



December 20, 2013

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Merry Christmas



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.

2013 Local Leaders Survey

Once every five years the Tug Hill Commission surveys the region's local leaders as to the effectiveness of commission programs and services and whether the commission should continue its mission to the Tug Hill Region. On behalf of the commission Members and staff we would like to thank all those leaders who responded to the 2013 survey. Your responses and commitment to the commission and Region is complimentary and humbling.

The 2013 Local Leaders Survey is the seventh time the commission has asked for a constituent assessment of the commission and as in the past respondents have overwhelmingly conveyed their support for and desire to have the commission services continue.

The 2013 survey was mailed to 371 locally elected and appointed officials and persons knowledgeable of the Tug Hill Region and of the commission programs and services. Responses to the survey totaled 151, for a 41% response rate. For a mailed survey this response rate was exceptional and provides a statistically valid assessment. The following is a quick summary of the results:

- In all categories for "importance", over 80% of the respondents indicated that the Tug Hill Commission programs were important or essential to the future of the Tug Hill Region.
- In rating "effectiveness" of commission programs and services; training and technical assistance (97%) and land use planning and zoning (87%) ranked the highest of all categories. Other top rankings were for: helping communities protect the environment (80%); supporting intergovernmental cooperation (78%); and, finding monies for infrastructure that supports the economy and natural resources of the region.
- 98% of the respondents believe the Tug Hill Commission should continue its mission and 95% agree that the commission provides services which local governments need and cannot afford by themselves.

The full tabulation of survey results will be published in a White Paper for delivery to the Governor and State Legislature in early January 2014 as required by the commission's enabling legislation.

Tug Hill Commission to Meet

The Tug Hill Commission will meet Monday, January 13, 2014, from 10:00am - noon at the West Monroe Town Hall, 46 Co. Rt. 11, West Monroe, NY 13167. Highlights of the meeting will include routine business of the commission, latest updates of the Regional Economic Development Councils, discussion with the North Shore Council of Governments and Salmon Rivers Council of Governments and discussion and review of major projects and activities in the region. The public is welcome to attend and there will be a public comment period at the end of the meeting.

Snowmobile Clubs to Receive Funding from the State

Four snowmobile clubs on Tug Hill will be receiving funding from the State through the OPRHP Recreational Trails Program to offset 80% of the cost to purchase new equipment. With grant writing assisted by Commission staff, the announcements were made as part of the Regional Council CFA process.

Turin Ridge Riders will receive \$159,800 to purchase a new tractor for trail grooming and maintenance. Valley Snow Travelers of Lewis County will purchase a new groomer and drag with \$151,600 in grant funds. Winona Forest Recreation Association will use \$143,560 to replace an existing groomer and drag with wider ones to allow grooming of both non-motorized and motorized trails with one pass. Kasoag Trailblazers will purchase a new groomer with \$127,200 in grant funds.

Congratulations to all of the clubs!

Commission Adopts Calendar for 2014

At its last meeting of 2013, the Commission adopted the following calendar for 2014:

January 13	10:00 a.m.	West Monroe
March 26	4:00 p.m.	Watertown
April 28	4:00 p.m.	Carthage
May 29	4:00 p.m.	Lowville
June 9	4:00 p.m.	Forestport
September 8	4:00 p.m.	Albion
October 6	4:00 p.m.	Worth
November 17	10:00 a.m.	Prospect
December 15	10:00 a.m.	Watertown

NY Planning Federation Conference

March 30 to April 1, 2014
Gideon Putnam Resort - Saratoga Springs NY

The Planning Federation is looking forward to another year of exceptional courses and presenters as they return to Saratoga Springs for their 76th annual Planning and Zoning Conference.

Programming starts at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon with a fun mock hearing, followed by a reception at the hotel and dinner on your own at one of Saratoga's many fine restaurants.

For registration information go to www.nypf.org.

2014 Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference

When: Wednesday & Thursday, April 9 & 10, 2014

Where: Crowne Plaza Resort & Golf Club, Lake Placid, NY

How Much: **\$63.06** or \$58.75 with a valid tax exempt form.

After March 26: \$79.26 or \$73.75 with a valid tax exempt form

Registration forms and agendas will be emailed (from APA-LGSP@gw.dec.state.ny.us) and available on the Agency website: www.apa.ny.gov in February.

Happy Holidays



from your friends at the Tug Hill Commission!



Villages Apply for Tree Planting Funds

Commission staff recently assisted the Villages of Holland Patent, Camden, West Carthage and Sylvan Beach with applications to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program (Round 12) for tree planting in their communities. The tree planting program allows the communities to apply for funding to cover 50% of the project cost, while the Quick Start Arbor Day grant gives awardees \$1000 to hold an Arbor Day celebration.

Holland Patent submitted for a Quick Start Arbor Day Grant for \$1000 to replace trees on the village green that were lost in the last storm and to improve the village greenscape along the green. West Carthage applied for a \$16,315 project to plant 26 new trees at the South Main Street trailhead/boat launch and picnic area and 18 new street trees around the Village. Camden applied to plant 27 trees for a total project cost of \$5109 and Sylvan Beach applied to plant 28 trees for a total project cost of \$5676.

Contact us at:**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

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West Monroe Hosts ZBA Basic Training Session

Tug Hill Commission Director of Planning Phil Street conducted a workshop on ZBA Basics on Wednesday, December 18 at the West Monroe town hall. Over a dozen local government officials were in attendance, representing West Monroe, Redfield, Vienna, Amboy, Central Square and Hastings. At the workshop, Phil covered the range of activities that ZBAs engage in, including variances and interpretations, and the procedures the ZBA must use to administer appeals. This workshop was good for two hours training credit toward the four hours that planning board and ZBA members need annually.

Workshop for Newly Elected Town Officials Held at Parish

A workshop for newly elected and experienced town officials was held Thursday, December 12, in Parish. The workshop, conducted by Mike Kenneally and Sarah Brancatella of the Association of Towns, covered topics including typical town offices and their roles, appointments, liability for acts in office, oath of office, conflicts of interest, town services and improvement districts, codes of ethics, dual office holding and compatibility of office, defense and indemnification, appearance of impropriety, and preparing for the first meeting.

The Parish workshop had 30 representatives from Albion, Amboy, Camden, Floyd, Orwell, Parish, Vienna, West Monroe, Western, and Williamstown, and included current and future town supervisors, town board members, town clerks, superintendent of highways, planning board members, and village officials.

A similar session was held in Boonville on December 2 with over 45 newly elected and seasoned local officials from Oneida, Lewis, Oswego, Jefferson and Herkimer counties attending.

REMEMBRANCE

The commission would like to remember three Tug Hill Sages and a former staff member who passed this year.

Harry Erlo Capron, (July 5, 1921 – November 2, 2013) recognized as Tug Hill Sage in 1998.

Charles Gallo, (December 21, 1922 – November 30, 2013) recognized as Tug Hill Sage in 2006.

Chester (Chet) S. Kwasniewski, (July 5, 1925 – August 5, 2013) recognized as Tug Hill Sage in 2012.

David G. Wilbur, 64, died Tuesday, November 5, 2013 in Raleigh, NC. Dave was a former employee of the Tug Hill Commission in the late 1970's through the early 1990's.