

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

March 7, 2019 • Marriott Syracuse Downtown  
SESSIONS

### **A. Planning and Zoning: An Introduction** (Please note this session will run through the 8:30-9:30 & 9:40-10:40 session periods.)

**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.

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

**Sam Gordon**, Director of Planning and Zoning, Town of DeWitt

**Jamie Sutphen**, Esq., Partner, Baldwin, Sutphen & Frateschi, PLLC; Planning Board Attorney, Town of DeWitt

**Nathan Brown**, Associate and Project Architect, HOLT Architects; Planning Board Member, Town of DeWitt

How do we enable the development of new "village like" centers within suburban communities? We will be taking a look at a pending project that proposes to utilize the Town of DeWitt's newly enacted floating overlay code. The goal of DeWitt's Mixed-Use Village Floating Overlay District is to encourage a new development pattern within designated areas of the Town by allowing for the creation of multi-story projects that utilize a combination of commercial and residential uses. These "village like" centers should encourage and favor pedestrian activity with active streetscapes and varied amenities. In order to enact this new legislation the Town had to balance the desire to encourage mixed-use development with existing private property rights. This session will provide information on the various planning objectives and market forces, as well as legal considerations for the new overlay. These unique challenges will be explored within the context of a proposed project in the Town of DeWitt.

### **C. Where's the Money and How to Get It**

**Khristopher Dodson**, Associate Director, Environmental Finance Center

This session will provide an overview of popular funding programs available through the NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) as well as additional federal funding opportunities for municipalities. The session will also include advice and tips on grant writing and provide a brief overview of the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) and the CFA application process.

### **D. Accessing the Benefits of Historic Preservation**

**Kate Auwaerter**, Preservation Planner, City Planning Division, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency (SOCPA)

**Julian Adams**, Director, Community Preservation Services Bureau, New York State Historic Preservation Office

Across New York State, the social and economic benefits of historic preservation can be seen in the revitalization of downtowns and main streets and the adaptive reuse of former "white elephant" buildings. As the modern preservation movement has passed the 50 year mark, attitudes about preserving historic resources have shifted. With the introduction of incentives such as the historic tax credit program, the revitalization and reuse of historic resources is creating opportunities for new investment, supporting local tax bases, encouraging heritage tourism and amplifying communities' sense of pride of place. Staff from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the City of Syracuse will provide an overview of the importance of historic preservation at the local level and describe the tools for historic resource management, including the available state and federal incentive programs.

## **E. Best Trees for the Most Benefits**

**Donald J. Leopold**, Ph.D., Distinguished Teaching Professor and Chair, Dept. of Environmental and Forest Biology, SUNY-ESF

**David Nowak**, Ph.D., Senior Scientist and Team Leader, Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service

This session will discuss the ecological and economical benefits of municipal trees, and some of the best native and non-native trees for the central New York urban environment, e.g., along streets, near buildings, and in parks. Ecological functions of trees, like carbon sequestration, absorption of stormwater, reducing urban heat island effects, and improving air quality and public health, also provide significant economical benefits. Many different tree species can be planted, depending on site characteristics and desired aesthetics. Some of the best tree species and rationale for their selection will be discussed.

## **F. Walkable Communities**

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

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

Increasing the availability and attractiveness of pedestrian facilities can help revitalize downtowns, provide an alternative means of transportation, and encourage a healthier lifestyle. This session provides an overview of several common municipal land use tools (zoning, site plan review, subdivision regulations, and special use permit). The program then explores how these tools can be tailored to improve pedestrian conditions by the requirement of sidewalks, pathways and other pedestrian facilities, as well as through the encouragement of better site design.

## **G. NYS Harmful Algae Blooms and the Planning Response**

**Lewis McCaffrey**, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, Finger Lakes Water Hub, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

This session will discuss the definition of Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs), how the NYS DEC monitors HABs along with citizen scientists, and the ways that these blooms can harm people, the environment, and the economy. Dr. McCaffrey will also discuss the Governor's HABs initiative and the latest science and innovations.

**John T. Camp**, P.E., CFM, CPESC, CPSWQ, Group Manager, C&S Companies

John will focus on land use planning, site design, and policy considerations in areas where the protection of water quality is of concern. The presentation will include certain aspects of policy that have been successful as well as the challenge of balancing responsible development and preservation.

## **H. SOCPA Hour with Dan and Allison**

**Daniel Kwasnowski**, AICP, Director, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency (SOCPA)

This session will introduce two of Onondaga County's emerging plans – a new countywide plan and the Onondaga County Empire Trail Local Economic Opportunity Plan. Dan will outline the Department's strategy for creating a new countywide plan, including engagement strategies and plan themes. Dan will also discuss an emerging Empire Trail Local Economic Opportunity Plan that will examine and provide a plan for how communities and local businesses along the soon to be constructed Empire Trail can use this significant investment to their economic advantage.

**Allison Bodine**, Planner, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency (SOCPA)

The Onondaga County Planning Board (OCPB) operates under NYS General Municipal Law to advise local boards on the potential inter-municipal or countywide impact of local land use decisions. Allison will discuss the inner workings on the OCPB and highlight some upcoming changes to the OCPB process.

## **I. Community Design Tools**

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

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

Municipal officials have a variety of tools available to them to help shape the appearance of their community. At this session tools ranging from simple design guidelines to landscape ordinances and architectural review boards are discussed. We'll look at some practical approaches that can be applied to both public and private development, and explain some basic design concepts.

## **J. Understanding the New Changes to SEQRA**

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

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has made some major changes to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) that make it easier for developers to promote economic growth in the state while continuing New York's legacy of being protective of the environment. These changes are some of the most sweeping made in the law's 40+ year history so you'll want to know how to apply them correctly.

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

### **Panelists:**

**Mark Coon**, Principal Engineer - Network Real Estate/Regulatory, Verizon Wireless

**Kevin Hanna**, Regional Director, External Affairs, AT&T Regional Director, External Affairs, AT&T

### **Moderator:**

**Timothy A. Frateschi**, Esq., Member, Baldwin, Sutphen & Frateschi, PLLC

Mark will discuss current trends in wireless network use and the need for small cell wireless network technology to address both data capacity and the introduction of new wireless technology such as 5G and the Internet of Things (IoT). Tim will provide practical and legal insight in conjunction with Mr. Coon's presentation regarding issues and concerns municipal boards should consider when siting micro-cell facilities.

## **Closing Plenary Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning**

**Timothy A. Frateschi**, Esq., Member, Baldwin, Sutphen & Frateschi, 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.