



Onondaga County  
Planning Federation  
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# 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Planning Symposium

March 13, 2014

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### A. Public Meetings and Hearings

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

**Kevin Gilligan**, Esq., Partner, 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.

*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.*

### B. Basic State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

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

This session is for the novice who has little to no experience with SEQRA and wants/needs to understand what SEQRA is all about, how it works and why it is important in the land use review process. If you don't know a negative declaration from a positive declaration or an unlisted action from a Type 2 action, this session is for you.

### C. Has Sustainability Become a Dirty Word?

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

**Edward M. Michalenko**, Ph.D., Supervisor, Town of DeWitt and President, Onondaga Environmental Institute

**Mary M. Thompson**, CMP, Executive Director, Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Central New York

Efforts to promote sustainability in planning decisions sometimes face challenges over concerns including economic development, property rights, and growth restriction. This session will discuss how the term sustainability has become controversial, how to find some common ground, and why long-term sustainability plays such an important role in planning.

### D. Form-Based Zoning: A Creative Approach

**Christopher Eastman**, Manager, Local Government Training Program, New York State Department of State

**Jane E. Rice**, JD, AICP, Director of Planning, edr Companies

This session is an overview of an alternative type of zoning called form-based zoning, which is based on Smart Growth and New Urbanism principles. Form-based zoning is helping to establish mixed use, walkability and neighborhood structure as the new paradigm for development. The course examines the advantages and disadvantages of form-based zoning and how it differs from conventional or Euclidean zoning, from its development to its administration.

*AICP Planners may receive 1.5 hours of CM credit.*

*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. Wetland and Waterways Regulation and Protection**

**Kevin Bliss**, Senior Environmental Analyst, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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

Kevin will describe the state DEC wetland regulatory program. He will discuss wetland permitting relative to what activities are jurisdictional, how the application process works administratively, and what considerations are important from both the applicant's and regulator's perspectives to making a final permit decision, including the need for and strategies associated with impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation. Judy will provide an overview and clarification of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional responsibilities and regulatory program pertaining to waters of the United States (wetlands and streams), with an overview of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. She will clarify differences between State and Federal wetlands and the use and interpretation of available "wetland" maps. The discussion will include how this information can be utilized by municipal governments and their respective review boards and officers to facilitate informed project reviews that may prevent federal enforcement actions resulting from unauthorized fill in federally jurisdictional waters of the U.S.

## **F. Improving the Bicycle and Pedestrian Environment in Onondaga County**

**Aaron McKeon**, AICP, Senior Transportation Planner, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

**Mike Alexander**, Senior Transportation Planner, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

**Danielle Krol**, Senior Transportation Planner, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

This session highlights three studies developed by the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTTC) that specify efforts to plan and prioritize bike and pedestrian improvements in Onondaga County. The Sustainable Streets: Pedestrian Facilities study used GIS resources to identify "priority zones" for sidewalk construction and maintenance, summarizes best practices in sidewalk ordinances and design, and researches the costs and benefits of developing pedestrian infrastructure. The Bicycle Commuter Corridor Study was developed to identify opportunities for multiple road owners to create a seamless multi-jurisdictional bike corridor network throughout Onondaga County. The Erie Canalway Trail Part I study focused on developing a short-term on-road signed route for the trail that can be utilized until a permanent route is developed.

## **G. Planning and Zoning: An Introduction**

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

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

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. Advanced State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)**

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

This session is for those who already have experience with SEQRA. If you know the difference between a Type 1 and Type 2 Action and a short versus a full environmental assessment form, this session is for you. The new EAF forms and the State's proposal to add items to the Type 2 list will be discussed.

## **I. Emerald Ash Borer Management Challenges and Considerations for Municipalities**

**Jessi Lyons**, Natural Resources Team Coordinator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County

**David Coburn**, Director, Onondaga County Office of Environment

**Stephen Harris**, City-County Arborist, City of Syracuse and Onondaga County

**Mark Burger**, Executive Director, Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District

Emerald ash borer arrived in Onondaga County in August 2013. Many lessons have been learned by Onondaga County, the City of Syracuse and other local communities who now must act quickly to manage their ash trees. Issues include determining the best management plan, inventorying trees, sourcing qualified contractors, coordinating among and within departments and agencies, and fulfilling state compliance and quarantine regulations for removal. The panel will discuss current tools and lessons for local municipalities, and planning strategies to be better prepared in the future.

## **J. Aging in Place**

**Christopher Eastman**, Manager, Local Government Training Program, New York State Department of State

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

Is your community ready for its aging Baby Boomers? With our growing population of older residents, are local steps being taken to ensure that they can live independently for as long as possible? What makes a community livable for older citizens and benefits people of all ages and physical abilities? This presentation provides land use planning and regulatory tools to help people in your community to age in place. Topics include a variety of housing choices, accessory dwelling units, Golden Zones, and senior friendly sidewalk and street designs.

*AICP Planners may receive 1 hour of CM credit.*

## **K. Downtown Crossroads: The Rebirth of Downtown Syracuse's 100% Corner**

**Merike Treier**, Executive Director, Downtown Committee of Syracuse, Inc.

**Benjamin R. Walsh**, Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood and Business Development, City of Syracuse

This session will discuss how a series of strategic public and private partnerships and investments have led to a burgeoning renaissance around the intersection of Salina and Fayette Streets, in the heart of downtown Syracuse.

## **L. Municipal Energy Savings Made Easy**

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

Energy can be one of the largest non-personnel expenses for a municipality. Fortunately, it doesn't have to cost a fortune to achieve significant savings. This workshop will highlight how to track energy use, develop an energy reduction plan, implement simple low- or no-cost improvements to buildings and facilities, and sort out the incentive, rebate and financing programs that are available for municipalities to tackle larger projects like wastewater treatment facilities and renewable energy systems. Come discover how communities like DeWitt and Preble have reduced their energy costs, share your own success stories and lessons learned, and explore new opportunities for inter-municipal collaboration.

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

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

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

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.