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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.

Commission Appoints New Executive Director

The NYS Tug Hill Commission appointed Katie Malinowski as the organization's new executive director at its first board meeting of 2016, held on January 25th in Central Square. Ms. Malinowski had been serving as acting executive director since John Bartow's retirement in July of 2015, and has worked for the commission since 1998 in a variety of capacities, most recently as director of natural resources.



"During the course of her career at the commission, Katie has gained the respect of our local officials and state and regional partners through her knowledge and commitment to Tug Hill," said Jan Bogdanowicz, chairman of the Tug Hill Commission. "This is an exciting time, and the commissioners and I are very pleased that we could promote from within and hit the ground running with an executive director that understands the organization and our communities."

From left: Commissioners Cheresnoski, Boxberger, Vigus, Yerdon and Bogdanowicz, Executive Director Malinowski in Central Square on January 25.

Katie is only the commission's fourth executive director in its 43-year history. She and her husband, Andy, live in the town of Boylston, Oswego County with their two sons.

THC Technical Paper on Not-For-Profit Corporation Formation Updated

In January, the technical paper entitled "Forming a Not-for-profit Corporation in New York State" was updated to reflect changes in Internal Revenue Service (IRS) code that became effective in 2015, regarding monetary thresholds for formation, along with several changes in forms required and links to resources for forms and additional information.

This technical paper can be viewed at <http://www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/2016-01-20cm-Forming-a-Not-for-profit-corporation.pdf>, or found under publications/white papers on the commission website.

Resources Available for New Officials

Communities in the Northern Oneida County Council of Government and many across the Tug Hill region welcomed newly elected officials during reorganizational meetings in January. Newly elected trainings held in Rochester and Albany, as well as a recent workshop sponsored by LGEC provided considerable information for officials.

Many more resources are available through various state agencies. Resources for local government officials, including cost savings ideas, local government management guides, and legal opinions on a variety of topics can be found at Office of the NYS Comptroller website at <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/tools.htm>.

The Department of State Division of Local Government Services also offers numerous resources including publications regarding adopting local laws, holding public meetings and hearings, and land use planning guides at <http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications.html>.

The Tug Hill Commission also serves as a resource for new and seasoned officials with links to training and other opportunities, as well as a series of technical assistance papers on topics ranging from cemeteries and municipal gifting and fundraising to adopting and amending zoning laws and creating comprehensive plans. These papers can be found by visiting the Commission website at <http://www.tughill.org/publications/white-papers/>.

Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance Newsletter Available

The latest edition of FLOWPA's newsletter, FLOWPA Fundamentals, can be found at www.followpa.org. The website is newly designed, so please check it out!

FL-LOWPA is a membership of 25 counties, represented by County Planning Departments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, County Health Departments and Water Quality Management Agencies within the Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario drainage basin. FL-LOWPA programs incorporate watershed management and planning, agricultural best management practices, drinking water supply monitoring and protection, erosion and stormwater control, invasive species management and eradication, habitat restoration, septic system inspections, and public education and involvement.

Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor Commission Meets in Syracuse

The Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor Commission (ECHCC) met in Syracuse on Wednesday, January 27. The ECHCC is a federally-appointed commission whose members are appointed by Congress, and works in partnership with the Erie Canalway Heritage Fund to “preserve our extraordinary heritage, to promote the Corridor as a world class tourism destination, and to foster vibrant communities connected by the waterway.” Topics of discussion at the January 27 meeting included planning for upcoming World Canals Conferences, which are scheduled to meet in Inverness, Scotland in 2016 and Syracuse, New York in 2017; and the proposed transition of the state canals system from the state Thruway Authority to the state Power Authority. Tug Hill municipalities located within the ECHCC include the Tug Hill communities of Hastings, Central Square, West Monroe, Constantia, and Cleveland in Oswego County, and Vienna and Sylvan Beach in Oneida County.

The ECHCC meets quarterly. Its next meetings are scheduled for April 2016 in the western part of the corridor, and returns to the central portion of the corridor for its June 2016 meeting.

The Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor Commission can be found on the Internet at www.eriecanalway.org. The World Canals Conference, held under the auspices of Inland Waterways International, can be found at <http://inlandwaterwaysinternational.org/world-canals-conference/>. The state Canal Corporation can be found at www.canals.ny.gov.

