



November 9, 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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TO CONTACT THE TUG HILL COMMISSION:

Phone toll free within the region: 1-888-785-2380

E-mail: tughill@tughill.org

Website: www.tughill.org



New Forestry Paper Explores Opportunities for Creative Investment

Over the last several decades, as farmland has converted to forests and pulp and paper mills have shut down, an abundance of biomass is growing and becoming available at a time when emerging markets in the forest industry will demand wood for the production of heat, energy and bio-products. The Regional Economic Development Councils are urged to consider these markets and their potential for economic development in a new paper published by the Tug Hill Commission: *Forests, Forestry and the Forest Products Industry: Opportunities for Creative Investment*, which is available on the Commission's website at http://www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/forestry_paper_FINAL_October_20121.pdf. Recommendations include such topics as Brownfields and Retooling Old Forest Industrial Sites, Lean Manufacturing, Expanding Markets for Wood Products, Recreation and Tourism, Invasive Species and Greenhouse Gas Sequestration.

A Future With the Adirondack Railroad Meeting November 20th



A few weeks ago the Adirondack Railroad Preservation Society (ARPS) and Iowa Pacific Holdings, LLC (IPH) announced a new partnership to establish roles and responsibilities in the development of train service between Lake Placid and New York City. This development provides tremendous opportunities for communities and stakeholders along the entire Adirondack Rail corridor for growth in tourism, recreation and economic development.

The Tug Hill Commission and Northern Oneida County Council of Governments have organized a meeting with representatives of ARPS for a conversation on what this may present to Oneida County communities and other communities throughout the North County and Mohawk Valley. ARPS President Bill Branson will provide an overview of the agreement with IPH and what it means for the future of the rail corridor. There will also be representatives of the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), Oneida County and community leaders and stakeholders from communities in the NOCCOG region and beyond.

This meeting will be an opportunity for communities along the southern end of the Adirondack Railroad to learn more about the agreement and to provide input and ideas on how the future of the Adirondack Railroad will benefit the region's economy. **Please RSVP your attendance by calling the Tug Hill Commission at 1-888-785-2380.**

The meeting will take place 5:30 pm Tuesday, November 20th at the Boonville Municipal Building, 13149 State Route 12, Boonville NY, 13309.

Northern Oneida County Council Of Governments Holds Annual Business Meeting and Dinner

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NOCCOG held their annual meeting at the Delta Lake Inn in Rome on Thursday, October 25th. With over 100 people pre-registered, including representatives of all 19 NOCCOG towns, this was an excellent turnout. NOCCOG approved their annual budget for 2013 and re-elected their Executive Committee Officers with John Doiron as chairman, Arnie Talgo as vice chairman, Mark Scheidelman as fiscal officer, Bob Sauer and Mark Trnchik as directors. The NOCCOG proposed budget for 2013 was approved, with dues remaining the same for 2013 at \$1,000.

The evening's speaker was Ken Tompkins, Executive Director of the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council and Regional Empire State Development Corporation Director. Ken provided an overview of the MV REDC Strategic Plan and highlighted opportunities for rural Northern Oneida County communities and businesses as they look to spur economic growth. Ken was genuinely pleased with the turnout for the NOCCOG event and the opportunity to reach out to so many Oneida County leaders.

Emergency Preparedness and Your Records

The New York State Archives is available to help you protect your records from disasters. To be prepared for a disaster, keep in mind the following regarding your records and collections:

- Review your emergency response plan to ensure phone lists and other contact information are current.
- Revisit your municipality's priority collections (vital records) lists and locations.
- Verify your facilities layouts, with attention to evacuation routes and locations of stairs, exit doors, fire hoses, water and CO2 fire extinguishers, emergency lights, alarm pull boxes, sprinkler shut-off valves, and first-aid kits.
- Identify and, if necessary, acquire alternative power sources such as generators
- Gather plastic sheeting to be used as covering for collections, filing cabinets, and computer equipment stored in vulnerable locations.

If you're affected by a disaster, contact us at ARCH_SOS@mail.nysed.gov. For more information regarding disaster assistance and protecting your important vital records, go to www.archives.nysed.gov/a/records/mr_disaster.shtml.

SEQR Basics Training Session for Town, Village, Planning and ZBA Boards

The Lewis County Department of Economic Development and Planning is pleased to offer "SEQR Basics," to be presented by Philip Street, Director of Planning at the Tug Hill Commission. **The training will be held Tuesday November 27th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Lewis County Court House Office Building, 7660 North State Street, Lowville, NY in the 2nd Floor Legislative Chambers. Please RSVP to the Lewis County Department of Economic Development and Planning by November 21st to reserve your space.** Call Sue Young at (315) 376-5422 or email syoung@lewiscountyny.org.



