

January 6, 2012

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.

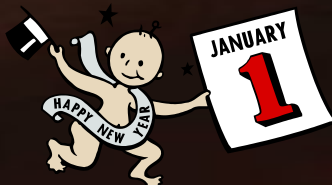
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Cooperative Tug Hill Council Adopts Revised IMA

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC), representing the sixteen towns of the core of Tug Hill, adopted a newly revised intermunicipal agreement (IMA) which takes affect on January 1st. The changes have been approved by all sixteen member towns. The revised IMA changes the membership structure of the Council so that the sixteen town supervisors are automatically "ex-officio" town representatives to the Council, and one additional "at large" member will be appointed by each member town. This is a change from the former agreement where both town representatives were "at large" appointments of the towns. This change was made to both increase elected representation on the Council as well as to increase the value of the Council as a communications forum for town supervisors.

New York State General Municipal Law limits the duration of IMAs to five years, so the revised IMA will be effective though the end of 2017. Members of the Council include the towns of Boylston, Florence, Harrisburg, Lewis, Leyden, Lorraine, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, Pinckney, Redfield, Rodman, Turin, West Turin, Williamstown and Worth.

US Environmental Protection Agency Presents Potential Remediation Actions to Crown Cleaners Site in Herrings

Following a series of tests and investigation by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), representatives presented a final draft plan to address issues and concerns associated with the Crown Cleaners of Watertown, Inc. at a public meeting held in the Village of Herrings Municipal Building on January 3rd. Outlined in the final report, the preferred remedy includes the decontamination and demolition of the main on-site building, excavation of contaminated wetland sediments and soils located adjacent to the former cleaner property, excavation of contaminated soil at the source area, off-site treatment/disposal of the excavated sediments, soils, and building debris, in-situ treatment of contaminated groundwater, development of the Site Management Plan and an environmental Easement.

Local residents, officials and interested parties stated their concerns associated with the decayed and blighted conditions of remaining buildings that are not proposed for demolition, debris removal and excavation of soil sediment removal. According to Mayor Richard Beirman and supported by local residents, the preferred remedy should also address larger concerns associated with lead and asbes-

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New Date and Location for the 2012 NYPF Conference

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April 15 - 17, 2012 at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs, NY

In order to offer training during the period of peak demand, the New York Planning Federation (NYPF) Board of Directors has decided to move this year's Annual Planning & Zoning Conference from its usual fall slot to the spring.

The dates for this year's conference are April 15 -17, 2012. By popular request, they are heading back to the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs, a favorite location right in the midst of that popular community's shops, restaurants and attractions. Praised as "the most productive way of getting training," the NYPF Annual Conference offers a wide range of important land use topics for all levels of experience. Be sure to check www.nypf.org for updates on presenters, topics, exhibitors and registration.

For more information, visit the website, www.nypf.org or phone their office toll-free at 1-800-366-NYPF.

Registration Brochures Have Been Mailed. Did you get yours?

For the NYS Tug Hill Commission's

23rd Annual Local Government Conference

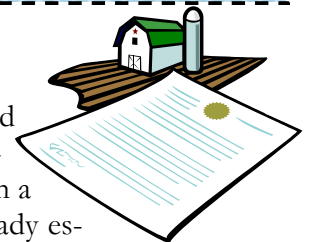
Thursday March 29, 2012 at Jefferson Community College

If you still need a brochure, please call us.

Or you can Visit our Website at <http://www.tughill.org/proj/annual-lgc-2012/>
to download a copy!

Open Enrollment for Agricultural Districts in Oneida County

Oneida County has designated the month of January as the Open Enrollment period for persons applying to be included in an agricultural district. According to NYS Department of Ag and Markets regulations, a County must select a 30 day period in which a landowner can submit a request for inclusion of any viable agricultural land in an already established Agricultural District. Persons wishing to submit an application should pick up forms at their Town Clerk's Office, complete the forms, and return them to the Oneida County Planning Department Union Station at 321 Main Street, Utica, NY 13501. The forms must be postmarked by January 31, 2012 and applications will be accepted until January 31, 2012. Oneida County's current agricultural district maps can be viewed online at <http://www.ocgov.net/oneida/planning/AgDistrictMaps>.

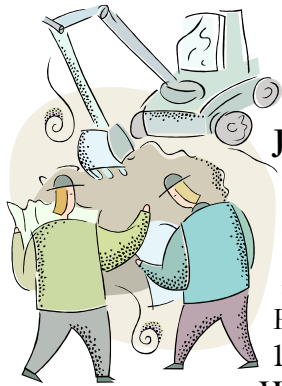


Tug Hill Commission Meeting January 18 at 10:00 am

The Tug Hill Commission will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Commission office in the Dulles State Office Building, 6th Floor conference room, in Watertown, NY. Highlights of the meeting will include routine business of the Commission, organizational meeting and schedule for 2012, latest updates of the Regional Economic Development Councils, discussion of the region's working forest lands 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.

Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop for Construction Site Contractors and Operators

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January 19, 2012
8:00 am - Noon
Breakfast and Registration Begin at 7:30 am
at the
Hilton Garden Inn,
1290 Arsenal Street,
Watertown, New York, 13601

This FREE Workshop is sponsored by the **Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District**, with assistance from the NYS Tug Hill Commission. This workshop is being offered Free of Charge, but **pre-registration is requested by January 13th**. Contact the Tug Hill Commission at 315-785-2380 or jennifer@tughill.org to reserve your spot! More info online at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8699.html>.

This workshop provides the required training for contractors and site inspectors to comply with the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-10-001). All those responsible for the installation, construction, repair, maintenance or the inspection of erosion and sediment control measures or the construction of post-construction stormwater management practices at SPDES-permitted construction sites in New York State are required to attend a DEC-endorsed 4-hour training course every three years. Construction Site Inspectors who are not licensed as a PE or LA or credited as a CPESC are also required to attend. This class may also be of interest to Code Enforcement Officers and municipal/county planning/zoning board members for continuing education credits.

New Law Requires Meeting Materials Posted Online

New legislation was signed into law this week that will require state and local governments to post materials online before a meeting, or provide copies before or at the meeting when possible. The new law applies to records scheduled to be discussed during an open meeting, including proposed resolutions, laws, rules, policies and amendments. The documents have to be posted online when possible if the agency's website is updated regularly and it uses a high-speed Internet connection. There are some exceptions to making records available, such as documents that are submitted late or that would be too expensive or onerous to copy. An example would be a 1,000-page report. The new law will go into effect in February 2012. The full law can be read here: http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=%0D%0A&bn=A00072&term=2011&Summary=Y&Actions=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y.

(Continued from page 1 - Herrings)

tos contamination in surrounding buildings, as well as their rotting, decaying and blighted conditions. Also, the concerns are being raised about the safety hazards associated with the site being an attractive nuisance for local youth. Finally, it was made clear by the attendees that the site remedy should leave the property in a condition that allows it to easily be developed as a recreational park.



Located in the Black River Watershed and along the Olympic Byway on NYS Rt. 3 and Blueway Corridor, the site was listed as a Superfund Site by the EPA in 1991 following a chemical spill that contaminated the village water supply with tetrachloroethylene. The site is currently owned by Crown Cleaners, but the Town of Wilna and Village of Herrings are actively exploring opportunities to acquire the 9.7 acre parcel to provide public access to outdoor recreational opportunities along the Black River Waterfront. Ongoing technical assistance and support are provided to the town and village through RACOG and the NYS Tug Hill Commission.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

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citizens for over 38 years.



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Winter

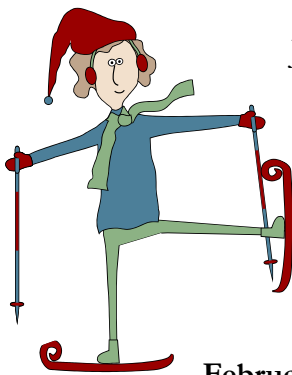
Copenhagen Trail Project

Building upon recommendations outlined in the “2009 Village of Copenhagen Community Design Plan,” local residents, officials and interested parties attended an informational meeting at the Fire Hall on January 3rd to review and comment on the development of a 1.5 mile walking trail. Spearheaded by the Copenhagen Community Group (a grassroots initiative), Mike and Judy Bartlett discussed the need for ongoing fund raising efforts and additional community input to support development of the \$70,000 project. Also discussed were overall concerns, costs/benefits and next steps strategies to advance the project.

Assisted by Lewis County Planning Department and the NYS Tug Hill Commission, the Village was able to leverage limited local resources to secure additional funding and assistance through the Parks & Trails New York Program to develop a preliminary trail design plan. Elijah Yearick, Project Coordinator, presented an overview of the Parks & Trails New York Program and additional opportunities to support local efforts.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust to Host Free Snowshoeing Treks

Educational, Fun, Free and Open to the Public



Join Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust for these winter snowshoe treks:

- January 14, 2012, 10:00 am - Independence River, Greig

- January 28, 2012, 10:00 am - Watertown area

- February 18, 2012, 10:00 am - Osceola area (led by naturalist and THTLT board member, Bob McNamara)

Visit www.TugHillTomorrowLandTrust.org for directions and trek information, email Janelle Castro at tughilloutreach@nnymail.com or call (315) 779-2239.

