



Tug Hill Times

Tug Hill Times is published semimonthly by the Tug Hill Commission for its board members, staff and associates, and the local representatives on the region's councils of governments.

TRAINING FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Please mark the date! On **Thursday, December 20 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**, Michael Kenneally, associate counsel for the NYS Association of Towns will conduct a workshop at the Boonville Municipal Building, 13149 Route 12, Boonville, on the topic of *Responsibilities of Public Officials* to include: conflicts of interest; code of ethics, boards of ethics and financial disclosure statements; dual office holding and compatibility of office; appearance of impropriety; defense and indemnification; liability for acts in office; appointments; holding over in office; removal from office; vacancy in office; resignations, etc.

The workshop is being offered free of charge and is sponsored by the Tug Hill Commission, Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, Cooperative Tug Hill Council, River Area of Governments, Salmon River Council of Governments, and North Shore Council of Governments. Registration is requested one week in advance and can be arranged by calling the Tug Hill Commission at 1-888-785-2380 by Tuesday December 18th.

An additional opportunity for new officials is a teleconference - "Just Elected - What Do You Do Now" - **Thursday, December 13, 2007** at Kunsela Hall, SUNYIT, Marcy, NY. This Department of the State Comptroller teleconference is sponsored locally by the Local Government Education Committee of Herkimer and Oneida Counties (LGEC). The program is

specifically designed for newly elected and appointed town officials and will cover a wide array of responsibilities for said officials. Mark Scheidelman, town of Trenton supervisor and NOCCOG fiscal officer, will be a panelist during this teleconference.

Check-in for the teleconference is at 6:15 p.m. and the presentation will run from 6:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m... There is a \$15.00 charge per person and the registration deadline is one week prior to the teleconference. Registration forms and additional details can be found on the LGEC web site at www.lgec.com.

All newly elected officials are strongly urged to attend both of these training/information sessions. Although the presentations are geared toward the newly elected officials, many second term and seasoned officials would benefit from also attending one or both of these sessions.

WORKSHOP FOR PLANNING BOARD AND ZBA OFFICIALS DRAWS LARGE ATTENDANCE

On Tuesday, December 4, Phil Street, director of planning for the Tug Hill Commission, conducted a workshop in Boonville for Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals officials. Close to 60 people braved the wintry weather to attend the session.

Topics included Planning Board Basics and Site Plan Review/Special Use Permits. Handouts were provided and a question and answer period followed.

The session gave attendees two of the four hours of yearly training that the state has now mandated for these local officials. Traditionally, there is a large turnover in the membership for planning boards and ZBA's. Local officials attending the session were each provided a certificate of attendance verifying their presence to share with their local municipality.

As we end the 2007 mandatory planning and zoning board training year, we are beginning to plan for training in 2008. If you are interested in seeing planning board and zoning board of appeals training opportunities in your council of government service area, please be in touch with your respective circuit riders so that we can assist in organizing and scheduling training opportunities. The Commission wants to help ensure that there are at least four hours of available training in both the spring and fall of 2008 so your boards can get the necessary training. So please speak to your circuit riders about training topics and arrangements for 2008.

NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL PLANS

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has advanced a plan for the New York section of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NST). The NST is similar in concept to the Appalachian Trail, but instead of following a mountain range, the NST will take hikers through diverse landscapes through seven states. The trail will run from Crown Point, New York, all the way to Sakakawea, North Dakota, and cover 4,600 miles connecting national forests, scenic areas and other significant resources.

Within the Adirondack Park, the North Country NST will be approximately 140 total miles in length when complete and would meander generally northwest from the hamlet of Forestport to Crown Point. Of those 140 miles, the plan recommends following approximately 70 miles of existing foot trail within the park and recommends approximately 50 miles of new trail construction within the park. It is estimated that 27 miles of temporary connectors will be initially used to make connections along this

route. The proposed route would go through nine different wilderness or wild forest areas (including the Moose River Plains and the Hudson River Gorge). The ultimate goal is a North Country NST route that is completely off-road and non-motorized, but this plan does suggest temporary road-walking connections for use by long distance hikers until the off-road route can be completed.

The Draft Adirondack Park Trail Plan/Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement was the subject of three public hearings held in December. The schedule was as follows:

Wednesday, Dec. 5, Warrensburg DEC office. 6:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 6, Boonville Town/Village Hall. 6:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 7, DEC Central Office, Albany. 2 p.m. till 4 p.m.

For more information and to view the Draft Adirondack Park Trail Plan/Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement please visit:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/39658.html>

A map, produced by the National Park Service, of the entire trail, can be found at: <http://www.nps.gov/noco/planyourvisit/upload/brochure-map-1.pdf>

A portion of that map shown below:



SOFTWOOD LUMBER MILLS DECREASING

According to a report by the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory entitled Profile 2007: Softwood Sawmills in the United States and Canada, the number of larger, permanent softwood lumber mills in the US and Canada has been decreasing over the last 12 years. The report is available free of charge from the Forest Products Laboratory by calling (608) 231-9200 or at:

<http://timberbuysell.com/Community/DisplayNews.asp?id=1738>.

The report lists information about capacity and production in 15 mills in New York state. Four are located in or around the Tug Hill region:

- HDK Wood Products (formerly Bestway Enterprises) in Harrisville, NY
- Johnson Lumber Company in Carthage, NY
- G W Platt & Sons in Westdale, NY
- Spink Lumber in Camden, NY

Overall, the report includes 990 softwood sawmills currently existing in the United States and Canada. It also reviews markets for lumber and data on the amounts and uses of chips, shavings and sawdust generated as byproducts in lumber producing. Also, the report discusses such topics as the housing market, employment, environmental factors and policy issues surrounding the softwood markets and how they are inter-related.