

Special Evening for Local Planning and Zoning Boards

To recognize the service and dedication of community members that serve on local Planning Boards and Board of Appeals, Madison County held the third biennial Planning and Zoning Appreciation Banquet on November 1, 2016. Over 150 were in attendance at the event held in the banquet hall at the Hampton Inn in Cazenovia, NY.

The evening included a nationally known keynote speaker, Ed McMahon of the Urban Land Institute. Mr. McMahon's presentation focused on, "The Secrets of Successful Communities."

"Communities with a vision for the future will always be more successful than communities that just accept whatever comes along. As Abraham Lincoln used to say 'the best way to predict the future is to create it yourself,'" stated Mr. McMahon.



Beth Greenwood, Mayor of Tully, NY, was also part of the evening's program. Her presentation focused on how she worked with Tully residents to buy a vacant building and turn it into a needed grocery store with apartments above. Greenwood created the Build Hope LLC and over thirty community members invested to buy and renovate the building. Today, the grocery store is open, the three apartments are rented, and a women's fitness center has opened on the ground floor of the building.

The second half of the program was devoted to the *Madison County Smart Growth Awards Ceremony*. "These awards recognize and honor accomplishments in planning and land use that happen right here in Madison County," stated Jamie Kowalczk of the Madison County Planning Department who presented the awards.

This year, Smart Growth Awards were presented to

- Town of Cazenovia and Village of Cazenovia – for collaborative planning efforts including a joint comprehensive plan, coordination on zoning, and combining Town/Village funds to create the Cazenovia Area Community Development Association (CACDA).

Accepting the awards on behalf of the Town and Village were Town Supervisor Bill Zupan and Village of Cazenovia Mayor Kurt Wheeler

- Village of Hamilton Planning Board – for thoroughness and dedication to the site plan review process. The Planning Board members are Morgan Larson, Jerry Fuller, Julie Dudrick, Ben Eberhardt, and Kristian Newman.

Village of Hamilton Mayor Bob McVaugh accepted the awards and spoke on behalf of the Planning Board.



As sharing experiences is a key focus of the banquet, both groups awarded made presentations to share lessons learned and key takeaways to help inspire other communities.

In addition to a banquet, the evening also serves as a chance for board members to attain training hours. Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members are required by State statute to obtain four hours of training a year.

“We hope the evening helps to recognize all the effort and time these board members put in,” said Jamie Kowalczyk, “and is an opportunity for them to come together, network, and share best practices and resources with each other.”

PAC99 filmed the event and the footage will be made available on the Madison County Planning Department webpage: <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/planning/madison-county-planning-department>