

Great Turnout, Lively Discussion at SuperCOG Meeting

JUNE 1, 2018

Thirty council of government members, town and village officials, Tug Hill Commission members and staff met at the Redfield Fire Hall Wednesday, May 30 for a "SuperCOG" meeting. Held periodically, SuperCOG provides an opportunity for all five Tug Hill Councils of Governments (Cooperative Tug Hill Council, Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, North Shore Council of Governments, River Area Council of Governments, and Salmon Rivers Council of Governments) to provide updates on important projects and issues in their part of Tug Hill, and have discussion on region-wide topics.



After a brief introduction to SuperCOG by commission executive director Katie Malinowski, Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) Chairman Roger Tibbetts opened the meeting and welcomed all. Ms. Malinowski provided an overview of draft results from the 2018 Local Leaders Survey, and gave some brief updates on minimum maintenance roads, 480a, and wind proposals. Each council then had an opportunity to share items, which ranged from the addition of communities to CTHC and RACOG; various infrastructure projects including water, sewer, salt storage, and recreational trails; and website redesigns.

The floor was then open to any topics participants wanted to raise. Significant discussion ensued regarding various wind farm proposals. Other regional discussion items included three phase power upgrade needs, as well as broadband and cell phone coverage improvements underway and still needed.

State Archives Grants Awarded to Tug Hill Municipalities

Tug Hill municipalities were recently awarded grants to improve municipal records management. Applications were submitted earlier this year under the New York State Archives Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) program. Commission staff worked with the village of **Port Leyden** and the village of **West Carthage**. The village of Port Leyden was awarded \$22,913 to renovate part of the village office to create an inactive records storage room that includes steel shelving and fire-safe filing cabinets. A consultant will assist the village in inventorying and organizing the records. The village of West Carthage was awarded \$9,540 to hire a consultant that will inventory and organize inactive court records after the consolidation of the village court into the town of Champion.

The third successful LGRMIF application in the region is the **town of Turin**, awarded \$24,560 to advance their inactive records management program.

Information on all State Archives resources, including the LGRMIF program, can be found here: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/>.

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Commission Meeting June 18, Osceola

The next meeting of the Tug Hill Commission will be held on Monday, June 18, 2018 at the Osceola Public Library, 2117 North Osceola Road, Osceola, NY 13316-5809. Agenda items will include a report on the 2018 Local Leaders Survey, as well as an update from the Cooperative Tug Hill Council.

If interested in attending, please RSVP to the Tug Hill Commission, (315) 785-2380, gwen@tughill.org.

Tug Hill Commission Releases Montague Radar Issue Paper

Tug Hill is famous for receiving the most snowfall east of the Rocky Mountains. The Montague Doppler weather radar station is integral to forecasting that snowfall, much of which comes in locally intense lake-effect snow storms. Recent wind farm development proposals have created numerous questions about the radar. The new issue paper gathers the best available information to inform Tug Hill's communities.

The issue paper can be found on the Tug Hill Commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/>. For a paper copy, please contact your circuit rider or the commission office at (315) 785-2380.



Rise of Cemetery Abandonment Webinar, June 5

Legal Responsibilities & Obstacles for Towns & Villages

Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 **Time:** 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Two easy steps to participate:

1. On your computer, login at 3:45 p.m. here: <https://meetny.webex.com/meet/emily.sheridan>
2. On your phone, call in to listen to the webinar at 3:45 p.m. using the following info:
1-844-633-8697 US Toll Free/Access code: 649 908 318

To RSVP or questions regarding the webinar, please contact Tug Hill Commission at (315)785-2380 and ask for Jean or email jean@tughill.org.

Webinars at Your Convenience

The New York State Department of State has several previously aired webinars geared toward local government issues available online to view at your convenience. Webinars included are The Challenges with Local Government Reorganization; Hot Button Land Uses; Planning Bard Overview; County-wide Shared Services Virtual Meet-up; and most recently Health Insurance: Options for Savings from Shared Services. These videos are easily viewed by visiting <https://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/lut/recorded-webinars.html>.

Last Reminder Register for the Black River Watershed Conference

June 1 is the last day to register for the 2018 Black River Watershed Conference at Camp Turk in Woodgate on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. All are invited! This year's conference will focus on how changing weather patterns affect the environment and decisions made by municipalities. This year's conference will feature a keynote by Dave Eichorn, a retired meteorologist and visiting professor at SUNY ESF. For complete information and a registration form, please go to <http://www.tughill.org/2018/05/07/register-for-the-black-river-watershed-conference/> or contact Jennifer Harvill at 315-785-2392 or jennifer@tughill.org for more information.

Land Use Training Session, June 14

Airport Land-Use Compatibility: Considering Airspace Viability at the Watertown International Airport

Learn about current operations, consider future enhancements, as well as examine community options for regional planning around the airport to help maintain it as a valuable economic, community, and regional asset.

The Jefferson County Department of Planning and the NYS Tug Hill Commission are co-sponsoring a land use training session on **Thursday, June 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m.** at Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen St, Watertown, NY 13601.

You are strongly encouraged to RSVP by Tuesday, June 12th. Please register online here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/airport-land-use-compatibility-tickets-46613279574>. You may also call Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or email: planning@co.jefferson.ny.us.

