

Washington County Planning Board Membership Biographies

- Ted Bigelow became a member of the Washington County Planning Board in February 2006. Mr. Bigelow is the appraiser for the Town of Queensbury's Assessor's office. He has a B.A. in Environmental Science with a minor in Geography. He has served on several boards including the Warren-Washington Counties' IDA and is currently Vice President of the Warren County Assessors' Association and Chairman of the Village of Hudson Falls Planning Board. Mr. Bigelow's work background is in Community/Planning Grantsmanship, real estate sales and development.
- Lee Comar is currently the Secretary of the Washington County Planning Board and a member since 2002. He serves on the Planning Board in the Town of Granville and as President of the Granville Heritage Society. Mr. Comar spent thirteen years in Rosendale, NY working with AT&T. He became involved in politics and served the town as Planning Board Chairman and Councilman. He received a BA from Saint Joseph College and an AS in Electrical Technology from Ulster County Community College. Community involvement in Bloomfield, CT led him to become president of the Wintenburg Historical Society for several years. Upon retiring in 1998 after 32 years with AT&T, Mr. Comar and his wife Sheila moved from Connecticut to Middle Granville where they now reside in an 1834 renovated farm house.
- H. Thomas Jarrett has more than 30 years of professional civil & environmental engineering experience serving municipal, residential, commercial, and industrial projects. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering and Geology from Cornell University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in New York State. He has experience with stormwater management, site plan and design, environmental permits & reviews, wastewater treatment and disposal systems, water supply treatment systems and solid waste management facilities. Mr. Jarrett was elected Chair of the Washington County Planning Board in January 2007 and has been a member since August 1996.
- Thomas J. Kearney was appointed to the Washington County Planning Board in November 2005 and currently serves as a Trustee in the Village of Cambridge. He worked in the New York State Department of Transportation's Planning Division for fourteen years. Mr. Kearney served as a Statewide Planner in Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) New York Division Office following his state service and recently joined FHWA's Office of Freight Management and Operations serving on the Truck Size and Weight Team.

Mr. Kearney is a National Highway Institute Certified Instructor for FHWA's Highway Program Financing course. He received his undergraduate degree from Albany State University where he also earned his Master's Degree in Regional Planning with joint specialties in Urban and Transportation Planning. He has been a member of the American Planning Association since 1983 and currently serves on the Community Advisory Board for The University at Albany's Graduate Program in Regional Planning.

- William T. Lawrence was appointed to the Washington County Planning Board on 12/15/00. He is an active member of The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee of Washington Co. Office of the Aging, as well as a Hospice Volunteer, a Chaplain of the Whitehall Senior Center's Club and a Lay Leader of the Whitehall United Methodist Church. Mr. Lawrence was employed by NYS DOT in the Engineering Department. He has also served on Town and Village Planning Boards in Orange County, NY. He currently resides on a farm in the Town of Hampton.
- Robert E. Liebig Sr. has been a member of the Washington County Planning Board since 2002. Mr. Liebig is a father of seven and long-time resident of Washington County. He is a 1945 graduate of Granville High School whose schooling began in a one-room school house in Hebron. Mr. Liebig farmed on the family farm in Hebron. He then had the opportunity to work for a few years for a construction company in Seattle, Washington. He rose to the position of Assistant Superintendent with this company where he worked on many projects nationwide on government complexes and military bases. Moving back to the area, he continued to work locally in both construction and as a farmer for over 40 years. In 1993, he started "Utopia Enterprises" selling modular homes. In 1997, upon his retirement at the age of seventy, he began the pre-cast division of Utopia, a business located in Hartford that specializes in pre-cast concrete products.
- John T. Pedersen became a member of the Washington County Planning Board in February 2008. Mr. Pedersen grew up in Lake Telemark, New Jersey; his family purchased his farm in the Town of Jackson in 1962, and he moved there in 1974. He graduated from Morris Knolls High School in 1969, and The Kings College in New York in 1974. He has a B.S. degree in education, and one year of Geology from Windom College in Vt.. Mr. Pedersen has been in the auto industry for his whole life, he was a major Corvette parts supplier and manufacturer for many years, supplying the world with aftermarket parts for restoration. His business of 30 years is in Jackson and he enjoys hunting and vegetable farming and the betterment of the wildlife in his area. He has been a member of the Town of Jackson Planning Board from its beginning some 22 years ago. He is the chairman of the Jackson Planning Board and has been for many years. He has attended many Planning conferences put on by the State and others, which has helped him with the Planning of his Town and making him have the knowledge of the rules and regulations which are ever changing.

- Louis Marchaland is a senior member of Washington County Planning Board having served since 1996. He has worked all his life on the farm his family purchased in the Town of Easton in 1934. Mr. Marchaland began operating the farm in 1953. His sons currently manage the operation, which consists of three farms with over 700 acres. Mr. Marchaland is a proud father of eight.

Mr. Marchaland is very involved in his community. He served on the Easton Town Planning Board from 1979 to 1987 and again from 1997 to 1999. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Washington County Co-Operative Insurance Company which is an assessment co-operative fire insurance company in the Town of Easton. Mr. Marchaland also served as a Director on the Washington County Farm Bureau, serving one term as President. He is a founding member of the Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA) and served on their Board of Directors for many years. Mr. Marchaland was a recipient of a "Farm Legacy Award" presented by the ASA at their 2006 Annual Dinner honoring his contributions toward farmland preservation.

- Mason Ormsby has served on the Washington County Planning Board since 2002. He grew up working on the family farm in Fort Edward that his parents began operating in 1923. Mr. Ormsby took over operation of the farm in 1975. In his childhood, Mr. Ormsby showed in the Washington County 4-H Fair at its original location where the county offices stand today. He was a long-time member of Agri-Mark and served as an Agri-Mark delegate. Mr. Ormsby also served on the Washington County Farm Bureau. He is currently a member of the Board of Assessment Review in the Town of Fort Edward and also serves on the Customer Service Council of the Greenwich Branch of First Pioneer Farm Credit. In addition, Mr. Ormsby serves on the Town of Fort Edward Community Advisory Group for the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site.
- Rick Percoco became a member of the Washington County Planning Board in February of 2007. Mr. Percoco works for First Pioneer Farm Credit, providing appraisals for collateral review and evaluation, real estate and forestry consultation, and timber management services. He is a NYSDEC Cooperating Consultant Forester, an inspector for the American Tree Farm System, a Certified Forester, a certified appraiser, and an accredited member of the American Society of Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers. Mr. Percoco has a BS in Natural Resources Management from SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry.