

# ANNOTATED RESUME

Alan J. Sorensen, AICP

## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

Master of Public Administration, Pace University, 1996. Honors.

Master of City & Regional Planning, Rutgers University, 1989.

Bachelor of Arts, Double Major in Geography and Anthropology, SUNY Oneonta, 1987. Cum Laude.

American Institute of Certified Planners, Member, 1992-present.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development, Orange County, NY, 2020 to present.

President/Owner, Planit Main Street, Inc., 2001 to 2020.

Assistant Commissioner of Policy, NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal, 2004-2005.

Commissioner, Division of Planning and Community Development, Sullivan County, NY, 1997-2003.

Senior Planner, Ferrandino & Associates, Inc. Elmsford, NY, 1996-1997.

Associate Planner, Department of Planning, Westchester County, NY 1992-1996.

Senior Planner, Yonkers Planning Bureau, City of Yonkers, NY, 1991-1992.

Planner, Department of Planning, City of Palm Bay, FL, 1989-1991.

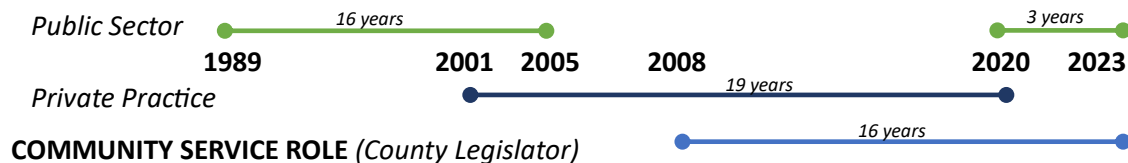
## COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

Legislator District 9, Sullivan County Legislature, Sullivan County, NY, 2008 to present.

- Majority Leader, 2016-present.
- Minority Leader, 2012-2016.
- Legislator, 2008-2012.

## PROFESSIONAL AND ELECTED POSITIONS – a career of overlap and impact

### PROFESSIONAL ROLES



## MAJOR CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*Over the past 34 years, my career has been guided by an ardent desire to improve the residents' quality of life in the communities I have served. My work was driven by a sense of purpose and understanding that underserved communities need an advocate to look out for their interests. As Sullivan County Commissioner, I conceived of and implemented innovative programs such as the Agri-Business Revolving Loan Fund and the Main Street Redevelopment Center (featured in the January 2000 issue of Planning). As Assistant Commissioner of Policy at NYSDHCR, I worked to create the New York Main Street program, developed the program guide, advocated for the program creation within State government and outside agencies, and helped to implement the program successfully. As Orange County Planning Commissioner, I authored the Orange County Bikeway Vision, a plan to establish a county-wide separated, non-motorized transportation system to connect all the County's Environmental Justice and Justice 40 communities when complete. I reached out to secure the County Executive's support for the Bikeway Vision. I gathered the Orange County Legislature's support to adopt the Orange County Bikeway Vision as a supplemental chapter of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan. I prepared the legislative request, and the Bikeway Vision is currently moving through the Legislative process for adoption. I have already secured \$28 million in funding to build the 10-mile Schunemunk Rail Trail, Bikeway Segment 2.*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – KEY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### **Commissioner, Department of Planning & Development, Orange County, NY, 2020 to present.**

Manage a 23-staff-person multi-disciplinary Planning Department with five units: Environmental, Grants, Land Use, Transit, and Transportation. I have successfully reorganized the Department's structure to provide promotional opportunities, made numerous promotions, and brought more diversity to our team through recent hires. My work has focused on protecting agriculture and open space and transforming our transit and transportation systems to manage growth better and ensure user access.

