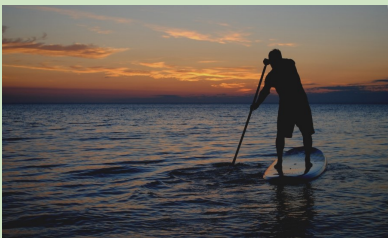




August 14, 2015

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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 of the region's communities.

Executive Director Search Open

The NYS Tug Hill Commission is accepting letters of interest and resumes for its executive director position. The Commission seeks an executive director who will provide leadership in managing the Commission's programs, and in communicating its philosophy, programs and approach to local and state officials in keeping with the Commission's legislative charge and the needs of this very rural part of New York. The Commission is a non-regulatory state agency that supplies technical assistance to communities in the 2,100-square-mile Tug Hill region lying between Lake Ontario and the Adirondacks. Commission programs focus on environmental protection, land use planning, rural economic development, and skill development for local officials.

The successful candidate will have knowledge of rural issues and sensitivity to rural values; knowledge of local, state (New York State preferred), and federal government operations; demonstrated ability to write clearly and speak publicly; an ability to work with a board of directors; and ability to serve as the public representative for the agency. The position requires a bachelor's and master's degrees in management, public administration, planning, economic or community development, resource management, or related field, or equivalent experience. It also requires at least five years experience in supervising, managing projects, handling financial matters and working within a budget.

Letters of interest and resumes are due by **September 1, 2015** and should be sent to *Mr. Jan Bogdanowicz, Chairman, NYS Tug Hill Commission, Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601*. The anticipated start date is November 1, 2015. Salary is commensurate with experience, and the position includes full retirement and health insurance benefits.

More information is available on the Commission's website, www.tughill.org.

Champion Fire Protection District to Dissolve

Having received a petition from the Champion Volunteer Fire Company to dissolve the district, voters approved the action at a public referendum in December 2014. Working with the town attorney, the town board created the Dissolution of the Champion Fire Protection District Plan to guide the next steps in the process. After listening to public comment on August 10, the Town of Champion board approved the plan 4 -1 to dissolve the Champion Fire Protection District and contract with West Carthage and Copenhagen Fire Departments to provide fire protection to residents and businesses residing within the district.

In an effort to address public concern/issues relating to the closing of the fire station, increased response times, and fire responders wanting to continue their service to the community, Village of West Carthage Mayor, Scott Burto, has proposed a meeting to explore options and opportunities to consolidate the Champion Volunteer Fire Department with the West Carthage Fire Department.

Site Plan Review Workshop in Central Square Thursday, September 10

Tug Hill Commission Director of Planning Phil Street will hold a workshop on site plan review and subdivision review on Thursday, September 10, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Central Square Village Offices. This workshop is primarily intended for planning boards and zoning boards of appeals, but should also be of value to those involved in, or interested in, local project review, such as code enforcement officers or town or village board members.

The Central Square village offices are located at 3125 East Avenue (New York State Route 49 east of U.S. Route 11 and west of Interstate Route 81, on the south side of East Avenue).

This workshop will be good for two hours training credit for planning board members and zoning board of appeals members.

Preregistration is requested by Tuesday, September 8. Please register by e-mail at gwen@tughill.org, or via the Commission's toll free number, 1-888-785-2380, with your name, e-mail address and phone number.

New York Sea Grant and New York Department of Environmental Conservation Offer Small Grants Program

New York Sea Grant, in partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, is requesting proposals for projects that serve to benefit the environment and economy of New York's Great Lakes basin. Grants of up to \$25,000 will be awarded for projects that implement the following goals:

- “control sediment, nutrient and pathogen loadings so that drinking water quality is protected, desired aquatic biotic communities flourish, humans and wildlife are protected from coastline health hazards, and natural processes are sustained” and
- enhance community resiliency and ecosystem integrity through restoration, protection, and improved resource management”

Project planning, project implementation, information management tool development, demonstration projects and targeted outreach and education initiatives are eligible. Projects must be located within or be directly related to the Great Lakes basin region of New York.

New York Sea Grant will offer informational webinars on August 24, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. and September 4, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. Those interested in registering may email their name and email address to nag3@cornell.edu to receive more information. Eligible entities include: not-for-profit organizations, local governmental and public agencies, and public and private educational institutions. Proposals will be due by September 30, 2015 and grant awards will be announced in early November 2015. Full request for proposals and application guidelines are online at <http://www.nyseagrant.org/proposals>.

RACOG Joint Zoning Board of Appeals Meets

The River Area Council of Government Joint Zoning Board of Appeals, representing the Towns of Champion and Wilna and Villages of Carthage and West Carthage, met August 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town of Champion Meeting Room to hear a request for an Area Variance from Own Energy.

