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Happy Father's Day



June 21, 2015

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.

Executive Director to Retire

It is bitter sweet to let everyone know that I will be leaving the Tug Hill Commission and retiring from state service after 32 years. These past 11 years at the commission have been among the best years of my career. Working with the hundreds of local elected and appointed officials, non-governmental organizations and partnering county and state agencies on the future of the Tug Hill region has been professionally rewarding and personally humbling. The dedication and devotion that folks have for this region is truly amazing.



The commission members over the years have been an absolute pleasure to work with. These volunteers and residents of the region are extremely devoted to Tug Hill, its people and the communities. They have selflessly taken their time and experiences and lead the commission and its programs and services to support the commission staff and region. I can't thank them enough for their support and encouragement.

The Tug Hill Commission staff are the most devoted and professional public servants I have had the pleasure to work with. Behind every good leader are committed colleagues and this has been no less true of my colleagues at the commission. They have made my job easier and the outcomes of the organization better. I will truly miss all of them.

My wife Janet and I have loved living in the Tug Hill region and we will miss our community and the many friends we have met. We will be relocating to the Saratoga area where our daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons reside, and we welcome the opportunity to spend more time with them. I will be taking on new responsibilities with the Empire State Forest Products Association effective in late July and look forward to working with that organization on the future of New York's working forest landscape and the many businesses and individuals in the forest products industry. I do hope our paths will cross again.

As to the transition of my position at the Tug Hill Commission, Chairman Jan Boganowicz and his fellow commission members have already begun the process for selecting a new executive director. I am confident that they will find a leader who will be right for the region, right for the commission and who will continue the legacy of helping the local governments, individuals and organizations shape the future of the region's natural resources and rural quality of life.

Paraphrasing an old goodbye saying – "How lucky I am that makes saying farewell so hard, but we must not be dismayed, farewell is necessary before we can meet again."

John R. Bontow, Jr.

Tug Hill Sage Remembered

The commission is sad to share the news that one of our Tug Hill Sages has passed. Harold A. "Hap" Petrie, 89, a lifelong resident of Parish, NY, passed away at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Syracuse on June, 16 2015, due to multiple complications from paraplegia. He was appointed Sage in 1993, was a long time member of the Town of Parish planning board and civic leader in his community. He was a founding member of Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and devoted his time and knowledge to many organizations interested in the future of Tug Hill. See more at: <http://obits.syracuse.com/obituaries/syracuse/obituary.aspx?n=harold-a-petrie-hap&pid=175100544&fhid=27413#sthash.i1qt5lup.dpuf>



Tug Hill Commission to Meet in Camden

Monday, June 22nd, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Village of Camden Offices, 57 Main Street, Camden

South Main Street Trailhead to Add Boat Launch and Other Amenities

According to Ron Blinby, Chair of the West Carthage Planning Board and S. Main Street Trailhead Project Committee, POWIS Construction Firm has been selected to install and construct a handicapped accessible concrete boat launch, dock and retaining wall at the South Main Street Trailhead. Scheduled to begin construction on June 15th, village work crews are coordinating efforts with Jefferson County Highway Department, Town of Champion and volunteers/donors to install and construct an open air pavilion/gazebo, lighting, pedestrian trail/walkway/access road, vehicular parking, tree plantings, park benches/bar-b-q's and other park amenities.

Funded through the Department of Transportation in 2009 through the Recreation Trails Program and administered through OPRHP, a fund raising committee was formed in 2013 to bridge the gap in funding to complete the project as designed. The project is the first phase of a multi-phased effort to create a more walkable community while enhancing the quality of life of residents.

Assisted and supported by GYMO Engineering Firm, NYS Tug Hill Commission, DEC/ACOE and OPRHP, the project advances recommendations outlined in the Destination Blueway: a Waterfront Plan for the Villages of Carthage and West Carthage. When completed, the project will provide linkages to existing motorized and non-motorized trails while interconnecting the waterfront and downtown areas.

North Shore, Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments Meet

The North Shore Council of Governments and the Salmon Rivers Council of Governments each met recently. Each approved a final version of their Intermunicipal Agreement, which has been streamlined and updated. The Intermunicipal Agreement will now be distributed to member municipalities for their consideration.

Both Councils of Governments also discussed priorities for potential grant applications from the Regional Economic Development Council Consolidated Funding Applications. In the North Shore area, the village of Cleveland is also pursuing a grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission with the assistance of the Commission. An extensive discussion on community needs and opportunities followed.

The towns and villages present also reported on the status of local projects and community development issues, including broadband, infrastructure improvement needs, and local businesses. The two councils of governments have tentatively scheduled their next meetings for sometime in August, before the towns start the annual town budget cycle in September.

