



Onondaga County
Planning Federation

est. 1947

Planning Symposium

Thursday March 19th, 2026

Marriott Syracuse Downtown
Syracuse, NY
7:30am-4:15pm



About the Federation



The Onondaga County Planning Federation (OCPF) is a nonprofit corporation that serves every municipality in Onondaga County by hosting annual training conferences for elected and appointed local officials and the public, and providing trend data and planning information to Federation members.

The Onondaga County Department of Planning provides staff services to the Onondaga County Planning Federation.

Goals:

- Promoting community and inter-community planning within or by the municipalities of Onondaga County
 - Educating members of the Federation and the public
 - Providing for the collection and distribution of information and resources on planning and related subjects
 - Promoting cooperation and coordination with and among federal, state, county and local authorities in matters relating thereto
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A Message from the Federation



Kevin Gilligan,
Board President

Welcome to the Onondaga County Planning Federation's 37th Annual Planning Symposium. We're all familiar with the adage, "A Failure to Plan is a Plan to Fail", and given the amount of planning that has taken place across the County this past year, I think it is safe to say we are well on our way to succeed!

Certainly it goes without saying that Micron is at the epicenter of the County planning effort these days, and it is in this vein that I would like to welcome our keynote speaker, Mr. J. Gregory Connors, President and CEO of the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation, who will be sharing his experiences and lessons learned from his time as the Supervisor for the Town of Stillwell during the development of the Luther Forest Technology Park, home to GlobalFoundries Fab 8.

I would like to thank all of today's presenters for your enthusiasm and willingness to share your knowledge and experiences. Thank you to our corporate and community sponsors who help bring this event to you and for their support for planning in Onondaga County. Finally, I would like to thank each of you for attending today's seminar and for your time and dedication to improving your communities



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A Message from the County Executive



J. Ryan McMahon,
County Executive

Welcome to the annual Onondaga County Planning Symposium. The work each of you contributes on our municipal planning, zoning, and town boards has never been more important. As Micron begins full construction on its first chip fab—a truly historic milestone—our county is experiencing growth and momentum in every direction. New residential, commercial, and industrial projects are taking shape, new jobs are emerging, and new residents are choosing to call Onondaga County home.

We are in a moment of unprecedented investment and opportunity. Together with our municipal partners, we are preparing for the future by expanding housing options, supporting business development, and strengthening the infrastructure that ties our communities together. Phase II of our Housing Onondaga Plan is underway, offering a deeper look at incentives and zoning strategies that will help us build high-quality homes for residents across the county.

All of this progress builds on the foundation of Plan Onondaga and its five core themes: strong centers, housing and neighborhoods, community mobility, greenways and blueways, and agriculture. These themes reflect the essential building blocks of vibrant, resilient communities—and they guide every step we take.

But plans only become reality through the dedication of people like you. Your service on local planning and zoning boards shapes the future of our towns, protects the character of our neighborhoods, and ensures that growth benefits everyone. Thank you for your time, your expertise, and your commitment to making Onondaga County an exceptional place to live, work, and raise a family.

I look forward to continuing this work together as we build tomorrow's future today.

Slate of Candidates for Board of Directors

Officers:

Kevin Gilligan, Esq., President

Municipal Attorney
Senior Council, Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC

Ilana Cantrell, AICP, Vice President

Director of Planning and Development,
Town of DeWitt

John Elleman, Esq., Treasurer

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair,
Town of Onondaga

Jeff Harrop, Secretary

Planner, Onondaga County Department of Planning

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Planning Board Member, Town of Manlius Ergonomist,
Empire Ergonomics Consulting, LLC

Stephen Darcangelo, P.E

Planning Board Member, Town of Lysander,
Project Manager, Kleinfelder Engineering

John R. Langey, Esq.

Municipal Attorney, Partner,
Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC

Barry Lentz

Planning Commission Member, City of Syracuse Principal,
Action Research Associates, DBA

David Tessier

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair,
Town of Pompey,
Land Planning Consultant, Interim Planning & Development
Commissioner, Town of Clay

Slate of Candidates for Board of Directors

Board Nominees:

Douglas Arena, AIA RRC

(2026–2029)

Planning Board Vice–Chair, Town of DeWitt
President/Managing Partner – Bell & Spina Architects–Engineers,
P.C.

