



October 17, 2014

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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.

SEQR Training Scheduled in Ava

The Commission will be conducting a two-hour State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) training session at the Ava Town Hall located at 11468 State Route 26, Ava on November 5th at 7:00 pm. This session will cover what planning and zoning officials must know about the SEQR process during site plan, special use and subdivision reviews, and appeals to the zoning board of appeals. There will be ample time for questions. Attendees **MUST** contact the Tug Hill Commission to reserve a training packet at 1-888-785-2380.

Black River Initiative Advisory Committee Meets

A group of stakeholders gathered at the Champion Town Hall on October 9th to discuss projects occurring on and surrounding the Black River Trail corridor and within its watershed. Facilitated by the Tug Hill Commission, the Black River Initiative Advisory Committee (BRIAC) is a combined group of stakeholders distilled from three separate, but complementary projects: the Black River Blueway, Scenic Byway, and Watershed. Although funded separately, all three include interrelated pieces that promote the abundant natural, cultural, and recreational resources that the Black River provides. Individually, each project was guided by separate local advisory committees that helped administer grant funding. Now the combined group meets to exchange ideas and to brainstorm projects that promote all things "Black River."

Attendees represented Oneida County Convention and Visitors Bureau, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), City of Watertown, Village of Lyons Falls, Lewis County, NYS Department of Transportation (DOT), Thousand Islands Tourism Council, River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) and Lyons Falls Alive. They discussed many topics including City of Watertown's Sewall's Island re-development, trail planning, Black River navigation improvements, water quality project coordination, tourism business development; event coordination, and regional marketing efforts.

Especially interesting, was learning from our Raquette River Blueway Corridor special guests: Mary Jane Watson, Fred Hanss and Ruth McWilliams. A lively exchange of ideas took place among the participants about coordinating whitewater events, promoting North Country whitewater destinations and developing strong business plans for entrepreneurs. Members of the BRIAC plan to attend a Raquette River Blueway Corridor committee meeting in the future to continue the exchange of ideas.

For more information or to participate in future meetings or events, please contact Carla Malmgren via email carla@tughill.org or Jennifer Harvill at jennifer@tughill.org or by calling 1-888-785-2380.

Parks & Trails New York's *Growing the Grassroots* Capacity Building Grants

Parks & Trails New York's *Growing the Grassroots* Capacity Building Grants are being offered to enhance the long-term sustainability of park and trail not-for-profit organizations by helping them better fulfill their missions; improve their reach, effectiveness, and impact; leverage resources, and increase community support for park and trail planning, development and/or stewardship. Applications must be submitted by **5:00 p.m., Thursday, October 30, 2014. All applications must be submitted online.** Applications cannot be mailed, emailed or faxed. Awards will be made to local or regional organizations that are classified by the IRS as 501(c)(3) or who operate under the fiscal sponsorship of a 501(c)(3) and whose primary mission is stewardship of a specific New York park or trail that is or will be open to the public.

Grants of up to \$4,000 will fund activities that help develop and strengthen the skills, processes and resources that not-for-profit organizations need to survive:

- Organizational start-up – e.g., incorporation, initial staff, equipment purchase
- Professional consulting services that aid organizational development – e.g., fundraising, communication, marketing, membership, strategic planning, financial management
- Board and staff training
- Volunteer recruitment, training and/or recognition program
- Communications – graphic design, development or enhancement of a logo, website, newsletter, or other communication tool; printing and distribution of brochures, newsletters, or other educational or outreach materials. **Brochures and maps can include information on the park or trail, but must also include organizational information and solicitation of membership**
- Park or trail capital project that will raise the visibility and capacity of the applicant, e.g. kiosk or sign.

Awards will be based on:

- Ability to initiate, grow, strengthen, or transform the organization
- Organization's demonstrated financial need; preference will be given to organizations with annual budgets of less than \$100,000
- Detailed, documented, and realistic budget. See a [sample budget](#).
- Clearly articulated project goals, tangible outcomes and well-defined, objective measures of success
- Applicant support for the project as demonstrated by financial and/or in-kind commitment
- Ability to leverage other opportunities, such as partnerships and funding sources
- Creativity and the ability of the project to serve as a model for other groups
- Visibility – degree to which project will promote the organization and foster public use, appreciation, stewardship, and development of applicant's park and/or trail
- If applicable, plan for sustainability of the project after grant period ends

Preference will be given to:

- Projects that leverage the amount of funds requested with significant cash or in-kind contributions from project partners.
- Organizations who have not received a Growing the Grassroots grant within the last three years.
- Organizations with annual budgets of less than \$100,000.