### **Key project OUTCOMES.**

- **Orange County Bikeway Vision.** I authored the Orange County Bikeway Vision, a plan to establish a non-motorized transportation system throughout Orange County, NY, that provides a realm for the most vulnerable users of our roadways to travel and recreate safely and stress-free within communities and over long distances. The Bikeway will provide benefits for safety, health, and quality of life for all communities of the County. The Bikeway will connect areas with concentrations of racial minorities, ethnic minorities, and low-income populations and traverse many of the County's Justice 40 and Environmental Justice areas, ensuring that underserved communities have access to the system and activity centers, employment opportunities, and public parks along the way. I have secured County Executive and Legislative support for the Vision, which will be adopted as a supplemental chapter of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan in 2023.
- **Schunнемunk Rail Trail.** Project leader for the Schunнемunk Rail Trail responsible for coordinating efforts of the County Executive's Office, County Legislature, and Open Space Institute (OSI) to build support and secure funding for the 10-mile Schunнемunk Rail Trail. Managing my Transit Unit, I secured \$25.45 million in FTA 5307 funds for this segment of the County's active transportation system. This rail trail will be the County's first split-use trail with a width of 16 feet consisting of two 5-foot dedicated bike lanes to accommodate e-bikes and a 6-foot-wide pedestrian lane. I obtained the Orange County Legislature's support for this \$28.271 M project with the federal share at 80%, State at 10%, and County at 10%. All funding, including the Legislature's \$2.82 M local match, is in place, and the project is entering the design phase, with construction to commence in 2024.
- **Camp LaGuardia.** The County received several multi-million dollar offers from developers to build a warehouse distribution center on this 217-acre site at the confluence of the County's 19-mile Heritage Trail and 10-mile Schunнемunk Rail Trail. I was invited to a high-level meeting with the County Executive, Chairwomen of the Legislature, the County Attorney's Office, and other Department heads to review and select one proposal. After an hour of deliberations, I raised my hand and stated, "At the risk of sounding like a planner, do we really want to construct a warehouse distribution center on this site? This site should become a County Park." From there, I led and participated in a discussion that lasted another hour, after which the County Executive and Legislative Chairwoman announced they would refuse the developer offers. Two days later, the County Executive announced plans for a new County Park at Camp LaGuardia during his State-of-the-County address. I am leading the effort to create a Park Master Plan for Camp LaGuardia in collaboration with the County Parks Department and OSI.
- **Middletown Bus Network Redesign.** Set Department priority to advance plans to redesign the Middletown fixed route bus system, unchanged for 30 years despite significant commercial and residential growth outside the city that changed travel patterns. With input from a Study Advisory Group, riders, and the public, we developed a plan to expand the fixed route to serve the community better. The new fixed route service is scheduled to go into effect in 2024.

## **President, Planit Main Street, Inc., 2001 to 2020.**

I started my firm, Planit Main Street, Inc., to help municipalities throughout the Catskill Mountains, Central New York, and Hudson Valley of New York State to develop policies, programs, and projects to improve the quality of life of their residents. Through my practice, I have helped many communities envision a brighter future through the Comprehensive Plan process and worked with them to implement critical elements of each plan. I was a sole practitioner and wrote each of the Comprehensive Plans cited below.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLANS:** Over my career, I have written fifteen comprehensive plans using the "best practices" of the time. Below are five plans that have been implemented and have made a resounding difference for each community's residents, businesses, and civic organizations.

- **Comprehensive Plan, Village of Deposit, NY** – The Village of Deposit is a historic community situated along the west branch of the Delaware River in Delaware and Broome Counties, New York. More than 50% of Village residents meet HUD's low/moderate income definition. In 2014, the Village received funding through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Cleaner Greener Communities program to develop its first Comprehensive Plan. I was selected to work closely with the Comprehensive Plan Committee to conduct the public participation process and write the new Comprehensive Plan. I facilitated a Community Character Survey™ at one of the general visioning sessions held by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and all Committee meetings. The Comprehensive Plan strongly emphasizes protecting community character and includes a chapter devoted to *sustainability and resiliency* policies. It includes recommendations regarding agricultural and farmland protection, natural resource protection, historic preservation, neighborhood revitalization, form-based codes, and Downtown revitalization. The Comprehensive Plan also discusses renewal and a new waterfront park plan. Following the required public hearings, *the Village Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2017 Comprehensive Plan on September 26, 2017*. The Plan envisioned the revitalization of Front Street by replacing water and sewer lines and streetscape enhancements, including new sidewalks and street lighting. I secured grants, including an \$825,000 Transportation Enhancement Program, \$486,000 CDBG, and \$122,500 LWRP grant that funded the Front Street Enhancement project, completed in 2019. I was the project manager who worked for Village to see the project was completed.
- **Economic and Community Development Plan, Village of Hancock, NY** – I wrote the Plan that provides strategies for strengthening the integrity of Hancock's neighborhoods; stimulating reinvestment in the historic Downtown business district; improving the image of gateways leading into the Village; and identifying programs and policies needed to promote new investment within the community. Creating the Economic and Community Development Plan included a robust public participation process and allowed the community to come together to create a vision for the community's future. The *Hancock Fitness Trail and Scenic Overlook (see below section on trails)* were envisioned in the Plan, along with a new Village Green in the center of Downtown. I secured the NYSDOT TEP funds for the Fitness Trail and Scenic Overlook in 2009. The Village Board was ready to abandon the project when the Great Recession hit. I attended a Village Board meeting and pleaded with the Board to allow me to secure additional funding. I applied for and successfully obtained an NYSDOT ARRA TEP Grant resulting in 100% grant funding for the project, which allowed the project to proceed. The *Hancock Fitness Trail and Scenic Overlook* are built, and the Village Green envisioned in the Plan has also since been developed.

