

How can you make local policy food system friendly?

June 21st, 2022



This installment of the One Region Forward Learning Series was organized by Erie County.



10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:05 a.m. Planning for Agriculture in the City

Jeanette Koncikowski, Executive Director, Grassroots Gardens of WNY

Planning for Agriculture in the Suburbs

Roberta Rappachio, Planner, Town of Amherst

Planning for Agriculture in a Rural Area

Missy Hartman, Supervisor, Town of Eden

11:35 a.m. Q&A

11:55 p.m. Closing Remarks



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CM | 2.0

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AICP members must be in attendance for the duration of the event in order to receive CM Credit.

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American Planning Association
New York Upstate Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen



ABOUT THE LEARNING SERIES

Introduced in 2020, the One Region Forward Learning Series is part of ongoing efforts to support local action around the One Region Forward Plan's vision. Each session focuses on a topic related to One Region Forward's implementation agenda and includes information, resources, and case studies on how ideas can move into implementation at the local level.

To learn more about the One Region Forward Plan, please visit:
regional-institute.buffalo.edu/work/one-region-forward/

TODAY'S SPEAKERS

Planning for Agriculture in the City

JEANETTE KONCIKOWSKI, *Executive Director, Grassroots Gardens of WNY*

Jeanette joined Grassroots Gardens of Western New York in 2018. She is a long-time community educator and activist, bringing 20 years of experience with nonprofit organizations in Western New York and Massachusetts. Jeanette is thrilled to be combining her personal passion for gardening with community development. She is focused on building Grassroots Gardens' organizational capacity and sustainability.

Jeanette is a graduate of Hutch Tech High School and the University at Buffalo. She received her Master's degree in Education from Harvard University, specializing in human development and psychology and has a certificate in Trauma Counseling from the University at Buffalo School of Social Work. She is currently pursuing a certificate in Horticultural Therapy with the New York Botanical Gardens. She is the proud mother of two resilient teens, two rescued Shih Tzus, and an ever-growing collection of houseplants saved from the clearance cart at Lowes.

Planning for Agriculture in the Suburbs

ROBERTA RAPPACHIO, *Planner, Town of Amherst*

Roberta Rappoccio has been an Associate Planner with the Town of Amherst, New York for three and a half years. She was the project manager for the Town's 2021 Amherst Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan working with Wendel, WWS Planning and Camoin, that was recently awarded a 'Best Practice' Award from the Upstate New York Chapter of the APA. Roberta is currently working on the implementation of the Agricultural Plan recommendations, including a suburban agricultural zoning analysis with Bergmann Associates and an Economic Feasibility Study with Camoin for a small agriculture related industrial park in north Amherst. Roberta was the former Planning Director for the Town of Evans, New York prior to working with Amherst Planning, and has worked as a senior planner for the City of Albany, New York and Waltham, Massachusetts. She received a Master's Degree in City Planning from Boston University.

Planning for Agriculture in the Suburbs

MISSY HARTMAN, *Supervisor, Town of Eden*

Melissa is currently in her second term as Eden Town Supervisor. Eden is a small rural/suburban town (8,000 residents) about 20 miles south of Buffalo, New York. Eden is an agricultural community mainly growing vegetables. Prior to my current position, I was the Assistant Director of Admissions for the University at Buffalo. I have my Master's degree in Higher Education Administration and worked in higher education for 15 years.

Not only does Melissa serve the residents of Eden, she is also very active in regional government efforts and is the past President of the Erie County Association of Governments, in addition to having served as the Erie County Supervisors Chair for three years. Melissa is in her seventh year as a member of the Erie County Sewer Board, currently chairs the Rural Transit Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Southtowns Planning Committee. She also serves on the New York State Association of Towns Executive Committee.