



May 22, 2015

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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.

Referendum Will Decide Fate of Village of Prospect

Following a public hearing on May 18 in the Village of Prospect and approval of the proposed dissolution plan by the Village Board, a referendum will take place on July 21st to allow voters the opportunity to decide if government operations will cease at the Village level.

"It's going to be a confusing and emotional time for everyone involved," said Mayor Franny Righi following the hearing, where CGR Project Director Kent Gardner presented the most recent plan to residents. The Dissolution Plan, which was precipitated by a sizeable Worker's Compensation claim, recommends that Prospect dissolve into the Town of Trenton, effective at the end of 2015; that special districts be created by the Town to provide street lighting and water, with boundaries that encompass existing users; that the Town create a special debt district, to include current Village real property, to repay the balance of Prospect's obligation to the Oneida County Self Insurance Plan.

The plan also recommends selling village assets to defray the debt, including the Village Municipal Building, Library Building, Ambulance Building, Woodlot, including cell tower and lease. The Board already voted to withdraw from the Oneida County Self Insurance Plan, but must repay the balance the County has already paid above and beyond premiums amounting to more than \$300,000; and an additional amount to cover future medical costs associated with the claim as determined by an actuary of almost \$200,000.

If voters decide in favor of dissolution, Village operations will cease after December 31st, 2015.



RACOG Holds Meeting

Members of RACOG met on May 19th at the Village of Carthage to discuss project status reports, available funding opportunities, 2015 YMCA Swim Instruction Program, Village Recreation Program and Twin Village Swim Program. Action was taken by attendees to reopen the Outdoor Twin Village Swim Facility on July 1st to area residents, provide swim lessons to interested parties who reside within the RACOG Area through the YMCA Instruction Program and contract with the villages of Carthage and West Carthage to provide summer recreation opportunities for area youth under the age of 12. In addition, RACOG will review the rules and regulations that guide operations and maintenance of the outdoor pool facility.

THE PROCESS OF SITE PLAN AND SUBDIVISION REVIEW LAND USE PLANNING WORKSHOP NOTICE

From the applicant's first sketch on the back of a napkin to the final approved project, the complete land development review process including SEQR will be explained in detail.

Helpful checklists, forms, and outlines will be provided. Planning boards, zoning boards of appeal, code enforcement officers, and all those interested in learning more about the review of proposals for development are invited to attend in order to better understand the project review process.

Phil Street is Planning Director for NYS Tug Hill Commission. He has been with the Commission for over 30 years and Planning Director for over 20. Phil has a Bachelors degree in Political Science from SUNY Cortland and a Masters of Regional Planning from Pennsylvania State University. He works with many of the Tug Hill Regions towns and villages on land use laws and comprehensive plans.

PLEASE NOTE: *The previously announced workshop (mentioned during the April training session) that was titled "State Permits – Part 2" was tentatively scheduled to be held in late May. However, due to scheduling conflicts with some of the speakers, it became necessary to postpone the session until the training session typically held during late October.*



Co-Sponsored
By:



The Process of Site Plan And Subdivision Review

Thursday

June 4, 2015

6:30-8:30 pm

Jules Center Amphitheater

Room 6-002

Jefferson Community College

1220 Coffeen St.

Watertown, NY

AGENDA

6:30-6:35 pm Welcome and Opening
Remarks

6:35-8:00 pm Presentation by Phil
Street, NYS Tug Hill
Commission

8:00-8:30 pm Question and answer
period

RSVP's are strongly encouraged by
Monday, June 1st

Please call Jefferson County Planning
Department at (315) 785-3144 or
Email: planning@co.jefferson.ny.us

*If approved by your municipality,
this workshop can provide two (2) hours
of training to meet the
NYS Municipality Training Requirement.*

Note to Planning Board and ZBA
Chairpersons and Clerks – Please share this
notice with other Board members and
officials in your community.

National Grid Streetlight Energy Efficiency Program

Communities in the region have been taking advantage of National Grid's program to reduce customer energy costs by assessing the efficiency of their streetlight system and making improvements if necessary. Recently the towns of Osceola and Redfield have worked with National Grid to replace the bulbs in their streetlights, which has cut the cost of electricity for the streetlights by significant amounts, at no cost to the town.