- **Comprehensive Plan, Village of Walden, NY** – I authored the 2005 Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Walden, New York, and was selected by the Board of Trustees to complete an update of the Plan in 2012. The creation of the 2013 Comprehensive Plan involved a robust public participation component that included public meetings and a participatory visioning exercise to ensure feedback from all stakeholders. The Plan provides provisions to protect the Village's historic, cultural, and natural resources while ensuring opportunities for affordable housing and economic growth. The new Comprehensive Plan builds upon the 2005 Plan but broadens the discussion on natural resource protection, open space and recreation, and historic and cultural resources. Planit Main Street, Inc. also completed the necessary State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) documentation for the Village Board. *The 2013 Comprehensive Plan received broad community support and was adopted by the Village Board on February 26, 2013.*
- **Comprehensive Plan, Town of Chester, NY** – My firm was selected by the Town Board of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, to complete an update of its 2003 Comprehensive Plan. Working with the Comprehensive Plan Committee, I met monthly to address various aspects of the Comprehensive Plan. I prepared a Draft Comprehensive Plan for the Town Board's review following the Committee's public hearing. The Comprehensive Plan update broadened goals, objectives, and policies related to jobs and housing, agricultural resources, parks and recreational resources, community facilities and services, and natural resource protection. It also included an implementation plan with specific recommendations for revisions to the Town's existing land use policies. Following the Town Board's public hearing, final modifications were made to the draft Comprehensive Plan. *The Town Board unanimously voted to adopt the 2015 Comprehensive Plan update on May 27, 2015.*
- **Comprehensive Plan, Town of Germantown, NY** - The Town of Germantown is a quaint historic community with 6,700 residents on the banks of the Hudson River in Columbia County, New York. The Germantown hamlet Downtown Business District comprises various late 1800's mixed-use buildings, turn-of-the-century Italianate buildings, and other architectural styles. In September 2016, the Town Board appointed a Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) to guide the public participation process and undertake an update of the Town's 2011 Comprehensive Plan. My firm was retained to work with the CPC to update the Plan, and I completed the Committee's draft of the update in June 2017. The Town Board's Comprehensive Plan draft was adopted on July 17, 2017.
- **Comprehensive Plan - Village of Fleischmanns, New York** - The Village of Fleischmanns hired me in November 2008 to prepare the community's first Comprehensive Plan. I led the public participation process and facilitated the monthly Comprehensive Plan Committee meetings. I also facilitated several public-visioning sessions with the Committee and attended each public hearing. I completed the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan in late September 2009 and the final Comprehensive Plan in early December 2009. I also prepared the required State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) documentation for adopting the Comprehensive Plan. The 2009 Comprehensive Plan includes a variety of recommendations for preserving and enhancing the Wagner Avenue Historic District and other historically significant areas. It also has a chapter on revitalizing the Village's historic Main Street business district, including a strategy for removing an existing junkyard. The Committee meetings broadly agreed on various goals, recommendations, and policies. The Plan included an implementation schedule that described specific actions needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan effectively. *The Fleischmanns Village Board voted unanimously to adopt the Comprehensive Plan on December 14, 2009.* The Village succeeded in removing junkyards from the Village Center by following the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- **Feasibility Study for Redevelopment of 202-204 Front Street, Owego, NY** - In March of 2011, I completed a Feasibility Study for the Redevelopment of 202-204 Front Street, based upon building plans developed by JHL ARCHITECTURE, Architect-Engineer, P.C. The Feasibility Study for the Redevelopment of 202-204 Front Street evaluates the potential for the development of a new mixed-use building on these two (2) vacant buildings lots (hereinafter referred to as "Property") owned by Historic Owego Marketplace, Inc. (HOM) on the south side of Front Street. The Property was analyzed as part of the Feasibility Study, and existing conditions and development requirements, including zoning restrictions, historic district review, site plan review, etc., were identified. The original HOM concept plan for The Gateway Building provided the basis for preliminary construction cost estimates and financial pro formas for a mixed-use development with retail on the first floor and market-rate housing on the upper floors. However, this Plan's economic feasibility analysis revealed a significant financing gap. Due to these findings, I prepared two alternatives evaluated to arrive at more financially viable scenarios. One of the alternatives involved the development of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Senior Housing on the Property. The other alternative is a mixed-use building with retail on the First Floor and LIHTC Senior Housing above. The ability to finance these alternatives was far more likely than the original plan. Based on my findings, HOM pursued funding for further design work, estimating, and financial due diligence to initiate a developer solicitation process for the construction of the Gateway Building. The Gateway Building was later developed, and I had the opportunity to visit it in the Summer of 2022. The Gateway Visitors Center and several businesses with residences above the store are housed there.