Brian Bender, ICMA–CM, AICP CEP, CFM

(2026–2029)

Commissioner of Planning & Development,
Town of Clay

Ron Benedetti

(2026–2028)

Zoning Board of Appeals, Town of Geddes

Michelle Borton, P.E.

(2026–2029)

Planning Board Deputy Chair, Town of Clay
Borton Engineering, P.C.

John Fatcheric

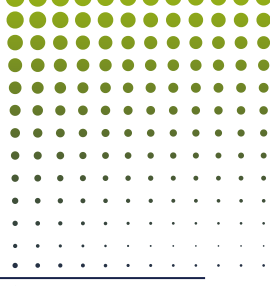
(2026–2029)

Town Supervisor, Town of Camillus

Amy Franco, RLA

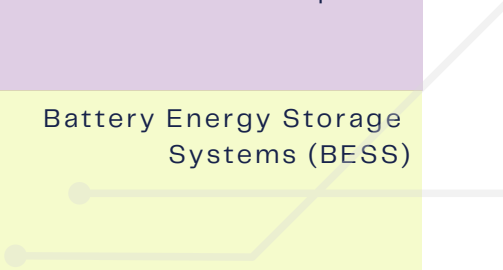
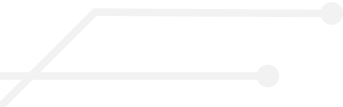
(2026–2029)

Landscape Architect, CHA Consulting

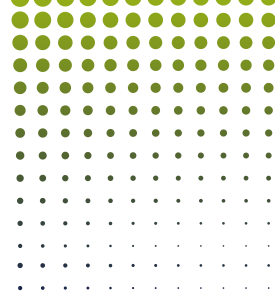


Schedule

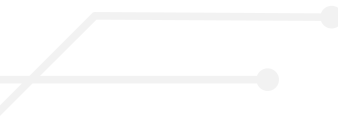
Time	Event
7:30–8:00am Main Lobby and Persian Terrace Sponsored by: Barton & Loguidice and Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC.	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00–8:15am	Welcome/Federation Annual Meeting & Board Vote
8:30–9:30am	Otisco Building Momentum: Great Housing Opportunities for Onondaga County
	Skaneateles Special Use Permits
	Cayuga Case Study: A Pathway to a Greenway
9:40–10:40am	Otisco Area Variances: A Deep Dive
	Skaneateles Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
	Cayuga Regulating Short Term Rentals: A Local Perspective



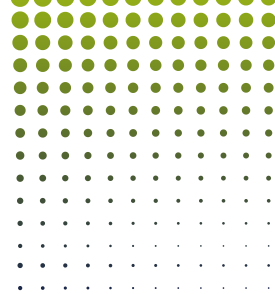
Schedule (Cont.)



Time	Event						
10:40-11:00am	Break						
11:00am-12:00pm	<table><tbody><tr><td>Otisco</td><td>Site Plan Review</td></tr><tr><td>Skaneateles</td><td>How to Design a Neighborhood</td></tr><tr><td>Cayuga</td><td>Changes in New York State Wetland Regulations</td></tr></tbody></table>	Otisco	Site Plan Review	Skaneateles	How to Design a Neighborhood	Cayuga	Changes in New York State Wetland Regulations
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Cayuga	Changes in New York State Wetland Regulations						
12:15-1:00pm Grand Ballroom, 10th Floor	Lunch						
Sponsored by: EDR and C&S Companies							
1:00-1:45pm Grand Ballroom, 10th Floor	Keynote Address: How to Kickstart Planning Action in Your Community J. Gregory Connors						
Sponsored by: Colliers Engineering & Design, Two Plus Four and McClurg							



Schedule (Cont.)



Time	Event
2:00-3:00pm	Otisco County Referral (GML 239-l, m & n)
	Skaneateles Choose Wisely: How Land Use Drives Local Government Revenue and Operations
	Cayuga Overview of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Process
3:00-3:15pm	Break
3:15-4:15pm	Skaneateles Closing Plenary Session: Case Law Update for Planning & Zoning



Scan the QR code to learn more about session and presenter content!