To inquire about your municipality's ability to participate, you should contact your National Grid representative.

Braman Block Ground Breaking

On May 16th, the Thousand Island Habitat for Humanity broke ground at the "Braman Block" in the Village of Carthage to begin building construction on two new houses during 2015. A community supported project, local businesses and volunteers will mobilize to provide labor, building materials and equipment to reduce the overall cost of constructing the new houses. Members of the pre-selected families will provide sweat equity and assume possession upon its completion.

A culmination of multiple efforts since 2007 to redevelop the former Braman Manufacturing Site, is a three year initiative that will result in the construction of six new affordable single family homes.

Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Round Open; Deadline June 19

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) has announced the availability of up to \$5 million in federal grant money for economic and community development projects for local governments and non-profits in the states of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. In New York State projects will be accepted from applicants in the following New York Counties: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, St. Lawrence and Seneca. Projects are funded up to \$250,000 per project.

All application materials are available at: <http://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/rfa-15-nbrc/>.

Invasive Species Symposium June 10

The SLELO PRISM is offering a one day training to provide expert knowledge on the management and post treatment restoration focusing on several of the regions most threatening invasive species. Topics will include Eurasian water milfoil, American Chestnut tree restoration, feral swine management, buckthorn, and purple loosestrife.

There is **no cost for this event**, but pre-registration is required. You may register by contacting Rob Williams by phone at (315) 387-3600 extension 7725 or by emailing Rob at: rwilliams@tnc.org. More information is also available at <http://www.sleloinvasives.org/>.

North Country Clean Energy Conference Offers Reduced Rate for Local Government and Education

The 2015 Clean Energy Conference has just announced a REDUCED CONFERENCE RATE of \$50 for **Local Government and Education** attendees! That's right, if you are a local government official or an educator, \$50 will get you registered for the entire conference, which will be held June 11-12 at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica, NY. For more information about the agenda or to register, please go here <http://www.ncenergyconference.org/> or contact ANCA at 518-891-6200 or email energy@adironack.org.

If you already registered at the previous rate of \$97, you will be able to get a refund for the difference by contacting Emily Martz at ANCA at 518-891-6200 or email emartz@adironack.org.

Contact us at:

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Great Lakes Sub Basin Work Group Meetings

The NYSDEC's Great Lakes Program, in coordination with State Agency Partners, will be holding Great Lakes Sub Basin work group meetings in order to identify and advance priority projects to achieve goals of the Interim Great Lakes Action Agenda using an ecosystem based management approach.

Stakeholders within the Tug Hill region are encouraged to attend the Northeast and Southeast sub basin work group meetings:

- NE Lake Ontario Work Group -- Monday June 8th, 2 - 4:30pm Keewaydin State Park, Marina Pavilion, 45165 State Rt. 12, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607
- SE Lake Ontario Work Group -- Tuesday, June 9th, 10am - 12:30pm Fort Ontario State Historic Site, Enlisted Men's Barracks, 1 East Fourth St., Oswego, NY 13126 -- Optional site tour to follow.

For more information or to RSVP that you plan to attend please contact Emily Sheridan, Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator at emily.sheridan@dec.ny.gov.

Black River Watershed Conference Registration Deadline May 22

The deadline to register for the Black River Watershed Conference is May 22. If it is past this date, please contact Carla Luther cluther@lewiscountyny.org or 315-376-6122 ASAP to register. The 2015 Black River Watershed Conference is June 3. Please see our website at www.tughill.org for details!

JIMI Participants Asset Management Software Has Been Upgraded

Any town or village that is currently a JIMI (Joint Infrastructure Management Initiative) participant now has access to the newest Cartegraph OMS online upgrade. The biggest change with this new edition, is the ability to import and export data through your web browser into the Cartegraph online asset management system. Also, the Cartegraph system for the JIMI group has new reporting capabilities that were added not long ago.

If you would like assistance with the Cartegraph system, whether learning about the new changes, getting help with a project you are working on with it, or needing help with access to it, please contact us. Cartegraph also has a very extensive online training program that is free to participants of the JIMI group to access.

If you are not a participant, but would like more information on the JIMI program and seeing if it might be a fit for you, please contact Mickey Dietrich at the Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2380 or you can contact Richard Snow at Jefferson County Highway.