## TRAILS:

- **Walden-Walkill Rail Trail** - During a walk with the Mayor and Village Manager, I noticed a bridge abutment and asked, "Is that an abandoned rail line? The mayor responded, yes, and it is a nuisance since the teenagers hang out there at night and party; we had to fence it off." I asked, "Have you ever considered turning it into a rail trail?" I went on to develop the concept plan for the *Walden-Walkill Rail Trail*. I spearheaded a regional effort to plan for the proposed three-mile rail trail from Downtown Walden in Orange County to the hamlet of Walkill in Ulster County. My visit to Lombard Street in San Francisco inspired the ADA-compliant access ramp to the trail. I wrote and secured several grants to help fund its construction, including a \$600,000 ISTE A Grant from NYSDOT Region 8 and a \$75,000 grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway. *The Walden-Walkill Rail Trail opened on May 2, 2009.*



- Hancock Fitness Trail** – During a walk with the Mayor and Hancock Partners President, I saw an old bridge abutment at the end of a dead-end street one block from Downtown. I climbed atop the metal railing and saw this incredible view of the East Branch of the Delaware River and a railroad bridge and envisioned a scenic overlook. After that, I authored the Village of Hancock's *2008 Economic and Community Development Plan*, which envisioned the creation of the *Hancock Fitness Trail and Scenic Overlook*. The Plan included the original concept for this trail to link the East and West Branches of the Delaware River via a route through the heart of the downtown business district. Another intended function of the fitness trail was to provide a trail system in the Village that would enable its seniors to safely walk from their residences to the Lourdes Health Clinic in the heart of the downtown business district. The Plan also envisioned a *scenic overlook* at the end of Old Bridge Street to transform a long-neglected area on the waterfront (overgrown with Japanese Knot Weed) into an aesthetically pleasing resident and visitor attraction. Finally, the Plan envisioned a new Village Green at the site of a long-close Grant Union Supermarket. In 2009, I wrote and successfully secured a Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) grant of \$451,200 for the *Hancock Fitness Trail and Scenic Overlook*. In 2010, the Village of Hancock was invited by the NYSDOT to submit an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) application, which I also prepared and submitted for the Village. The Village was later awarded the ARRA TEP Grant resulting in a \$564,000 grant for the *Hancock Fitness Trail and Scenic Overlook*. The project was subsequently BID, and construction was completed in the fall of 2012.



#### LOCAL LAWS:

- Inclusionary Zoning Law.** I wrote the Village of Walden, New York's Inclusionary Zoning Provision, which established a mandatory 10 % set-aside for affordable housing to address the missing middle in the housing market. Walden was the first community in Orange County to adopt a compulsory set-aside for affordable housing.

