

2024 Regional Leadership Conference

Course Descriptions

Environmental Planning

Site Plan Review and Special Use Permit Procedures: A Mock Meeting and Hearing 1 PB/ZBA

For this mock meeting and hearing of a planning board to review site plan and special use permit applications, several of those who attend the session will be needed to play the roles of board members, applicants, and members of the public. The session will remind us of some of the rules for reviewing site plans and issuing special use permits as well as how (and how not) to conduct public meetings and hearings.

Presented by: Paula Gilbert and Monica Ryan, Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

Zoning: An Introduction 1 PB/ZBA

Zoning is among the most far reaching legislative actions a local government can take. All cities in New York and the majority of villages and towns in the state have zoning, which is typically used to separate incompatible uses. Zoning can also be used to channel development and preserve natural resources and community character—contrary to what many think, protection of a great deal of these resources is left to local governments. This course takes a very basic look at zoning and how it can be used to address some of the challenges local governments have encountered in recent years.

Presented by: Paula Gilbert and Monica Ryan, Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

Is Your Town Planning for Agriculture? 1 PB/ZBA

Learn more about how Agricultural District protections and Agricultural Value Assessments may impact local land use controls. We will also review various grant programs related to the promotion and protection of agriculture.

Presented by: Jeff Kehoe, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets- Agriculture Protection Unit

Benefits of Trees 1 PB/ZBA

Trees are natural, low-costs solutions to many municipal problems when compared to manmade systems. In this session, you'll learn about the benefits of trees and hear stories about how communities are using trees to maximize those benefits.

Presented by: Janet Thigpen, CFM, Flood Mitigation Specialist, STCRPDB

EV Infrastructure Panel: Q&A Discussion After Mini-Presentations

1 PB/ZBA

This panel discussion is designed to present the state of electric vehicle infrastructure in our region, the programs available to fund projects, and help you identify whether/when electric vehicle charging suits your community. Panelists will each give a brief presentation and then take questions.

Presented by:

Chris Wallace, Energy Advisor II, Franklin Energy| NYSEG/RG&E EV Make-Ready Programs

Anna Shulman, Program Manager, eMobility|NYPA Ventures

Terry Carroll, Chief Sustainability Officer, Tompkins County

Jesse Carpenter, VP Of Operations, PlugIn Stations Online

Economic Planning**Blight Reduction Strategies Utilizing Land Banks**

1 PB/ZBA

This course will go over strategies that municipalities and their code enforcement can use, together with their local land bank, to identify eligible properties in their communities.

Presented by:

Danielle Kenny, Director of Real Estate Development, Arbor Housing and Development

Doug Madison, Construction Manager, Arbor Housing and Development

Communication Infrastructure Update

1 PB/ZBA

Fiber and telecommunications infrastructure is critical to safety, emergency management, and economic development. This update will be on the state of access to affordable broadband services, what changes have been going on, and what you can do to stay informed and support improvements.

Presented by:

Jeff Gasper, Chief Executive Officer, Southern Tier Network

Ben Rydzewski, Outside Plant Operations Manager, Southern Tier Network

Short Term Rental Regulation

1 PB/ZBA

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.

Presented by: Paula Gilbert and Monica Ryan, Local Government Specialists, NYS DOS

Brownfields Basics

1 PB/ZBA

Vacant and contaminated properties plague almost every town, but they also present immense opportunity to be transformed into community needed uses. This session will cover what brownfields are, the process of redeveloping them, and resources that are available to local governments.

Presented by: Joseph Reiner, Brownfields Redevelopment Specialist, Technical Assistance for Brownfields Program, NJIT Center for Community Systems

Energy & Climate Programs: CEC & CSC

1 PB/ZBA

Learn how to participate in the Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities programs. Local governments use these programs to improve grant access, energy efficiency, cost savings, climate resilience, and more.

Presented by:

*Mike Brown, Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Jack Cook, Planner and Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, STCRPDB*

Navigating Conflict in Public Engagement

1 PB/ZBA

This session will discuss the importance of reinvigorating authentic public engagement as a vital tool for creating a stronger local government and a vibrant community. Presenters Matt Horn and Diana Smith will suggest some basic skills to help curb the uncomfortable conflict and confrontation that makes people avoid “digging in” on tough issues, such as cannabis, that can divide communities. It’s up to local leaders to create an environment where authentic engagement can take place successfully.

Presented by:

*Diana Smith, Senior Municipal Advisor/Business Development Director, MRB Group
Matt Horn, Director of Municipal Services, MRB Group*

Code Enforcement**Air Sealing for Blower Door**

1 CEO

The building science, code requirements and strategies for designing and constructing Residential Air Barrier system is covered in detail in this 2 hour course. We will look at the building science issues and sources behind air infiltration and exfiltration and its impact on homes. The primary sources of air leakage will be scrutinized, with many tips and details for builders to follow, Code Enforcement Officials (CEOs) to review and inspect, and for designers to specify for success with the Blower Door test, which is mandatory in NYS. Course materials will include checklists and other handouts, and the NYSERDA "Build Better" Guide, if available at that time.

Presented by: Michael DeWein, President, North Branch Services, consultant; and Energy Solutions, Senior Fellow.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - (no CEO Credit)

0 CEO

Description: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can enable municipal officials to track assets, document infrastructure quality, enhance civic engagement, and more. In this class, learn how STC can assist your municipality in using this software and hardware tool to view, analyze, understand, depict, and create location-based data.