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Keynote Speaker:

J. Gregory Connors

Saratoga Economic Development Corporation



J. Gregory Connors is the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC). As a life-long Saratoga County resident, Greg has established experience and professional credentials in both the private and public sectors, specifically, economic development, government relations, real estate sales and community service.

For 11 years, Greg served as a member of the senior leadership team at GlobalFoundries in the Office of Government Relations, responsible for state, regional and local government interaction and regulatory affairs in both New York and Vermont. Prior to his time at GFUS, Greg was the elected Town/County Supervisor for the Town of Stillwater and, with Malta Supervisor Dave Meager, created the land use regulations that created the Luther Forest Technology Campus now home to GlobalFoundries Fab 8.

Greg has served on several philanthropic, non-profit and business development organizations throughout his professional career including the American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, and the Stillwater Area Community Center. He is a Past President of the NYS Association of REALTORS and has enjoyed leadership positions on the Center for Economic Growth, CAPTAIN-Community Human Services, Saratoga County Water Authority, Mechanicville-Stillwater Industrial Development Agency and served as a member of the NYS Real Estate Board. In 2025, Greg was appointed by Governor Hochul to serve as a member of the SUNY Empire University Council. Greg and his wife Marilyn reside in the Town of Malta and are the parents of two sons and grandparents to four, all residents of Saratoga County.

Symposium Presenters

Eric Ameigh, Managing Partners, Director of Operations and Special Projects, czb, LLC

Maura Baldiga, Senior Planner, City of Ithaca

Adam Bonosky, AIA, AICP, CNU-a, Senior Architect/Planner, Fisher Associates

Charles Buki, Managing Partner, Director of Strategy Development, czb, LLC

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

Chad A. Clark, Mayor, Village of Marcellus

Megan Costa, Deputy Director for Planning, Onondaga County Department of Planning

Tyler Cooper, Educator, Marcellus Central School District

Lindsey Drew, Local Government Specialist 2, Division of Local Government Services, New York State Department of State

Christopher Eastman, Local Government Specialist 2, Division of Local Government Services, New York State Department of State

Joseph Frateschi, Esq., Partner, Harris Beach Murtha

Dereth Glance, Director, Region 7, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Matt Horn, Director of Strategic Growth and Development, MRB Group

Peter Lombardi, Partner, Director of Revitalization Planning, czb, LLC

Jennifer Manierre, CEM LEED AP ND, Director, Clean Energy Siting, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

Amelia McLean-Roberston, Esq., Associate, Harris Beach Murtha

Monica Ryan, Local Government Specialist 2, Division of Local Government Services, New York State Department of State

Megan Wilson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development, City of Ithaca

Case Study: A Pathway to a Greenway

Additional Presenters:

Michael DiPaola, Joe Durand, Michael Ossit,

Austin Raicht, Jean Sharlow, Bronte Stahl,

Jack Waterman, Mallory Zabinski

2027 Call for Presenters

Are you passionate about Central New York? Are you an industry leader with experience addressing community and development challenges in our region? Do you have insights to share on planning and development topics that shape how and where we live, work, and play?

We invite you to submit a proposal to present at the 2027 Onondaga County Planning Federation Symposium.

The Federation is seeking engaging, thought-provoking presentations focused on planning, zoning, and land use topics relevant to our local Planning and Zoning Board members. We are especially interested in proposals that reinforce the themes of our County Comprehensive Plan, Plan Onondaga.

Presenters will receive complimentary full-day conference registration, including meals and parking, and recognition in event registration materials.

Please submit your proposal to the Onondaga County Department of Planning no later than Jul 31st, 2026. Submissions must include a presentation title, a clear purpose statement, and a description of the topics to be covered. Questions regarding this opportunity may be directed to: ellisonmcmahon@ongov.net.

Scan the QR code to visit the Federation's website

**Please be sure to fill out and hand in
your survey before leaving!**



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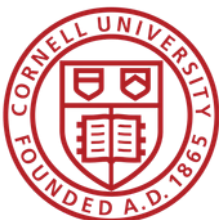
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