



THE MASTER PLANNER PROGRAM

Acquiring good skills for good decisions

The 2016 Courses

Community Planning October 2016 Dates To Be Announced

Zoning March 2016 – Wednesdays 3/16, 3/23, 3/30

Zoning Administration

Available on Request –
Inquire via info@cc2020.org

Subdivision & Land Development Review May 2016 Tuesday 5/24; Thursday 5/26; Tuesday 5/31

All participants receive copies of the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code and handbooks for practical experience with the course content. All courses are continuously updated to reflect the most current amendments to the Planning Code. **Each individual course provides 10 hours of instruction toward Continuing Education Credit.**

This course targets the responsibilities of municipal officials and members of planning commissions. Classes will address the role of planning in local government, and how planning commissions relate to the governing body, zoning hearing board and zoning officer. Specific topics include basic knowledge of the Municipalities Planning Code, comprehensive planning, plan implementation including zoning, subdivision and land development regulation, official mapping and how effective planning commissions approach their responsibilities. The course is designed as introductory for new and as a refresher for experienced students.

Zoning is probably the most fascinating, complex and provocative topic in local planning. This course addresses the evolution of zoning in the United States and how it continues to structure the way zoning is practiced in Pennsylvania. Classes will study the fundamentals of drafting zoning ordinances and amendments, beginning with the MPC authority for zoning. Included are advanced technical techniques such as overlay and performance zoning, as well as planned residential and traditional neighborhood development. The relationship of zoning to comprehensive planning and the need for consistency is emphasized. The course includes mapping exercises, reviews of zoning ordinance provisions, and instruction in how to do a "build-out analysis." Problem situations and ethical dilemmas are discussed. Detailed attention is paid to the role of the planning commission, individuals, and local agencies in zoning administration as well as to procedures for enacting zoning ordinances and guidelines for rezoning.

The course in Zoning Administration is for zoning hearing board members, zoning officials, and elected officials regardless of experience. Students will learn the basic principles, procedures and information needed to effectively carry out their functions in the administration of municipal zoning. The course covers the technical aspects of zoning and how to build effective relationships with the public. Practice exercises are built into each session. Participants learn how to conduct effective and fair zoning hearings in a mock zoning hearing session. Course topics include the principles of zoning, key zoning terms, the zoning administration team, zoning officer duties, enforcement notices, zoning hearing procedures, variances, special exceptions/conditional uses, and non-conformance.

This course deals with the work of planning commissions in completing the subdivision review process, from pre-applications meetings through project completion. The curriculum is organized into three major sections: 1) principles of subdivision and land development regulation and ordinance requirements, 2) subdivision and land development review procedures, and 3) design and technical standards of subdivision development. Participants experience reviewing plans and designing alternative solutions. Topics in the course include the MPC requirements governing subdivision and land development regulation; the importance of subdivision regulations to municipalities and to developers; a procedure for reviewing applications; requirements for approving and denying plans; project completion and design considerations; density and open space criteria; and new approaches to better project design.