Vienna Moving Forward on Zoning Update

The Vienna Planning Board is wrapping up a major amendment to the town's zoning law. The new and improved law is intended to better implement Vienna's 2007 Master Plan. Among many changes, the new law establishes better guidelines for home based businesses, fences, recreational camping vehicles, flag lots, motorized vehicle parks, wind turbine towers (windmills), and signs. The law's next stop is the Oneida County Planning Board for 239-m review.

Request For Proposals Issued for 2013 Projects Addressing Invasive Species

As the host organization for St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO-PRISM), The Nature Conservancy is offering funding to complete projects during the 2013 calendar year. Non-profit organizations, local governments and institutions located or serving areas within the boundary of SLELO may apply. The four project categories for which SLELO-PRISM is seeking proposals are:

- Early detection and site assessments to evaluate invasive populations.
- Eradication and control of invasive species populations PRISM-wide or in managed areas to protect rare species and significant natural communities, recreation resources, and agriculture including restoration of control sites.
- Education and outreach for prevention.
- Projects that address whole systems (eco-regions) prevention and pathway issues and/or citizen science based research on controls, best management practices, etc.

Applications must be postmarked or delivered by 3:00 pm November 28th, 2012. At least \$90,000 in project funds will be available. Applicants may request up to \$25,000 with no match required, but it is encouraged. Your creativity is also encouraged! For more information about SLELO-PRISM or this Request for Proposals, please contact Rob Williams, SLELO-PRISM Coordinator, at The Nature Conservancy at rwilliams@tnc.org or (315) 387-3600 ext. 25.



Land Use Planning Workshop: Zoning Basics

DATE: Monday, November 26, 2012

TOME: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

ROOM: Jules Center Amphitheater, Room 6-002

ADDRESS: Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen Street, Watertown, NY

The Jefferson County Department of Planning and the NYS Tug Hill Commission are cosponsoring a land use training session featuring Attorney Mark Gebo. Mark Gebo is a partner in the law firm of Hrabchak, Gebo & Langone, PC., of Watertown. Mr. Gebo is a graduate of SUNY Albany and Cornell Law School. His firm is currently general counsel to 34 towns and villages in Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego and St. Lawrence counties. His firm also acts as special counsel to numerous other towns, villages, and districts in northern New York. He has been a frequent lecturer on land use issues. This workshop will discuss what a zoning law is, what it is not, where a municipality gets the power to zone, nonconforming lots and structures, the different parts of a zoning law and other related topics.

AGENDA

6:30-6:35 pm: Welcoming Remarks

6:35-8:00 pm: Presentation by Mark Gebo

8:00-8:30 pm: Ample time will be reserved for questions and answers

RSVPs are strongly encouraged by Wednesday, November 21st. 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 2 hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training requirement. Please share this notice with other Board members and officials in your community.

NYS Tug Hill Commission

Mailing address:

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

We are located on the 6th Floor of
the Dulles State Office Building.

Phone: (315) 785-2380

Fax: (315) 785-2574

E-mail: tughill@tughill.org

Web: www.tughill.org

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Commission for assistance.

Thank you!



Electronic Records Management Boot Camp Workshops

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On Thursday, November 15th from 9:00 am to noon in Phoenix (15 minutes north of Syracuse right off Rt. 481 at 1st Phoenix exit), Kent Stuetz will be presenting a workshop entitled Electronic Records Boot Camp.

This session is meant for all who have put one toe in the electronic records water and felt it to be a bit chilly for them, or maybe a little overwhelming. We will strip away the I.T. jargon and get down to exactly what you need to know to feel comfortable in the emerging world of eRecords management. Some of the topics to be discussed include email management, legal issues surrounding management of electronic records in all their forms, imaging and document management systems, cloud computing, viewing social media as records, securing a seat at your IT steering committee, electronic records preservation, and so much more.

All are welcome and there is no fee for participation - it is completely free. However, please register for this event through the workshop registration system so information can be emailed to you prior to the session for you to print and bring to the workshop. Here is a link to the workshop webpage: <http://iarchives.nysed.gov/WorkShops/workshopsServlet?owner=REG&cat=1>. Simply scroll down the page until you see the workshop location you wish to register for. If you have any question regarding this workshop, contact Kent Stuetz, NYS Archives, CNY Regional Office, 315-542-5909.

November Commission Meeting

The next Tug Hill Commission meeting will be held at the Constantia Town Hall, 14 Frederick Street, Constantia, NY, on November 21st at 10:00 am. Please call the Commission if you would like to attend. The public is always welcome to attend these meetings.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

**The Tug Hill Commission's
24th Annual Local Government Conference
will be held March 28, 2013 at Jefferson Com-
munity College. Watch for coming details. If
you have ideas for presentation topics or pre-
senter, please let us know!**