RACOG Meeting Held

At the River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) meeting on Tuesday, January 26th, held in the village of Carthage, Kevin Jordan, Carl McLaughlin and Mary Corriveau from the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization (FDRLO) provided an update on the process to potentially construct a new Missile Defense System in the East. An environmental impact study is being prepared to evaluate several different potential sites including Fort Drum. A public information session on the system was held in 2014 at the Carthage High School, and there will be more opportunities for public comment once the study is released in April. Under consideration is the possible closing of State Route 3A if Fort Drum is selected as the preferred site.

RACOG members were introduced to Katie Malinowski, newly appointed executive director of the Tug Hill Commission as well as newly elected officials appointed to RACOG. Phil Street, director of planning at the Tug Hill Commission, provided information, updates and next steps to members on land-use planning initiatives being advanced by the towns of Champion & Wilna as well as the village of Carthage.

In addition, attendees reviewed a summary report & 2016 proposed budget and elected a slate of officers, as well as discussed interest in expanding membership and the summer swim program.

Central New York Raceway Park Project

Glenn Donnelly from the Central NY Raceway project in Central Square provided an update to commissioners prior to their board meeting on January 25. The project is on track to begin racing in July, and to host Super DIRT Week in October. With this year's mild winter, earth moving is expected to be done by March 1. When complete, the facility will have road and dirt tracks, and may include snowmobiling and dog sled racing, in addition to traditional car racing.

Winter Outings Scheduled

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust has organized two snowshoes outings, one in Boonville on Saturday January 30, and one in West Turin on Sunday, February 14. More information is available below!

Mile Creek Snowshoe

Date: Saturday, January 30th, 10am-2pm, Boonville

Description: Explore a new place while searching for signs of wildlife with landowners, Bob and Carol Keller. Their property serves as an important corridor for animals traveling between Tug Hill and The Adirondacks. Difficulty level is moderate with some hills. Distance is roughly 1.5-2 miles. All ages are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Weiman Snowshoe

Date: Sunday, February 14th, 1pm-4pm, West Turin

Description: Conservation easements landowners Al and Barb Weiman will lead a three part excursion over the hills and through the woods. The tour ends with a beautiful view of the East Branch of Fish Creek. Difficulty level is moderate with hills. A limited number of snowshoes are available, please email or call to reserve.

RSVP by calling 315-779-2239 or emailing tughilloutreach@nynymail.com.

Winona State Forest 36th Tourathon, February 20

The Winona Forest Recreation Association will hold the 36th Tourathon ski race on February 20. The classic ski race offers 3 distances (12.5, 25, and 50 km) in the 9,500-acres Winona State Forest, located in southern Jefferson and northern Oswego counties. More information, including links to register, is available on the association's website at <http://www.winonaforest.com/>.

Contact us at:

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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation News

Webinar: Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016, 11:00 - 11:30 am

This short webinar will introduce a newly revised version of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification Workbook and offer a live demonstration of how it works. This Excel-based tool helps local governments navigate the certification process, keep documentation organized, and perform an initial self-assessment to determine readiness for certification. More information about the CSC Certification program is available: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/96511.html>. To participate in the webinar contact the Office of Climate Change at climatechange@dec.ny.gov, providing your name and community affiliation.

DEC Announces Proposed Rule Changes To Allow Big Bore Air Rifles For Big Game Hunting

Public Comments Accepted Through February 8

DEC is now accepting public comment on proposed regulation changes that would allow the use of big bore air rifles as a legal implement for taking big game at certain times and places in New York, beginning in the fall 2016 hunting seasons. DEC will accept written public comment on the proposed rule changes through February 8, 2016. More information is available: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/34113.html#p1s1803>.

DEC Seeking Public Input on Hunting Regulations

The NYDEC is currently accepting public input on possible deer and bear hunting regulation changes. Submit your comments by **February 14, 2016** to a below by sending an email to wildlife@dec.ny.gov (use subject line: *Possible deer and bear hunting changes for 2016*). More information about the changes under consideration is available: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/104785.html>

DEC Releases Draft Amendment for The Black River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

Public Comment Period Ends February 29, 2016

A draft amendment to the UMP to improve recreational opportunities while protecting the natural environment is available for public review and comment. More information is available: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/104863.html>. The Black River Wild Forest includes land in the Tug Hill communities of Forestport and Remsen in Oneida County.

Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference March 31

The Tug Hill Commission will hold its 27th annual Local Government Conference on Thursday, March 31st at Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen Street, Watertown, NY. Registration by March 9 is \$50.

The Local Government Conference brochure and registration form is available on our website <http://www.tughill.org/2016/01/07/local-government-conference-brochure/>.