

30th Annual Planning Symposium

March 1, 2018 • Marriott Syracuse Downtown
SESSIONS

A. ZBA Overview

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 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 zoning interpretations. Meeting procedures and notice requirements will also be discussed, along with the ZBA's relationship with enforcement officials and the planning board, and the importance of making good findings.

* Please note ZBA Overview will run through the 8:30 – 9:30 and 9:40 – 10:40 session periods.

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 *ReZone Syracuse* project will comprehensively revise and update the City's zoning ordinance and map to guide future land use and development in the City. The goals of the project include ensuring high-quality, attractive design, promoting environmentally sustainable land use patterns, transportation options and site plans, and assuring development regulations and review processes are efficient and predictable. This multi-year project is nearing completion and this session will provide an overview of the project, present work to date, and describe how the project will be implemented upon completion. The presenters look forward to sharing experiences and lessons learned with other municipalities considering updates to zoning rules and regulations.

C. Solar Ready Communities

Houtan Moaveni, Deputy Director, NY-Sun Initiative, and NYS Distributed Generation Interconnection Ombudsman, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) recently released a revised and updated version of the New York Solar Guidebook for local governments. The Guidebook provides information, tools, and step-by-step instructions to support local government efforts to develop solar energy resources and create clean energy jobs. In addition, free one-on-one technical assistance is available to help local governments become solar-ready, from updating your comprehensive plan and zoning to land use tools for siting solar while protecting valuable farmland.

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

By updating planning and zoning regulations, streamlining building and electrical permits, implementing sensible payment-in-lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements, and installing solar to benefit their own facilities, local governments in Central New York are expanding the use of the region's solar energy resources. This presentation will cover the ways that the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board is working with dozens of communities to make it easier for residents, businesses and municipalities to go solar.

D. Regulatory 101

Judy Robinson, Biologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This presentation is an overview and clarification of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional responsibilities and regulatory program under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The program is targeted for Code Enforcement Officers, Planning and Zoning Boards, Industrial/Economic Development Boards, Highway Departments, and other municipal officials. We will discuss the permit application process and provide helpful preparation tools including common online resources such as the Web Soil Survey and the State Historic Preservation website. We will also clarify use of the New York State Freshwater Wetland Maps and the National Wetland Inventory maps, and will discuss their usefulness and limitations. Interactive participation and questions are encouraged.

E. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Their Positive Impact on CNY and the Mohawk Valley

Ret. General Marke "Hoot" Gibson, President, NUAIR Alliance

Craig Marcinkowski, Director of Business Development, Gryphon Sensors

Rick Clonan, VP of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity (CenterState CEO)

New York State is committed to growing the UAS industry in Central New York and the Mohawk Valley over the next 5 years and is making major investments to accelerate commercial UAS development in the state. Fueled by CNY Rising, our region is a national leader in deploying UAS for commercial and public use. Join Ret. General Marke "Hoot" Gibson, President of the NUAIR Alliance, Craig Marcinkowski, Director of Business Development at Gryphon Sensors and Rick Clonan, VP of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at CenterState CEO, as they discuss the key initiatives currently underway in this exciting industry.

F. 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.

G. Is Enhanced Transit Viable in the Region?

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 the area's MPO, 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, staff from the SMTC will highlight their recently completed multi-year transit study, the Syracuse Metropolitan Area Regional Transit Study Phase 1 (SMART 1), which examined the feasibility of Bus Rapid Transit and Light Rail Transit along two corridors in the area. Additional transit related efforts performed by the SMTC will be presented as well to provide attendees with an overview of transit service utilization.

H. Planning for Community Resiliency

Khristopher Dodson, Associate Director, Environmental Finance Center

This session will help communities plan for an uncertain future. Attendees will gain an understanding of potential extreme weather impacts and other environmental and economic threats in their region and learn about tools to help identify risks as well as manage and plan for impacts. We will discuss ways decision makers can think about/plan for resiliency and some related funding opportunities.

I. Record Keeping

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

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

Napoleon Bonaparte once said, "History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon." The same is true of minutes, findings, and the decisions that are issued by planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. Department of State presenters will discuss why board members and support staff should strive to make records that are of value to enforcement personnel, applicants, municipal attorneys, and current and future boards. The course then turns its focus to the components of the record: minutes, findings, and the decision document.

J. Stepping Through the SEQRA Process

Diane Carlton, AICP, Retired Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

This session will assist local boards in understanding and complying with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). SEQRA can be complex for new board members as well as current members as it has a great many rules and regulations. We will conquer your SEQRA fears and you will leave confident in your ability to work with SEQRA as part of your job.

K. Incorporating Food Systems in Planning

Matthew Potteiger, Professor of Landscape Architecture, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Evan Weissman, Assistant Professor of Food Studies, Department of Public Health, Food Studies, and Nutrition, Syracuse University

Planners are taking a fresh look at the importance of food systems for agricultural preservation, economic development, environmental quality, and public health. This session presents the work of the FoodPlan CNY project, a collaborative effort funded by the Onondaga County Agriculture Council. This project illustrates ways of assessing the impacts of food systems and strategies for realizing opportunities for improving food access, environmental and economic viability, and coordination of the local and regional food system.

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.

Historic Hotel Tour

Hotel Staff, Marriott Syracuse Downtown

Join us for a guided tour of the most documented and folklore filled building in all of Syracuse. As we stroll through the ballrooms and lesser known areas of importance hear the stories of the early years of this grand Ol' Gal from the roaring twenties to famous guests and musicians that have graced its hallways. It may have a brand new look but the memories and tales of this renaissance revival beauty remain unchanged.