

TUG HILL TIMES



NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION • DULLES STATE OFFICE BUILDING • 317 WASHINGTON STREET • WATERTOWN NY 13601 (315) 785-2380 • www.tughill.org

SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

NYS Tug Hill Commission Annual Meeting and Dinner

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Tailwater Lodge

52 Pulaski St., Altmar, NY 13302



Celebrating 43 years of service to the Tug Hill Region

In This Issue

- Tug Hill Commission Annual Meeting
- CTHC Fall Meeting
- Great Lakes Action Agenda
- Cornell Local Roads
- Black River Trash Bash
- Steering Committee
- Parks and Trails Grants
- Workshop Held at JCC
- Osceola Hike
- NYS Model Solar Energy

CTHC Fall Meeting Held, September 22nd

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) held their annual fall meeting at the Steak and Brew Restaurant in Turin on Thursday September 22nd. Fourteen of the sixteen CTHC towns were present, along with several members of the Tug Hill Commission and commission staff and several other guests. A total of 38 people enjoyed an excellent meal and the meeting which followed.

The evening's speakers, Marguerite Wells from Invenergy and Bill Moore from Hudson Energy Development, spoke about their local wind projects. Ms. Wells spoke about the wind industry in general and gave the council an overview of the Number 3 wind project which her company is undertaking. Mr. Moore spoke about the possible wind project in southern Jefferson County and the added issues in that area due to the need for an adequate transmission system to carry the power safely to the grid.



The meeting closed with supervisor topics, including thanks from attendees for the commission's work on the minimum maintenance roads issue and stressing the importance of the issue for many of the council's towns. In addition there was a discussion of a "ransomware" attack on one town's computers and the necessity of external back-up systems for data.

Great Lakes Action Agenda Sub Basin Work Group Meetings

Towns and villages in the Tug Hill region are part of the Lake Ontario sub-basin, and New York State is a participant in the Great Lakes Action Agenda, who's purpose is to identify pressing problems and actions needed to protect natural resources, environmental quality and produce resilient communities. This helps focus federal and state programs on the most important challenges faced by this region of the Great Lakes.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is holding a series of meetings in October 2016 for interested parties to identify priority projects to advance the goals of the Great Lakes Action Agenda. The meeting for the South East Lake Ontario sub-basin, which includes most of the Tug Hill region, will be on Wednesday, October 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sabin Hall at Fair Haven Beach State Park, 14985 State Park Road, Sterling, New York 13156.

There will also be a meeting for the North East Lake Ontario sub-basin on Tuesday, October 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Keewaydin State Park Marina pavilion, 45165 New York 12, Alexandria Bay, New York 13607.

The Department of Environmental Conservation requests that interested attendees RSVP by Friday, October 14 to great-lakes@dec.ny.gov.

Interested parties include "environmental organizations, academic institutions, state and federal agencies, local governments and other diverse stakeholder groups (business, health, recreation, planning, etc."

The DEC homepage for the Great Lakes Action Agenda can be found at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html

Cornell Local Roads Program Workshops

The Cornell Local Roads Program (CLRP) will be holding workshops in October.

Running Your Highway Department:

October 11, 2016, Jefferson County Cooperative Extension, 203 N. Hamilton St., Watertown.

This course covers the roles and responsibilities involved in managing a small to medium sized department. The materials covered will be of use to any highway or public works superintendent. Cost is \$50.

Snow and Ice Control:

October 5, 2016, Scriba Justice Center, 43 Creamery Road, Oswego.
October 7, 2016, Niles Town Hall, 5923 New Hope Road, Moravia.

Topics include: policy and planning; snow and ice control materials; weather and pavement conditions; snow and ice control strategies; equipment; designing an ice control material treatment plan; personnel resources and training; references and sources.

CLRP is also holding a Statewide Conference on Local Bridges in Syracuse from October 25 through 27. The draft agenda is available at <http://www.clrp.cornell.edu/trainingevents/bridgeconference.htm>.

For more information, see CLRP's website at www.clrp.cornell.edu

Black River Trash Bash Update

The Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee participated in the Black River Trash Bash on Monday September 19th at Otter Creek State Forest. Over 165 cigarette butts were collected, along with numerous food wrappers, beverage bottles and cans, clothing articles and plastic grocery bags. In all 35 pounds of garbage and 15 pounds of recyclables were removed from the banks of Otter Creek, which flows into the Black River.

The Jefferson County WQCC, Lyons Falls Alive, Haderondah 4H Club, Adirondack Citizens Advisory League and the American Society of Civil Engineers Student Club from Utica will all be reporting on their events soon, so stay tuned to the Tug Hill Times for more news from the Black River Watershed.



Steering Committee and Technical Working Group of Fort Drum JLUS Meeting Held at JCC

Commission staff attended the first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee and Technical Working Group held at JCC on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 from 6 to 8 p.m. The recently hired consultant, Matrix Design Group presented an overview of the Joint Land Use Study and committee roles and process. Approximately 30 local officials and local leaders within a 30-mile radius of Fort Drum were in attendance. A group exercise was conducted to identify preliminary compatibility issues.