Presented by:

Gerry Aiken, Account Manager, ESRI

Richard Zink, Executive Director, Southern Tier West RPDB

Jack Cook, Planner and Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, STCRPDB

Residential Septic Systems: Plan Review, Regulations and Inspections

1 CEO

This course will cover the basics of septic system design along with what should be included on a septic system plan. Several different types of systems will be discussed along with inspection reports for installed systems.

Presented by: Jody Allen, PE. Senior Civil Engineering at LaBella Associates, D.P.C.

Building a Weather Ready Nation

2 CEO

NOAA's Weather-Ready Nation is about preparing your community for extreme weather, water, and climate events. This course will review high-impact weather types of our region, NWS forecasts and warnings, and partnering interagency efforts to fulfill the core mission of protecting life and property.

Presented by: Bryan Greenblatt, Meteorologist, National Weather Service - Binghamton, NY

Highway**Street Trees: Planting, Maintenance, and Liability**

1 PB/ZBA

What do highway and public works departments need to know about tree plantings? Hear from this city forester about successfully planting and maintaining trees, right-of-way responsibility and liability, and more.

Presented by: Jeanne Grace, City Forester, City of Ithaca

Snow & Ice Control

1 PB/ZBA

We will give a presentation surrounding snow and ice control on the roadways including, but not limited to, the benefits of using liquid solutions, liquid application devices/products/equipment, in conjunction with how liquid solutions contribute to the salt reduction initiatives we are seeing across the state in many regions.

Presented by: Henderson Products

Uses for GIS in Rural Communities

1 PB/ZBA

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Jack Cook, Planner and Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, STCRPDB

Electric Vehicles in Highway/Public Works?

1 PB/ZBA

This class is designed to help you consider the pros and cons of electric vehicles (EVs) for your municipality's fleet. Access the experience and perspective of these presenters in procuring, selecting, maintaining, and managing EVs. Would it be a practical and cost-effective decision for your department?

Presented by:

Terry Carroll, Chief Sustainability Officer, Tompkins County

Jesse Carpenter, VP Of Operations, PlugIn Stations Online

Highway/DPW Trends and Tips

1 PB/ZBA

Hear an update on DPW and highway topics—something for both rural and more urban municipalities. Bring your questions and be ready to share lessons from hard-earned experience and lend solutions from your community's successes.

Presented by:

Andrew Avery, P.E., Public Works Commissioner, Chemung County DPW

Eric Rose, Commissioner of Public Works, Steuben County

Drone Uses and Demonstration

1 PB/ZBA

Drone uses are expanding and taking hold with municipal road inventories and emergency services. Hear and see how Tioga County Department 50, in Pennsylvania, uses drones to benefit existing services, data needs, and recruitment.

Presented by: Ron Warren, Chief 50, North Central Pennsylvania Unmanned Emergency Services (Tioga County Department 50)

Mayors, Supervisors, & Clerks

Simple Tools for Multi-Year Financial Planning

1 PB/ZBA

Multi-year financial planning does not require a large staff or complex software. This session will provide you examples of simple and cost-effective processes and tools for multi-year planning through the learned experience of a small-Town government with an almost \$4M annual budget and a population of 5,000. This session is meant for local governments who are just starting, or need to start, a multi-year financial planning process; it will cover lessons learned and first steps with the main value being anecdotal lessons learned opposed to a focus on laws and regulations regarding this topic. Locally owned public asset data management is step one for planning, a review of this process will be included in this session. Please note that this session is through the lens of project management and will not address governmental accounting specifics.

Presented by: Michelle E. Wright, 2nd Deputy Supervisor / Budget Officer, Town of Ulysses

Twin Tiers ARISE Program Orientation

1 PB/ZBA

An overview of STC's first workforce development project – a \$4.5 Million ARC-ARISE grant serving the Northern Tier of PA and the Southern Tier to fund increase youth-workforce collaboration among 6 partners for the next 5 years. Join us to learn how TTAP will help shape the region's youth into employment-ready high-school graduates, and learn how your community can benefit from hiring TTAP youth or partnering with TTAP to offer work experiences like job shadowing.

Presented by: Victoria Ehlen, Economic Development Coordinator, STCRPDB

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Ready LDDs: Technical Assistance to Apply for and Administer Federal Funding 1 PB/ZBA

STCRPDB received funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission in July 2023 to create its Ready LDDs program. This program seeks to assist municipalities in the region to apply for and administer federal grants and create guidance documents for municipalities seeking federal funds in the future. If your municipality is interested in applying for a federal grant, please contact Brian Toy at btoy@stcplanning.org!

Presented by: Brian Toy, Senior Planner, STCRPDB

Roundtable Sampler for Rural Communities 1 PB/ZBA

As facilitators for Leadership Roundtables which connect communities, Matt Horn and Diana Smith routinely engage local government officials in peer-to-peer discussions concerning challenges, best practices, and most importantly, how to proactively foster an atmosphere of community engagement, strategic planning and economic development. This session will highlight some frequent Roundtable topics, and discuss the value of information-sharing that helps strengthen local government leadership.

Presented by:

Diana Smith, Senior Municipal Advisor/Business Development Director, MRB Group

Matt Horn, Director of Municipal Services, MRB Group

Capital Project Planning 1 PB/ZBA

STCRPDB and the SUNY Brockport Public Management Program partnered to conduct a capital project planning pilot program with one Town and one Village in the region during Summer 2023. The purpose of the pilot program was to develop a multi-year capital plan framework and annual update process that could be replicated by small communities throughout our region. This presentation will provide an introduction to capital project planning and lessons learned from the pilot program.

Presented by: Brian Toy, Senior Planner, STCRPDB

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