



25th Annual Planning Symposium

March 14, 2013

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A. Green Infrastructure Projects at Work in CNY

Ellen Hahn, CPESC, CPSWQ, CMS4S, Stormwater Control Specialist, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Madison Quinn, Public Information Specialist, Save the Rain, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection

This session will present an overview of Green Infrastructure projects that have been constructed in Central New York and are hard at work providing stormwater runoff reduction benefits. We will look at several projects that are all in compliance with the NYS Stormwater Management Design Manual criteria and are easy for municipalities to maintain. This session will also provide an update on Onondaga County's Save the Rain Program, focusing particularly on the Suburban Green Infrastructure Program.

B. The Economics of Smart Growth: Developer Perspectives

Joseph H. Hucko, President, Washington St. Partners

Christine Stevens, Deputy Director, JGB Properties, LLC

This session will present case studies of specific developments that leveraged the financial incentives of smart growth for the benefit of the project and the overall community. It will illustrate end users' willingness to be part of smart growth developments and the supporting economic rationale. The session will discuss how infill developments and smart growth offer diverse development opportunities, mitigating risk(s) for the developer and the community.

C. Case Study: Local Village Redevelopment Initiatives

Mark Atkinson, Mayor, Village of North Syracuse

Mary Burgoon, AICP, Principal Planner and Associate, CHA Engineers and Planners

Toni Kleist, Staff Architect, Commercial Rehabilitation Program, Onondaga County Community Development

This session includes a discussion led by the Mayor of the Village of North Syracuse regarding the Village's recent efforts to redefine its Village Center. The Village Center Master Plan will be the foundation of the discussion with a focus on recommendations for improving the Center's market strategy, continued streetscape improvements, on-going property owner reinvestment, shared parking solutions, tax incentives and much more. The Commercial Rehabilitation Program administered by the Onondaga County Community Development Office will be highlighted. Eligible activities of this program include business façade treatments and signs, structural improvements, energy conservation measures and much more.

D. Community Design Tools

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

Jane E. Rice, JD, AICP, Project Manager/Land Use & Community Planner, edr Companies

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.

(Attorneys may receive 1.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education in the area of Professional Practice)

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

E. Understanding and Using the New SEQRA Environmental Assessment Forms

Diane Carlton, AICP, Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

The DEC has adopted new Environmental Assessment Forms (EAF) which will go into effect on April 1, 2013. Learn what new information is required by the forms, how to answer questions the forms pose and work with a proposed project using the new forms.

F. The Wastewater System in Onondaga County

Matthew J. Millea, Deputy County Executive for Physical Services, Onondaga County

Tom Rhoads, Commissioner, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection

This session will provide an overview of Onondaga County's Save the Rain program, including the Suburban Green Infrastructure Program (SGIP), and the sanitary sewer topics woven throughout the County Executive's Sustainable Development Plan and other sustainability initiatives. It will include a discussion of development and sanitary sewer infrastructure, highlighting issues associated with sewer pump stations, wet weather capacity issues at treatment plants and flow control assets, and how the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection (WEP) is working with the Towns and Villages to avoid consent orders or regulatory moratoriums to new sewer connections that would halt all development and add burden to redevelopment. The session will help planners understand the long term goals of sustainable partnership in protecting the receiving waters of our County.

G. Planning and Zoning: An Introduction

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

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

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

(Attorneys may receive 1.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education in the area of Professional Practice)

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

H. Farmland Protection

Judy Wright, CPAg, CCA, New York Field Consultant, American Farmland Trust

Kay Hilsberg, Co-Chair, Onondaga County Agriculture Council

Erin Luchsinger Hull, Agriculture Program Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County

Why plan for agriculture? The rationale for supporting farms and protecting farmland will differ from community to community. This session will touch on the planning tools available to local governments to protect agriculture, from Right to Farm Laws to Purchase of Development Rights. This session will also provide an overview of the Onondaga County Agriculture Council, which was created by County Executive Mahoney in 2012 to help promote and preserve Onondaga County's strong farming community, develop strategies to promote local food regionally, strengthen connections between the County's urban core and agricultural areas, and develop pro-agriculture policies to promote urban agriculture and make it easier for local farms to open and stay in business in Onondaga County. In addition, this session will include a discussion on farm business planning. In order to keep agriculture as a land use it must be economically viable. Farm business planning is the difference between simply growing a crop and running a successful, sustainable business.

I. Making the Land Use-Sustainability-Economic Development Connection: Policies and Projects

Paul Beyer, State Director of Smart Growth Planning, NYS Department of State

Benjamin Sio, Director of Sustainable Infrastructure & Policy Development, CenterState CEO

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

This session will address the many policy initiatives that support smart, sustainable land use and development – including the Complete Streets Act; Land Banks/Vacant Property Reform; TIF reform; Smart Growth Infrastructure Act; NY Works Infrastructure Group. It will focus on the inter-connections among sustainability/smart growth policies and economic development/job creation. In addition, this session will discuss the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (CNY REDC), including its goals, process, and priority project identification.

The session will also present findings and recommendations from VisionCNY, the regional sustainability plan prepared by the CNY RPDB with funding from NYSERDA's Cleaner, Greener Communities Program. The plan supports the state's overall energy and climate goals and addresses many interrelated aspects of sustainable development in the five-county Central New York region including energy, transportation, land use, water and natural resources, economic development and climate adaptation. The presentation will focus on the connections between these issues and the importance of regional planning to address them.

J. Site Plan Review

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

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

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.

(Attorneys may receive 1 hour of Continuing Legal Education in the area of Professional Practice)

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

K. Land Conservation Options for Your Municipality

Andrew Zepp, Executive Director, Finger Lakes Land Trust

This session will provide an introduction to elements of a comprehensive approach to the conservation of significant land resources in your community. The workshop will emphasize the use of conservation easements and the acquisition of land within the context of the comprehensive planning process, supportive land use zoning, subdivision set-asides, partnering with land trusts, and policies that are supportive of farming and forestry. Specific examples of lessons learned from conservation projects within our region will be provided.

L. The Economics of Land Use Part II: Building Your Community's Wealth

Joseph Minicozzi, AICP, Principal, Urban3

Following the keynote presentation, this session will drill down deeper into methods of community analytics. In addition to revenue analysis techniques, this session will explore site development scenario case studies and resulting revenues. An overarching theme of the session is not only the application of revenue analysis to land use decisions, but also the communication of the results, as a key aspect of sound fiscal analysis is the articulation of the data to stakeholders in clear graphic methods.

Closing Plenary Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning

Timothy Frateschi, Esq., Partner, Harris Beach PLLC; Planning Board Chair, Town of Salina; and Municipal Attorney

Recent cases that pertain to land use will be summarized and the implications of them on land use regulation at the local level explored.