Mohawk Regional Economic Development Council Launches “MV500 Project”

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council has launched the “MV500 Project,” a comprehensive, coordinated strategy to create the regions bid to win a share of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s \$1.5 billion in upstate revitalization funds. \$500 million will be awarded to each of the three upstate regions that create the winning plans. The MV500 committee will be accepting project proposals through the summer, with priority given to those that exhibit region wide impact, focusing on strengthening infrastructure and revitalizing communities. Residents in each of the six counties; Oneida, Herkimer, Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego and Schoharie; have the opportunity to participate in the process with the development of a Regional Community Survey, to aid the committee in outlining the regions strengths and challenges. The survey is available online at mv500.com/survey.

Town of Champion Sewer District #2 Improvements

At the June 1st meeting, members of the Town of Champion Board authorized Terry Buckley, Supervisor, to sign a “Northern Border Regional Commission Grant” application to construct improvements in Sewer District # 2. According to Bernier Carr & Associates (BC&A) representative, Caskinette Ford and Auto Supply is currently limited by the private septic system. Confronted with the decision to relocate or reduce employment of its 70 employees, the expanded sewer district will provide opportunities to sustain and expand business operations at the existing facility.

Scheduled improvements to construct new pipelines in Sewer District #2 by Lawman Heating and Cooling at a cost not to exceed \$1,323,599.21 and contract with Watson Electrical to complete electrical work at a cost not to exceed \$35,000 were also approved by members of the board. The new pipelines and upgrades to the existing district will also provide new access to the public sewer system by home owners located along the Cole Road.

Upcoming Webinar: Conducting an Electronic Records Inventory

Gain knowledge in an hour all from the comfort of your own desk!

Managing electronic records is one of our most timely challenges. It is increasingly important for records managers to know their electronic records and develop plans for managing them systematically. An effective way to begin this process is to conduct an electronic records inventory. This webinar will discuss how to identify key e-records systems, collect meaningful data, analyze the results, and develop an e-records management plan.

All of NYS Archives training - whether workshops or webinars - are free and open to the public.

To register online, please visit: <http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=REG&cat=2>.

Community Microgrid Being Explored

The Town of Wilna and Village of Carthage are supporting efforts to fund a Feasibility Study to explore options/opportunities to establish a “Community MicroGrid” through the NYS Energy Research & Development Authority. A cooperative effort through the Carthage Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC) and the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency recommendations outlined in the study will guide the next steps in setting up a microgrid.

The CIDC owns a 5 megawatt hydroelectric facility, located close to a 79 megawatt gas fired power generation facility. During an emergency situation associated with an electrical power outage, the microgrid would provide essential services with the needed power to support the community hospital, first responders and water treatment facilities until power could be restored to the area.

Contact us at:

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Clean Energy Conference Held

The Tug Hill Commission was proud to be a part of the Clean Energy Economy Conference last week at SUNY Poly in Utica, NY. Over the past several month, Commission staff has participated with many agencies on the Planning Committee of this Conference. This event, collaboratively planned by the Adirondack North Country and the Mohawk Valley REDC's, included plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, roundtable discussions, professional training courses, field trips and exhibitor show case. In all, about 200 people gathered to share information and ideas about how clean energy projects can be implemented and contribute to economic development.

NYPF 2015 Conference Follow Up and Summer School Update

Conference Follow Up

The public can now access all of the 2015 conference presentations on the New York Planning Federations website via: <http://www.nypf.org/editable/conference.html>

There is also a photo recap and video recording of the mock zoning board meeting from the 2015 conference! The photos and video were recently posted to their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/newyorkplanning.

The conference hashtag was generated as #NYPF2015, with live update tweets that discussed different sessions. NYPF has steadily grown their social media and the conference was a great boost. Keep in touch on twitter with NYPF www.twitter.com/newyorkplanning.

Summer School Update

As in years past, the New York Planning Federation will again be partnering with the Association of Towns to host four day-long planning and zoning summer school sessions at various locations around the state. They are still narrowing down the final details but this year's dates and locations are confirmed as follows:

Wednesday, July 15th

Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home
Hyde Park

Thursday, July 23rd

Land Use & Sustainable Development Law Institute at Touro Law Center
Central Islip, Long Island

Monday, July 27th

Comfort Inn & Suites Airport
Syracuse

Friday, August 7th

The Lodge at Holiday Valley
Ellicottville

Though topics and presenters will vary from location to location, a tentative list of sessions includes: agritourism, case law updates, variances and limitations, junk control, records development for defensible positions, open meetings law, how to use the new SEQR mapping application, and climate change resiliency planning.