According to representatives from Own Energy, the request for an Area Variance is for the purpose of a variance from the 1,000' setback from residences and acceptance of setback waivers as compliance with the setback standard. Following some discussion, a question arose if the request should be a use variance vs. an area variance and associated implications. The meeting was adjourned to consult with the Town of Champion Attorney for direction.

2015-16 Justice Court Assistance Plan (JCAP) Grants Available

The Justice Court Assistance Plan (JCAP) grants for 2015-16 are now available. The Unified Court Systems budget includes \$2.5 million in JCAP funding for this fiscal year, with the maximum grant amount per Court at \$30,000. Courts can apply for funding in many areas including office equipment and furniture, security equipment and court room and court facility improvements and renovations. The application must be filed by Justice Court personnel, so if Boards are aware of an area needing funding, they should coordinate with their Court personnel to submit an application. The deadline to apply is **October 16, 2015**. The majority of the application must be submitted online, with the signature page, Board resolution, estimates and the Courts budget being either mailed, emailed or faxed in. Court personnel will be able to access the page which includes the fax number, email address and the user name and password to access the application by visiting the Town and Village Courts webpage at www.nycourts.gov/courts/townandvillage. If you need assistance completing the application process, you can contact the Office of Justice Court Support at 1-800-232-0630; contact your circuit rider or the Commission office at 1-888-785-2380.

Tug Hill Commission to Meet in Amboy

Monday, September 21, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Amboy Town Hall, 822 NYS Route 69, Amboy

2015 Black River Trash Bash

Four trash cleanup spots have been chosen for this year's Black River Trash Bash. The dates, sites and contacts are below. If you would like to organize a cleanup, please contact Jennifer Harvill at the Tug Hill Commission at 1-888-785-2380

- September 16 - Jefferson County Water Quality Coordinating Committee. Black River Trail - for more information, please contact Christine Watkins at 782-2749.
- September 19 - Lyons Falls Alive - Boat launches, Burdick's Crossing and Davis Bridge Road - for more information, please contact Rocky Fawcett at 348-9991.
- September 23 - Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee - for more information, please contact Nichelle Billhardt at 376-6122.
- October 3 - Adirondack Communities Advisory League - Hawkinsville Dam - for more information, please contact Ian Klingbail at 942-2610

This year will mark the 30th year the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society (ALS) has organized, supported and funded New York's participation in this important Beach Cleanup event. For more info, go to <http://www.najomawi.com/>.

Last year, **30 Black River Trash Bash volunteers and workers removed over 600 pounds of garbage and recyclables from the shores of the Black River.**

This year, we are pleased to again be working with the Development Authority of the North Country, which will assist with trash and recyclable hauling. Also, thanks to Nirvana for their donation of water for the volunteers and White's Lumber in Watertown for their donation of work gloves for the volunteers.

Contact us at:

**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the
6th Floor of the Dulles
State Office Building.

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the
region:
1-888-785-2380

Email:
tughill@tughill.org
Website:
www.tughill.org

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SAVE THE DATE CTHC Fall Meeting

The fall meeting and dinner of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council has been scheduled for Thursday September 17. The event will be held at the Steak and Brew in Turin beginning at 6:00 p.m. Invitations with details of the event will be out soon in the mail, and will appear in the next Tug Hill Times.

Zoning Board of Appeals Workshop September 22, 2015, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Jules Center Amphitheater, Room 6-002
Jefferson Community College
1220 Coffeen St., Watertown, NY

Introductory course for zoning board of appeals will focus on the statutory tests boards must follow to grant use and area variances and proper handling of zoning interpretations. Meeting procedures and notice requirements will also be discussed, along with the ZBA's relationship with enforcement officials and the planning board, and the importance of making good findings.

RSVP's are strongly encouraged by Monday, September 21

Please call Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or Email: planning@co.jefferson.ny.us

If approved by your municipality, this workshop can provide two (2) hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training Requirement.

SUNY Potsdam Local Government Conference October 13, 2015

Register by September 15 - \$40, after September 15 - \$50, day of event \$60.
<https://clear.potsdam.edu/wconnect/ace/images/LGCsess.pdf> for list of session descriptions.
<https://secure.potsdam.edu/conf/localgov/> to register online.

Cornell Local Roads Program Fall Training

In their latest newsletter, the Cornell Local Roads Program announced their fall training schedule. In the Tug Hill region, CLRP is offering stormwater training in Jefferson County on September 29, and Oneida County on October 1. There is a \$50 registration fee per person per workshop. For more information, see <http://www.clrp.cornell.edu/>.