

34th Annual Planning Symposium

March 9, 2023 • Marriott Syracuse Downtown
SESSIONS

- A. Planning Board Overview (This session will run through the 8:30-9:30 & 9:40-10:40 periods.)**
Patricia Burke, Local Government Specialist, New York State Department of State
Brent Irving, Local Government Specialist, New York State Department of State
This basic course addresses the powers and duties of town, village, and city planning boards and commissions. The administrative and regulatory roles of the planning board, including its review of site plans, special use permits, and subdivision plans are discussed, along with the planning board's role in the municipal comprehensive plan. The importance of board procedures, referral to the county planning board, and making findings are also covered.
- B. Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan (This session will run through the 8:30-9:30 & 9:40-10:40 periods.)**
Jennifer Manierre, Clean Energy Siting Team Program Manager, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority
The Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan course provides an introduction to best practices and strategies for incorporating clean energy goals and objectives into a new or updated municipal comprehensive plan. The course is primarily intended for municipal staff including local board members (such as Planning, Zoning, and local legislative boards), committee members (such as Comprehensive Plan or Sustainability committees), and planning and building staff. Information presented in the course ranges from introductory planning and clean energy basics to detailed comprehensive planning strategies.

This course begins with an introduction to New York's clean energy landscape, including policies, programs, and technologies shaping the development of renewables throughout the State. It then introduces the role of comprehensive planning and its relationship to local zoning and land use regulations. The remainder of the course focuses on processes and strategies for incorporating clean energy goals and objectives into a balanced, customized comprehensive plan, which is intended to be forward-looking and reflective of the priorities of the local community.
- C. Mapping Resources to Assist with Municipal Board Reviews**
Don Jordan, Deputy Director and Assistant Director for GIS Services, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
Giovanni Colberg, GIS Specialist, Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency
With the evolution of geographic information systems (GIS) and the advent of very popular and easy to use mapping tools such as Google Maps, many people are now comfortable using, and expect to have access to, spatial data. This session will discuss and demonstrate several local mapping applications, including the County/City GIS on the Web site, CONNECTExplorer, **Plan Onondaga** Storymaps, and the Onondaga County Ag Mapper, that provide access to spatial data that can assist municipal planning staff and planning and zoning boards with their reviews and long-range planning.
- D. Preserving Open Space in Our Communities - Why & How**
Jeanie Gleisner, MSLA, Program Manager, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
Is your town prepared for growth? Now is the time to prepare for expected major subdivision development, before large scale applications arrive for review. Best Practice land use regulatory tools that apply to major subdivisions of land can be implemented in advance of growth in development demand. This session will include one of the most effective land use regulatory tools for both preserving rural character and welcoming new development, the Conservation Subdivision Design (CSD) process.

E. Short Term Rentals

Patricia Burke, Local Government Specialist, New York State Department of State

Short-term rentals have been around for years, but the availability of online booking sites and the growth of local management companies has had dramatic effects on neighborhoods big and small across the state (and around the world). A number of cities, towns, and villages in New York have come up with a variety of means to permit or restrict short-term rentals consistent with the character of the respective communities. This session looks at the problems short-term rentals posed for several of those municipalities and summarizes the regulations with which they responded to the challenge.

F. Stormwater Management and Watershed-Scale Planning

Aaron McKeon, Environmental Program Manager, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

Lauren Darcy, Senior Environmental Planner, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

More than two dozen communities in Onondaga County are regulated by the State as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). These municipalities must meet specific requirements to ensure that pollutants are minimized in their stormwater control systems. The first half of this session will explore the NYS General MS4 permit requirements and available resources for municipalities to aid in permit compliance and improved water quality and quantity. The second half of this session will describe the Nine Element (9E) Watershed Planning process that is being used across the state to protect water bodies. The CNY Regional Planning Board is currently developing 9E Plans for both the Oneida Lake and Skaneateles Lake watersheds.

G. SEQRA as an Infrastructure Planning Tool: The GEIS Approach

Jaclyn Hakes, AICP, Associate and Director of Planning Services, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.

Joel Bianchi, P.E., Principal and Vice President of Municipal Engineering, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.

Meghan Vitale, Principal Transportation Planner, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council

This session will discuss how SEQRA through a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) process can be an effective tool to plan for and potentially fund future infrastructure needs. Learn about the GEIS process, preparing build-out analyses, long-range infrastructure planning and establishment of mitigation fees. Case studies from New York's Capital Region will be highlighted.

H. Spot Zone or Grant the Illegal Use Variance

Patricia Burke, Local Government Specialist, New York State Department of State

Brent Irving, Local Government Specialist, New York State Department of State

Neither, we hope. The title of this course is to catch your attention and aspires to help avoid both spot zoning and the granting of illegal use variances. This course explores how situations in which a proposed use different from those around it (which local officials agree would not be a detriment to the community) might best be handled—with a review of the use variance test, the definition of spot zoning, and a few cases that will help local officials make sure their zoning works for their municipality.

I. Basic State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

Diane Carlton, AICP, Emeritus, Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Adjunct Professor in Environmental Sustainability, SUNY Oneonta

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.

J. Making Sense of the Region’s Housing Market

Peter Lombardi, Director of Revitalization Planning, czb

Michelle Sczpanski, Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood Development, City of Syracuse

Between price and rent escalations during the pandemic, the news about Micron, and recent hikes in interest rates and construction costs, how should planners and public officials in Onondaga County think about housing? How should long-standing trends and emerging pressures shape your community’s housing goals and policies?

The City of Syracuse is asking these questions through a new citywide housing study. This session will present background on the study and include highlights of analysis conducted to date by the city’s housing consultant—including trends within the city, regional context, and a focus on separating housing market “noise” from quantifiable “signals.”

Closing Plenary Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning

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

This session will summarize recent legal cases pertaining to land use and explore the implications of these cases on land use regulation at the local level.