#### Assistant Commissioner of Policy, NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal, 2004-2005.

I led a small team to create the New York Main Street program, developed the program guide, advocated for the program creation within the State government and outside agencies, and helped to implement the program successfully.

- New York Main Street** – The NYSDHR recruited me to lead an effort to develop the State's first Main Street revitalization program. Drawing from extensive experience creating and running the Main Street Redevelopment Center in Sullivan County, NY, I set out to develop the framework for a Statewide program. In addition to developing the program guidelines, I spent many hours meeting with the key staff members in the Governor's Office to garner support for the program. I drew from my years of CDBG experience when funding became an issue. I realized that NYSDHCR had HUD program income that could be used to fund the NYMS program, provided it included an element for affordable housing. Thereafter, the living-over-the-store component of the program guide was added, helping to secure \$20 million for the program. Working with my small team, we rolled out the program in the summer of 2004. A testament to the program's strength is that it has survived four consecutive Governorships since its inception.

**Commissioner, Division of Planning & Community Development, Sullivan County, NY, 1997-2003.**

I managed an 11-staff-person multi-disciplinary Planning Division with two units: Planning and Community Development. Over seven years, I added staff members to our team, resulting in a more racially and ethnically diverse group. During my tenure, I wrote the County's first Economic Development Strategy, entitled *Rebuilding Sullivan County*, and successfully implemented several programs and projects envisioned in the 1997 Economic Development Strategy. As a prolific grant writer, I secured nearly \$20 million in State and federal funding for Sullivan County during my tenure with the County. The following are a few examples of my work in Sullivan County, NY.

- **Main Street Redevelopment Center - Sullivan County, NY** - During my tenure as Commissioner of Planning and Community Development for Sullivan County, New York, I created the *Main Street Redevelopment Center (MSRC)*, which became a nationally recognized program that I developed to address the need to revitalize the County's 24 hamlets and villages. I wrote the program guidelines for the MSRC, secured all grant funding for the MSRC, and administered the program along with staff members. Through my leadership, 150 building facades were restored through the MSRC, 35 new businesses were created, and 20 *living-over-the-store* residential dwelling units were built.
- **Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (UDSB)** - I led a three-year regional planning effort to designate NYS Route 97 as a New York State Scenic Byway. The project involved Sullivan, Orange, and Delaware Counties and encompassed ten municipalities. I prepared the application for Scenic Byway funds that resulted in a \$120,000 NYSDOT grant for the development of a Corridor Management Plan and subsequently served as the Chair of the 23-member Scenic Byway Committee and worked with them and HRG Consultants to develop the corridor management plan which was titled the "Enhancement Concept for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway." The Upper Delaware Scenic Byway was designated a New York State Scenic Byway on August 6, 2002, and the daylong dedication ceremony took place on September 21, 2002. I led a small team to form the *Upper Delaware Scenic Byway* not-for-profit corporation and was elected its first President. I also worked with fellow Board members and NYSDOT to design and install the UDSB trailblazer signs along the Byway.



- **Emerald Corporate Center – Rock Hill, New York** – I led the effort to develop the *Emerald Corporate Center*, a shovel-ready business park, in Rock Hill, New York. My involvement included: project conception, development of a feasibility study, site selection & acquisition, site layout, preparation of the SEQRA Scoping document, coordination of the development of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement, and the procurement of \$2,775,000 in federal and State grants that were used to develop the business park. I also created a marketing brochure for the business park. I was elected President of the Emerald Corporate Center Economic Development Corporation, a nine-member not-for-profit corporation, in 2001. The business park was completed in September 2002. By March 2003, 1/3 of the business park was sold to developers. The first tenant of the Emerald Corporate Center, *Crystal Run Healthcare (CRH)*, opened its new 80,000 sq. ft. "Class A" office building on July 1, 2004. The CRH facility employs over 300 area residents and provides needed healthcare services to the greater community. The Emerald Corporate Center represented one of the Mid-Hudson Region's first public "shovel-ready" business parks. It was the first to introduce the concept of the "Paper Shell," or sites with pre-approved site plans.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP - KEY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

### Sullivan County Legislator District 9

I was first elected to the Sullivan County Legislature in November of 2007 after running on an Environmental Justice platform to stop the expansion of the Sullivan County Landfill in the Village of Monticello, which has a minority population of over 50% in a County that is 90% white.

- **Sullivan County Landfill Closure** – Once elected, I was the only Legislator opposed to the landfill expansion. First, I tried to appeal to fellow Legislators' compassion for nearby neighbors due to noise, odors, and impacts on wells, but those arguments were ignored. Not to be deterred, I dug deep into the financing of the landfill and questioned the viability of the proposed plan to import trash. I soon uncovered severe concerns with the County's cash-for-trash business. In the end, the vote was 9-0 in support of abandoning plans to expand the landfill in Monticello and close it for good after that. The Times Herald-Record headline the day after was "Landfill Expansion is Dead."
- **Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Committee** – I strongly advocated for Legislature to create and appoint a Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Committee. I chaired the Committee for several years before assigning the effort to the Planning Department. In 2009, the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Committee released a feasibility report on linking a 50-mile former rail line from Livingston Manor to Wurtsboro. The County also studied the feasibility of connecting an old spur from Monticello to Port Jervis. The New York, Ontario & Western Railway ran the rail line, which closed in 1957 bankruptcy. About 25 miles of the company's 50-mile line through Sullivan County are currently used as a recreational trail, and the long-term plan is to tie these segments together.
- **Sullivan Promise Scholarship** - The all-new Sullivan Promise Scholarship provides Sullivan County residents with a high school diploma or GED in 2023 and the opportunity to receive FREE TUITION AND FEES at SUNY Sullivan. I have supported this program since the college first presented the concept to the County Legislator. As someone who grew up living below the poverty level, I know first-hand the struggles of trying to make ends meet while paying for college. The Sullivan Promise Scholarship provides more opportunities for underserved communities to pursue their dream of higher education.
- **DREAM TANK** - Dream Tank is an organization that provides opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and excel. At the same time, the organization provides support and mentoring to guide them in the right direction. Through their work, they empower at-risk youth to discover their purpose in life and make the most of their potential. For over a decade, I voted to fund over \$50,000 annually for program support and participated in many of the events and field trips sponsored by the organization.

### AWARDS AND HONORS

- *NAACP Recognition Award for Outstanding Service and Support of Community – 2015*  
The NAACP Recognition Award for Outstanding Service and Support of the Community is given to individuals who have shown a sustained commitment to civil rights and have positively addressed issues of social justice and equality.
- *New York State Historic Preservation Office Public Sector Achievement Award – 2003*  
Created in 1980, the State Historic Preservation Awards are presented by the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation each year to honor excellence in protecting and revitalizing historic and cultural resources. The award was given for my preservation work in Sullivan County.

- The Upper Delaware Council "*Partnership Award*" for Upper Delaware Scenic Byway 2001  
This award is given to government agencies instituting new programs or policies that protect the Upper Delaware River and support the principles of the River Management Plan. I chaired the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Committee and was elected as the first President of the Scenic Byway Board.
- Statewide "*2000 Friend of Extension*" Cornell Cooperative Extension, 2000  
The award is given to an individual who has exemplified leadership, collaboration, and commitment to the Cornell Cooperative Extension system and its mission to enable people to improve their lives and communities through partnerships that put experience and research knowledge to work. I was awarded its highest honor, the "Statewide" Friend of Extension, for my work in Sullivan County, NY.
- New York Planning Federation *Heissenbuttel Award for Excellence*, 1999  
The award is given each year to an individual, municipality, or agency for outstanding accomplishment in planning. It is named in honor of Henry Heissenbuttel, the former director of the Dutchess County Planning Department. I was recognized for my work with the Main Street Redevelopment Center in Sullivan County, New York.
- Upper Delaware Council *Heritage River Award for Planning*, 1999  
The award is given to the organization or individual whose work promoted, enhanced, or interpreted the cultural resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley. I was honored for my work with the Main Street Redevelopment Center and for creating a historic preservation program in Sullivan County, NY.
- Pace University *Public Administration Award* for outstanding academic achievement, 1996  
This award is presented to the graduating students who best exemplify academic citizenship by integrating academic achievement and leadership skills to serve as role models for other students.