AGENDA

6:30-6:35 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

6:35-8:30 p.m. Grant Sussey, Airport Manager at the Watertown International Airport, and Andy Nevin, Senior Planner for Jefferson County

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

Oneida Lake Association Holds Annual Meeting

The Oneida Lake Association held its annual meeting in front of a substantial turnout of its membership at the auditorium of Gillette Road Middle School in Cicero. Agenda items included the Association's annual election of officers and directors, identification of 2018-19 goals, an update on the Oneida Lake Fish Cultural Station, the state of the Oneida Lake fishery, invasive species, and an introduction to harmful algal blooms (HABs).

Oneida Lake spans two of the counties of the Tug Hill region – Oswego and Oneida – and Oneida Lake is within the boundaries of those two counties

The fish cultural station is now able to collect enough fish for their annual hatchery operations using fewer nets than in the past, and egg yields per female are up. Walleye and smallmouth bass populations are increasing, while white perch are trending downward, and the sturgeon are doing well. Cormorant levels are up in the last two years, and the hazing program continues from mid-April through July. Quagga mussels are replacing zebra mussels in the ecosystem, but there is no overall diminution.

Regarding HABs, speaker Dr. Gregory Boyer, SUNY ESF professor and Director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium, identified six factors that support their growth (nutrients, light, warm temperatures [>60 degrees F], calm winds, seed population, and grazing); the most major human intervention possible is reduction of nutrients contributed to the lake from the watershed. New York State is currently supporting a study of HABs, with lessons learned to be applied to other impacted waterbodies. Lakes to be studied in Central New York as part of the larger twelve lake program are Owasco Lake, Skaneateles Lake, and Cayuga Lake

The Oneida Lake Association can be found on the internet at www.oneidalakeassociation.org/index.htm

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust June Events

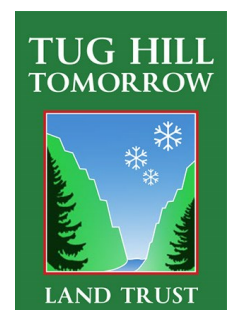
The Hearts & Souls of Tug Hill at Zenda Farms Picnic - June 8, 2018, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Kids Nature Photo Workshop - June 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Two Traverse Trail Work Days - June 15 & 16, 2018, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Find the Really Cool Birds - June 23, 2018, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

For more details or to RSVP for any of these events, contact Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust at (315) 779-8240, www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org.



Summer Events at the Fiddlers' Association, Osceola

The NYS Old Tyme Fiddlers' Association kicked off its 2018 season this past weekend with the Alice Clemens Kickoff Event. Every Sunday from now until September 30 features different performers. Please see their website at <http://www.nysotfa.com/NYSOTFACalendar.html> for more information. All events take place at 1121 Comins Road, Osceola.



Contact Us

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TugHillCommission](http://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

Citizen Science Opportunities with NYS DEC

To understand the success of the Black River Initiative, Sandy Creeks agricultural environmental management efforts, and Salmon River restoration projects, interested citizen scientists can participate in NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's **Wave Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE)** project. DEC is recruiting participants for the 2018 summer sampling season to help with water quality assessments in streams and rivers. WAVE data collected by volunteers will provide valuable information to help identify healthy stream sites and flag sites with potential water quality concerns. This information is included in federal and state water quality reports and helps determine where restoration or conservation efforts are most needed.

All training materials are online so now anyone who can kick over a rock and has access to an online computer can participate. Participants visit stream sites once per year, anytime between July 1 and Sept. 30. Volunteers collect insects and other small organisms from the rocks and rubble on the stream bottom. If six or more of the "Most Wanted" organisms are found, the stream segment is assessed as having no known impacts and fully supporting aquatic life. If mostly "Least Wanted" organisms are found, the stream segment is flagged for further study, and DEC water quality scientists conduct more in depth sampling to identify and manage sources of impacts.

For more information, see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/92229.html>.

NYSDOT Announces TAP Funding

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is making funding available to support bicycle, pedestrian, multi-use path and non-motorized transportation-related projects as well as programs and projects that reduce congestion and improve air quality. Administered by the NYSDOT, these funds are made available to the State through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ). Combined, NYSDOT's TAP-CMAQ program provides reimbursement of up to 80 percent of project-related costs with the remaining 20 percent provided by project sponsors. Applications are due August 16, 2018

2018 TAP-CMAQ applications are completed and submitted through the NYS Grants Gateway at <https://grantsreform.ny.gov/> (Opportunity: DOT01-TCMAQ-2018), a web-based portal for State agencies to post upcoming and available funding opportunities. Eligible entities/sponsors planning to submit a project application for TAP-CMAQ funding must register to obtain a Grants Gateway Login and ID at: <https://grantsreform.ny.gov/Grantees>. For those new to the system, the Grants Gateway provides training webinars at <https://grantsreform.ny.gov/training-calendar>.

For additional information on eligible project activities and other program requirements refer to the 2018 TAP-CMAQ Guidebook at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/TAP-CMAQ>. Comments and questions regarding the TAP-CMAQ solicitation may be submitted via email to TAP-CMAQ@dot.ny.gov. Complete information and resources are provided at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/TAP-CMAQ>.