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THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2014

## HUNTINGTON

# H2M VP Leads Smart Growth Honorees

### *Vision LI to honor new Huntington Chamber chair for regional leadership*

By **Danny Schrafel**

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Vision Long Island will honor the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce's new skipper for his efforts to foster smart growth across Long Island.

Hundreds of smart growth advocates will converge on the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury Friday, June 13, to celebrate the winners of the 13th annual Smart Growth Awards, hosted by the Northport-based smart-growth development advocates.

But if you ask architect Bob Scheiner, who was installed in late May as the Huntington Chamber's chairman, about the call from Vision Long Island Executive Director Eric Alexander to tell him that he would be honored with their Regional Leadership award, Scheiner admits he initially demurred.

"I said, 'Are you sure you've got the right person?' There are so many people, who are in my opinion, much more deserving," said Scheiner, of Commack, senior vice president of H2M architects + engineers in Melville.

To Alexander, however, fettering Scheiner was a no-brainer. That's due to his longtime commitment to promoting affordable housing, collaborative ef-

forts with local governments – "generally the most productive entities that get smart growth done," Alexander said – his community involvement, and expertise in infrastructure, a vital component of advancing smart growth projects.

"The guy is just passionate about the community, and that comes through," Alexander said.

Former Huntington Chamber chairman Bob Bontempi similarly sang Scheiner's praises.

"Bob has been a true leader, inspiration and mentor to many in the Long Island community, including myself," Bontempi said. "He's a great individual with tremendous attention to detail infectious enthusiasm."

Scheiner's career began after graduating from college, when he first began working with his father as an architect before heading to the Levitt Organization for eight years. In the mid-70s, he made his way to local government, where he served as the initial director of community development and planning in the Town of Riverhead. During

his nine-year tenure, he worked his way up to serve as deputy supervisor, and was the go-to man for all capital improvements in the township. After completing his work in Riverhead, he returned to the private sector in 1986 when he joined Melville-based H2M, and he's been there ever since.

Scheiner said the diversity of his experiences has given him a unique insight as to what smart growth is all about.

"You're trying to promote growth that's sustainable in areas that are transportation

nodes that can be exciting areas for young people and older folks to find housing and culture and entertainment," he said, noting that H2M has been on the vanguard

of providing the infrastructure needed to foster that sort of development in towns and villages across Long Island.

Scheiner will receive the Regional Leadership award alongside Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano, a smart-growth champion who has recently become a vocal advo-



**Vision Long Island will honor Huntington Chamber chairman Bob Scheiner, of H2M architects + engineers, Friday at the Smart Growth Awards.**

cate for increased rental housing opportunities in Nassau.

Other awards focus on projects in the realms of community revitalization, environment, sustainability, transportation, sense of place, housing choices, strengthening of existing communities, mixed-use development, community leadership and compact building design.

The awards will be held Friday, June 13 at the Crest Hollow Country Club from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call Vision Long Island at 631-261-0242, email [info@vision-longisland.org](mailto:info@vision-longisland.org) or visit [www.visionlongisland.org](http://www.visionlongisland.org).

**"The guy is just passionate about the community, and that comes through."**

— ERIC ALEXANDER,

Vision Long Island Executive Director