#### PRESENTATIONS (selected) – routinely asked to speak at State, county, and local levels.

- Vision Hudson Valley Placemaking Conference, Orange County, NY – June 2023
  - I gave a presentation on how to successfully create rail trails.
- Leadership Orange Transportation Talk, SUNY Orange, Newburgh, NY – February 2023
  - I was the keynote speaker on the topic of emerging transportation planning issues.
- Orange County Economic Summit, SUNY Orange, Middletown, NY – September 2021
  - As a panelist, I discussed how we could create a county-wide active transportation system.
- NYCOM Adirondack Housing Symposium, Lake Placid, NY – 2005
  - I participated in a panel discussion concerning affordable housing.
- New York Planning Federation Conference, Saratoga, NY – 2005
  - I was a panelist on a downtown revitalization discussion.

#### APA ACTIVITIES

- APA New York Metro Chapter- *past Hudson Valley West Director 2005-2010*.
- *Panelist at APA New York Metro Chapter Annual Conference, December 2006*.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

- NAACP Sullivan County Branch, Unit 2187-B, *Silver Life Subscribing Member*.
- Emerald Green Property Owners Association, Rock Hill, NY – *past President, 2004-2010*.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Community & Economic Vitality Council – *2000-2004*.
- Emerald Corporate Center Economic Development Corporation – *past President, 2001-2003*.
- Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Board - *past President, 2001-2003*.
- New York State Urban Council - Mid-Hudson Region – *past Vice-President, 2002-2004*.
- Hudson Valley Regional Council – *past Secretary & Board of Directors Member, 1997-2005*.

## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Comprehensive Plans, Design Guidelines, and Studies (selected few from body of work)

- Prepared the 2018 State and National Registers Nomination for the Richard Pousette-Dart House
  - The Richard Pousette-Dart House was listed on the State and National Registers.
- Created the 2014 U.S. *Route 9W Corridor Enhancement Plan*, Town of Ulster, NY
  - The Plan resulted in removing pole signs along the corridor and sidewalk enhancements.
- Developed the 2014 *Downtown Design Guidelines* for the Village of Deposit, NY
  - The Planning Board used the Guidelines to protect the historic character of the Village.
- Wrote the 2012 *Comprehensive Plan Update* for the Village of Walden, NY
  - Created a new plan for a Traditional Neighborhood Design (TOD) at Railroad Place.
- Developed the 2010 *Downtown Design Guidelines* for the Village of Fleischmanns, NY
  - The Planning Board used the Guidelines to protect the historic character of the Village.
- Created the 2008 *Economic & Community Development Plan* for the Village of Hancock, NY
  - Outcomes include Hancock Fitness Trail and Scenic Overlook, and new Village Green.
- Prepared the 2005 *Comprehensive Plan* for the Village of Walden, NY
  - The Plan resulted in a successful Downtown Revitalization effort and the construction of the Walden-Walkill Rail Trail. I led both projects, wrote grants that funded each action, and managed the program and project implementation.

## SUMMARY

I like "tough challenges," as represented by those projects described above that demonstrate leadership and the implementation of innovative planning initiatives that contributed to improvements in the quality of communities and our profession. I took lessons learned through creating the County-wide Main Street Redevelopment Center, and at NYSDHCR, I led the effort to develop and implement the New York Main Street Program that helped to revitalize downtowns across New York State. I have helped to bring social and economic vitality to many communities in need, and my work has improved the lives of many and demonstrated the value of our profession. I am always looking for ways to do things better, to learn from past mistakes of the profession, and create a vision for how we might do better in the future. My most recent initiative, the Orange County Bikeway Vision, strives to reverse decades of automobile-centric transportation planning policies by creating a separated non-motorized transportation system throughout Orange County, NY, that provides a realm for the most vulnerable users of our roadways to travel and recreate safely and stress-free both within communities and over long distances. I have worked to secure funding and legislative support for the Bikeway Vision and am committed to completing it. The Bikeway Vision could change the focus of transportation planning and ensure that all users of our transportation system, not just drivers, are considered in our transportation plans.