, such as solar energy facilities, barn weddings, and short-term rentals. This course is an overview of some of the land uses that many local officials find challenging, along with the statutory rules and case law associated with them and options for regulating them.

H. Overview of the SEQR Process

David Bimber, Regional Permit Administrator, 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. Land and Water Resource Conservation – Issues and Strategies

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

This session will present recent projects and tools for open space planning using conservation-related geographic characteristics. A tool for use by local planning and zoning boards in guiding wise local land use decision-making will be introduced to support prioritizing high conservation-value lands and long term agricultural sustainability. A new five County plan that envisions a regionally inter-linked network of bikeways, public waterfront access, scenic and natural areas, working landscapes, and cultural and heritage areas will be introduced (CNY Regional Recreation & Heritage Plan).

Zachary Odell, Director of Land Protection, Finger Lakes Land Trust

The Finger Lakes Land Trust recently released a report, titled *Lakes, Farms & Forests Forever*, based on a year-long comprehensive assessment of the region's natural resources coupled with input from 40 non-profit organizations, county and regional planning departments, and government conservation agencies. The report highlights ten priority conservation strategies for the region, emphasizing the need to address both excessive nutrient runoff into the region's lakes and sprawling rural development that threatens farmland, vistas, water quality, and recreational resources, and calling for an investment of \$100 million over the next decade to address identified threats.

J. Sign Regulation

Christopher Eastman, Land Use Training Manager, New York State Department of State

Nadine C. Bell, Esq., Partner, Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC; Municipal Attorney

Sign control isn't just a zoning issue—when regulating signage, municipalities must be careful not to violate free speech. This course reveals how signage can be regulated for aesthetics and explores the boundaries of what in signage municipalities may and may not regulate, through references to case law. The course also offers tips on drafting sign regulations, which includes regulation of billboards and other off-premises signs and elimination of nonconforming signs.

K. Save Money and Improve the Environment with the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program

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

The Clean Energy Communities Program recognizes and rewards village, town, city, and county governments in New York State for reducing greenhouse gases and implementing clean energy. This program provides tools, resources, and technical assistance to help local governments implement clean energy actions that can save taxpayer dollars, create jobs, and improve the environment. Local governments across New York State can apply to the program to gain recognition and rewards for their communities. Communities that complete four out of the 10 High Impact Actions and meet all other eligibility requirements are designated as a Clean Energy Community and become eligible to apply for grants of up to \$250,000 to fund additional clean energy projects.

L. Case Study: Elevating Erie

Samuel Gordon, Director of Planning and Zoning, Town of DeWitt

Owen Kerney, Assistant Director, City Planning Division, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency

Joe Sisko, Founding Partner, LOCUS

Elevating Erie is a collaborative effort between the City of Syracuse and the Town of DeWitt to address a portion of the 14 mile gap in the Erie Canalway Trail System within Central New York. While the original Erie Canal through DeWitt and Syracuse has been paved over for 100 years, the corridor has remained significant to the region by transporting people and goods. The corridor now has the potential to become part of the longest continuous bicycle and pedestrian trail in North America. In the fall of 2015, the City of Syracuse and Town of DeWitt launched Elevating Erie by issuing an open call for ideas through a competition to identify innovative ways to stimulate and guide the future development of the Canalway corridor within both the Town and the City. This jointly-sponsored solicitation, made possible with funding from the New York State Department of State and the Central New York Community Foundation, solicited ideas from the international design community. 64 different proposals were received representing ideas from 16 different countries. The ideas competition was a first step towards initiating a community discussion about the importance of the canal corridor, and how best to reclaim its heritage in a celebratory and stimulating fashion.

Closing Plenary Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning

Timothy A. Frateschi, Esq., Member, Frateschi, Schiano & Germano, 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.