For more information, go to <http://www.ptny.org/advocacy/grants.shtml>

NOCCOG Annual Meeting and Dinner October 23rd

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments will hold its 31st Annual Meeting and Dinner on October 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Delta Lake Inn, 8524 Fish Hatchery Road, Rome. Cost for dinner is \$20 per person. If you would like to attend please contact Sue Martin, Associate Municipal Advisor at 896-5076 or smartin47@roadrunner.com.

LAND USE LAW Q&A: FOR PLANNING BOARDS, ZBAs AND ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

WORKSHOP NOTICE

**The Jefferson County Department of Planning
and the NYS Tug Hill Commission are
co-sponsoring a land use training session.**

The Jefferson County Department of Planning and the NYS Tug Hill Commission are co-sponsoring a land use training session on Thursday, October 30, 2014, 6:30 PM, at Jefferson Community College.

Attorney Scott Chatfield will be on hand to address a range of questions dealing with the functions, responsibilities, and procedures of Planning Boards, Zoning Boards of Appeal, and Zoning Enforcement Officers. Attorney Chatfield is in private practice based in Marietta, NY. He is a regular and popular presenter at the Tug Hill Commission Annual Local Government Conference. Attorney Chatfield has been affiliated with the New York Planning Federation and the NYS Commission on Rural Resources, and speaks often on legal issues related to planning and zoning.

In preparation for this Q & A session, please feel free to submit questions pertaining to general land use procedures or legal topics you think would be beneficial and educational for a broad audience. Sample topic areas include: site plan review procedures, variances, zoning amendments, special permits, zoning permits and enforcement, Board findings and decisions, recordkeeping, and zoning administration legal pitfalls.

These questions will be forwarded to Attorney Chatfield to help prepare discussion on selected topics prior to the session. Questions can be e-mailed to planning@co.jefferson.ny.us no later than October 23, 2014. We look forward to an informative session.



Co-Sponsored
By:



*Land Use Law Q&A:
For Planning Boards, ZBAs and
Zoning Enforcement Officers*

**THURSDAY
October 30, 2014**

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

6:35-8:30 pm Presentation by
Attorney Scott
Chatfield

RSVP's are strongly encouraged by
Tuesday, October 28th

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.

Contact us at:

**NYS Tug Hill
Commission**

317 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601

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

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the
region:
1-888-785-2380

Email:
tughill@tughill.org
Website:
www.tughill.org

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gwen@tughill.org
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1-888-785-2380.
Electronic versions
appear in full color!**

EPA Webinars For Water Systems

The Environmental Protection Agency has developed new guidance, a workbook entitled "*Moving Toward Sustainability: Sustainable and Effective Practices for Creating Your Water Utility Roadmap*" (<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/upload/Practices-Roadmap-FINAL-4-2-14.pdf>) to provide utilities information to develop a roadmap to sustainability. A series of four webinars are being held over the next 9 months to provide additional information. The first webinar will be presented on October 30, 2014, from 12:30-2:30 EST:

Overview of *Moving Toward Sustainability: Sustainable and Effective Practices for Creating Your Water Utility Roadmap* (Jim Horne, U.S. EPA)

- Community Sustainability:
 - o Sue Hann, City Manager - Palm Bay Florida
 - o Andy Kricun, Camden County Municipal Utility Authority

To register go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/608935640>.

4th Annual Lewis County Economic Development Conference

The 4th Annual Lewis County Economic Development Conference will be Thursday, October, 23rd from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Ridgeview Inn, Lowville.

To register contact the Lewis County Planning Department at 376-5422 or email syoung@lewiscountyny.org.

NYS Geospatial Summit

Come check out the newest in geospatial technology at the NYS Geospatial Summit. The Summit will be taking place on October 22nd, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in Skaneateles, NY. It will feature speakers like Lawrence Brinker, Esq., Executive Director and General Counsel for Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance, who will be giving a prospective on use of unmanned aerial vehicles. Andrew Hill, the Senior Scientist for CartoDB and he is responsible for the innovation, education and community engagement for CartoDB, which is a web-based easy to use mapping program. Other speakers include John Calkins (Corporate Technical Evangelist, ESRI), Dr. Joel Caplan (Assistant Professor, The Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice), Paul Ramsey (Vice President, Product Management, Boundless), Alex Barth (Open Data Expert), Connie Brown (Artist Map Painter), and Adena Schutzberg (Directions Magazine). For more information you can go to www.nygeosummit.org.