

“I wish there was a way we could increase *positive and constructive* participation in our municipal board meetings!”

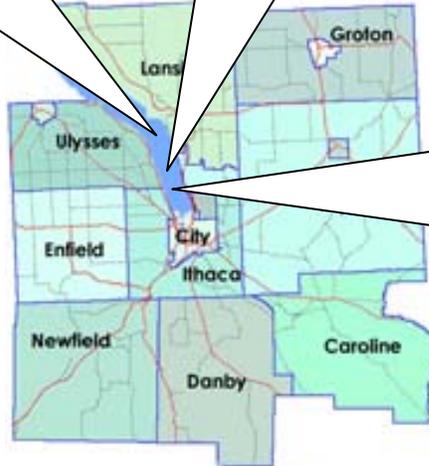
“Shouldn’t local government be about *supporting and strengthening community* and not tearing it down?”

“I’m getting tired of there being “winners” and “losers.” I’m ready for a more *collaborative and collegial method* of doing business!”

**TCCOG, the TOWN
of ITHACA, the CITY
of ITHACA, and**



PRESENT...



“Facilitating Effective Participation in the *Heated* Public Meeting”

A Training for Elected / Appointed Officials

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 11:30AM – 5:00PM
(Lunch Provided)**

Old Jail Conference Room, 125 E. Court St.

CONTENT INCLUDES:

- **BUILDING THE PUBLIC MEETING FRAMEWORK** – Strategies & Best Practices for Creating and Holding the Space ~
- **SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC MEETING DIALOGUE** – “Skills of Amplification” to heighten Effective Communication & Collaboration ~

**INCLUDES *REAL-LIFE VIDEO EXERCISES & ROLE PLAYS*
AND OPPORTUNITIES TO *SHARE YOUR OWN IDEAS & EXPERTISE!***

COST: \$50

To register, call CDRC @ 607-273-9347 or email shepardson@cdrc.org

“Exactly what I needed; exceeded my expectations!”
- Board Member

“This is a very needed training.” – Village Mayor

“I have a public meeting coming up that will be run differently based on what I learned today.” -Municipal Supervisor

OTHER PARTICIPANT QUOTES

- “I will definitely communicate and listen differently with people.”* – Board Member
“I definitely feel more prepared for future board meetings!” Board Member
“I will use rules and process more frequently now” – Board Member
“I plan on being more proactive and work to set up a firmer framework” - Supervisor
“This training needs to be presented to the U.S. Congress!” – Non-Profit E.D.

Training Content Summary: Public Meeting Framework: Tools and strategies for creating and holding the meeting space with the objective of supporting safe, meaningful inclusion on one hand and productive process on the other. Topics include: Democracy vs Republic; “Which is it?”; Effective Use of Ground Rules, Guidelines, & Other Boundaries; The Unique & Shared Roles of the Presiding Officer & Board Member; Creating a Hospitable Meeting Atmosphere; The Convening Statement; The Organizational Meeting: Establishing Ongoing Parameters / Procedures; The Role of Public Education & Awareness. **Public Meeting Dialogue:** Concepts and “Amplification Tools” to expand the potential for improved communication, greater understanding, and more collaborative problem solving. These skills will be explored in the context of Privilege of the Floor and the Discussion / Deliberation of Resolutions. Topics include:

- Understanding the Nature of Conflict
- Appreciating Conflict in Public Process; What’s Really Going On
- Amplification Tools to Prevent and/or Shift the Conflict Dynamic
 - Focused Listening
 - Reflective Feedback
 - Strategic Summary
 - Identifying / Offering-Back Decision Making Opportunities

About the Trainers

Don Barber, Chairperson of GTCMHIC Board of Directors and Supervisor, Town of Caroline was the founding chair of the Tompkins County Council of Governments and long-time active member. Among many involvements, Don has led the local government response to hydro-fracking and took lead role in overseeing DOS grant to create a Health Insurance Consortium and then moving through application process. Don is also president of NYMIR Board of Governors. In his spare time, Don is the co-owner of RoseBarb Farm (a 65-acre organic farm which focuses on agri-tourism) and founder and CEO, Sunny Brook Builders of Enfield, Inc., a living wage employer building resident construction projects in Tompkins County.

Jeff Shepardson, CDRC Director of Training & Facilitation Services, has served CDRC as staff member, mediator, facilitator and trainer since 2005, mediating and facilitating cases in a wide variety of settings, including workplace, home, public forums, faith communities, nursing facilities, local government, schools, and social service centers. Jeff provides Mediator, Facilitator & Conflict Resolution Skill Trainings on a local, state and national level. As a veteran mediator-trainer and the recipient of intensive and advanced trainings, Jeff holds a deep belief in the power of alternative dispute resolution skills to transform conflict interaction. Jeff is a Fellow and certified mediator with the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation (Dayton, OH), New York State Unified Court System ADR Certified Trainer, Adjunct Trainer (Hofstra Law School / Cornell School of Industry & Labor Relations) and holds degrees in Literature, Communications, and Theology.

Cost: \$50/Participant