



Onondaga County
Planning Federation
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35th Annual Planning Symposium

March 13, 2024 • Marriott Syracuse Downtown
SESSIONS

- A. Planning and Zoning: An Introduction (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
Christopher Eastman, Manager, Local Government Training, 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. Developing Town Centers: A How-To Guide**
Sam Gordon, AICP, Planning Practice Leader, EDR
This session will help to define what is meant in Plan Onondaga by the term "Town Center," as well as provide an overview of tools for establishing town centers in your community. Several case study examples will be reviewed to illustrate the use of different zoning strategies for encouraging the development of walkable mixed-use development patterns.
- C. Case Study: Comprehensive Planning as a Learning Enterprise**
Sara Bollinger, Deputy Supervisor, Town of Manlius
Heather Waters, Councilor, Town of Manlius
Valerie Beecher, Planning Board Chair, Town of Manlius
Keith Ewald, AICP, PLA, Senior Managing Landscape Architect and Planner, Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.
The Town of Manlius (34,000 residents, 50 sq miles encompassing the Villages of Fayetteville, Manlius, and Minoa) will present their approaches to building the Town's first comprehensive plan during the COVID-19 pandemic. Created alongside a townwide climate action plan, the team will also share lessons from leveraging the expertise of residents in the community and how they will apply them going forward.
- D. Developing Transit Oriented Communities with Regional Transit Corridor Planning**
Craig Sklenar, AICP, Principal, Urban Places, Stantec
Ralph DeNisco, Senior Principal, Urban Places Mobility Group, Stantec
Adam Catherine, PE, PTOE, Principal, Smart(ER) Mobility Practice Lead, Stantec
James D'Agostino, Director, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC)
Regional transit corridor planning requires a combination of broad thinking and detailed consideration in community planning, transportation design, transit operations, and community engagement to set the foundation for long-term relationships between transit agencies and the communities they serve. Transit corridor planning should focus on creating transit-oriented communities - not just transit oriented development – that promote economic development which is centered around high-quality rapid transit that fosters walking and biking, increasing community vibrancy which also helps to address mobility needs of all community members. This session will discuss principles of regional transit corridor planning including identifying modes and service types, the importance of integrating land use decisions into the planning process, and how new transportation technologies and trends, such as mobility hubs, mobility as a service (MaaS), and autonomous vehicles are changing the planning process. A brief introduction will be provided by the SMTC on the role that transit may play in helping with the significant growth anticipated in various areas of our community. The SMTC is undertaking a study that will look at the Route 31 area from a perspective of "new" or "enhanced" transit options and how those options may blend with new and exciting development opportunities our community is on the brink of seeing.

E. Can Solar Development and Agriculture Work Together?

Linda Garrett, NY/NJ Regional Director, American Farmland Trust

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

It can seem like NYS's clean energy goals and farmland protection are at odds, but is there a way to produce electricity and food on the same piece of land? Learn how agrivoltaics may be a solution and learn how communities can plan for this win-win solution.

F. Using Local Land Use Authority to Protect Water Quality

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

Katherine Black, Coastal Resources Specialist, New York State Department of State

Charles Rorick, NEIWPC Environmental Analyst - Drinking Water Specialist, New York State Department of Health

"Water is life" in so many respects. Understanding and protecting water quality, including drinking water sources is a priority in land use planning. This course will discuss water quality and its value to your community, explore planning opportunities to develop a Drinking Water Source Protection Program and watershed planning opportunities available to local governments. Some of the strongest means of protecting water quality are through local planning and regulation, and several of those strategies will be covered.

G. A Deep Dive into Onondaga County's Housing Market

Peter Lombardi, Director of Revitalization Planning, czb

Charles Buki, Founder and President, czb

In July 2023, Onondaga County adopted its new comprehensive plan, titled Plan Onondaga. Plan Onondaga establishes a vision for a future Onondaga County that is competitive and vibrant, and offers its residents a high quality of life. To further the plan's aims related to housing and neighborhoods, Onondaga County has undertaken a countywide housing needs analysis to better understand current and potential future housing issues. The analysis will help county, town, and village officials understand opportunities and challenges so they are better prepared to make important planning, land use, and programmatic decisions in the future. In this session, analysts from consulting firm **czb** will share a summary of their findings with an emphasis on implications for towns, villages, and the City of Syracuse.

H. Map Reading 101

Timothy J. Coyer, PLS, President and Owner, Ianuzi & Romans Land Surveying, P.C.

This session will educate board members on how to read and understand different types of maps, such as subdivision maps, zoning maps, and site plans. The session will help with understanding what information to look for and identifying what necessary information should be requested from applicants, including how to set basic standards and requirements and putting these in writing so municipalities receive uniform maps every time. This session will discuss what information each type of map should show and when boards should be leaning on their engineers and codes departments to ensure that plans meet municipal standards. The goal of this session is to provide attendees with a little more confidence with reading/understanding maps after they leave.

I. Public Meetings and Hearings

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

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

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.

J. Overview of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Process

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 those with a basic to moderate understanding about SEQRA. We'll talk about terminology, long and short forms, the various parts of the EAF and who is responsible for each. We'll also apply SEQRA to a potential project to help you see how SEQRA works in real life circumstances. If you don't know a negative declaration from a positive declaration or an unlisted action from a Type I action, this session is for you.

K. NYS Department of State Funding Opportunities: Empowering Sustainable Communities and Resilient Downtowns

Amanda Bearcroft, Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward (NYF) Program Director, New York State Department of State

Holly Granat, Revitalization Specialist, New York State Department of State

New York Department of State offers a variety of funding programs that aim to encourage responsible investment and economic growth in downtown communities, and area-wide, community-based plans to effectively redevelop brownfields and other vacant and abandoned sites, transforming them into catalytic properties that facilitate community investment and improvement. Through its Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward (NYF) programs, New York State is changing the way we think about the state's role in local economic development efforts. By partnering with cities, towns, and villages and employing a plan-then-act strategy, communities can quickly plan and implement a series of public, private, and nonprofit projects to transform their central business districts and downtown areas. The NYSDOS Brownfield Opportunity Area program provides a neighborhood or area-wide approach to the assessment and redevelopment of brownfields and other vacant or abandoned properties. The NYSDOS also administers a part of the State Smart Growth Program, which supports the preparation and local adoption of a new or updated comprehensive plan, zoning code, area plan or set of zoning regulations that would implement an area plan for an entire town, village, or city that supports smart growth principles for the community. The programs emphasize economic opportunity; housing diversity and affordability; redevelopment and infill opportunities; alternative transportation, access, and mobility; decarbonization; and resiliency. This session will provide ideas on how to develop stronger state and local partnerships and how holistic revitalization planning can transform local communities.

Closing Plenary Session: Case Law Update for Planning and Zoning

Joseph V. Frateschi, Esq., Associate, Harris Beach, PLLC

Amelia McLean-Robertson, Esq., Associate, Harris Beach, 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.