The Steering Committee is comprised of representation from: municipalities immediately adjacent to Fort, Drum, Fort Drum Garrison Commander, Fort Drum Director of Planning, Training, Mobilization, and Security, Fort Drum Director of Public Affairs, Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, Empire State Development.

The Technical Working Group is comprised of representation from: Jefferson, Lewis and St Lawrence county planning offices, City of Watertown planning office, Town of LeRay planner, NYS Tug Hill Commission, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension, ReEnergy, FDRLO, Fort Drum staff.

The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) is a cooperative planning effort conducted as a joint venture between an active military installation, surrounding jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, and other affected stakeholders to address compatibility around military installations. The Fort Drum JLUS is funded by a grant from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustments (OEA) and contributions by the JLUS sponsor, Development Authority of the North Country. The JLUS effort will directly benefit both Fort Drum and the surrounding region.

Additional meetings of the Steering Committee and Working Group will be held in the coming months. For more information about the project, contact Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer, DANC Community Planner, or Michelle Capone, DANC Director of Regional Development, at (315) 661-3200.

Parks and Trails Grants Available

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) and the NYS Office of Parks, Preservation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), with support from Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature, are pleased to announce the second round of \$500,000 in competitive grants through the NYS Park and Trail Partnership Program funded through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The grants are available to Friends Groups of State parks and the program will be administered by PTNY, in partnership with OPRHP.

The program is designed to enhance the preservation, stewardship, interpretation, maintenance and promotion of New York State parks, trails and state historic sites; increase the sustainability, effectiveness, productivity, volunteerism and fundraising capabilities of not-for-profit organizations that promote, maintain and support New York State parks, trails and state historic sites; and promote the tourism and economic development benefits of outdoor recreation through the growth and expansion of a connected statewide network of parks, trails and greenways.

Applications are due December 2, 2016. More information about the grant program and its timeline are available at <http://parksandtrailsny.org/our-work/support/park-trail-partnership-program>.

Workshop Held at JCC on September 20th – Another One Planned for October 24th

This session addressed the adoption of local laws to regulate wind energy systems—from modest residential and agricultural systems to large-scale commercial wind farms. Environmental, aesthetic, and other issues of interest to local governments were also discussed, along with applicable state and federal regulations relating to wind energy systems. Over 70 local officials from around the North County attended.

The next Land Use Planning Workshop is planned for October 24th and will be with Attorney Scott Chatfield. Scott has over 40 years of experience in planning law and will be available from 6:30 to 8:30 to answer all your land use questions. Come prepared to ask questions or sit back and listen to other planning officials ask theirs.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Osceola Hike October 15th

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust is leading an autumn hike for outdoor enthusiasts on Saturday, October 15th. Naturalist, and outdoorsman, Bob McNamara will be leading this four-mile hike. Plan on wearing sturdy boots as the day will involve off-trail hiking over moderately difficult terrain. This family friendly hike is free and open to the community.



If attending, plan to meet at the Osceola Tug Hill XC Ski Center parking area at 10 am. The GPS address is [1486 Osceola Rd, Camden, NY 13316](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1486+Osceola+Rd,+Camden,+NY+13316).

Please pack a brown bag lunch, water, and wear comfortable hiking clothes and boots. The Land Trust will provide snacks and extra water.

Please RSVP by contacting Community Programs Manager Lianna Lee at 315.779.2239 or email tughilloutreach@nynmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE - Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference, March 30, 2017

Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380
Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org
Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
TugHillCommission](https://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!

The NY State Model Solar Energy Law for Local Planning and Zoning

Sustainable CUNY and the NY-Sun PV Trainers Network (PVTN) will host a webinar for jurisdictions interested in using the NY State Model Solar Energy Law and toolkit to update their zoning codes. This guidance tool kit was developed with support by the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative and is designed to assist New York communities in adopting zoning provisions that promote solar energy systems while protecting community character and the environment. The webinar will be Thursday, October 6 at 1:00 p.m.

The Model Law is intended as a straightforward approach and leaves more complicated, site-specific issues to be handled through existing land use processes, such as the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SPPPs). The authors aimed to balance best practices that promote solar with common local requirements and concerns. As such, the Model Law is presented as a practical, streamlined approach for facilitating solar energy systems in New York State. Many options for further promotion of solar energy systems are discussed in the comprehensive guidance attached to the Model Law, including directions for adopting and customizing the language and an appendix of additional considerations and resources. The Model Law and Toolkit was developed by Sustainable CUNY's NYSolar Smart Program's Planning and Zoning Working Group consisting of stakeholder jurisdictions and PACE Law School's Land Use Law Center. The Working Group consulted numerous stakeholders and completed a comprehensive review of zoning and planning best practices.

[Click here to register for the FREE workshop and download the NY Model Solar Energy Law and Guidance Toolkit.](#)

For more information please contact nysolar@cuny.edu.