



October 26, 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.

Tug Hill Supervisors and Mayors Meet with State Legislative Delegation

Over 50 Tug Hill Supervisors and Mayors and other elected and appointed officials met with representatives of the Tug Hill State Legislative Delegation in Redfield on Wednesday, October 24th. The meeting was hosted by the Cooperative Tug Hill Council. New York State Senator Patty Ritchie and Assembly Members Will Barclay and Ken Blankenbush addressed the local officials regarding 2012 Legislative Session accomplishments and priorities for the upcoming 2013 Legislative Session. State Senator Griffo was represented by Constituent Services representative Jim Durkish.

The Councils of Governments then presented regional budget and legislative priorities for the Tug Hill Region, including: the 2% property tax cap; legislation necessary for the Black River Trail and Maple Traditions Scenic Byways; amendments to the NYS Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act; Low Volume Roads legislation; mandate relief; and, possible amendments to Section 480A of the Real Property Tax Law regarding forest assessments. Commission staff also presented major projects in the region, including: Town Official Maps; the Tug Hill Aquifer; Regional Economic Development Councils; and sales of large industrial forest lands.

In a follow up "round robin session" individual supervisors and mayors were able to raise a host of problems and concerns facing their communities. Legislators were also able to provide suggestions on how many of the matters raised could be addressed in a collaborative manner. The meeting proved to be an excellent opportunity for both State and local officials to discuss concerns and begin to strategize on how matters could be addressed. Thanks to the State representatives for taking the time out of their busy schedules for the meeting and to the local officials for a tremendous turnout in the core of Tug Hill.

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TO CONTACT THE TUG HILL COMMISSION:

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SAVE THE DATE!!!!

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

Corridor Management Plans Approved For Black River Trail and Maple Traditions Scenic Byways



The NYS Scenic Byways Advisory Board met on October 17th in Albany and heard a final presentation from the Tug Hill Commission and Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) on the Black River Trail and Maple Traditions Scenic Byways. Responding to comments from the Advisory Board and the NYS Department of Transportation over the past few years, the Commission and ANCA had revised the byway routes and added language to the plans regarding off-premise signage and taken those revisions to the communities over the past summer. The Advisory Board was impressed with the work done and passed a resolution finalizing the corridor management plans as presented.

All communities along the byways are now eligible to pursue Scenic Byways related funding and to use their status on a byway to boost tourism, work with other byway communities to jointly market their attractions, and score higher on grant applications. The North Country Regional Economic Development Council has also adopted a strategy that makes projects along designated Scenic Byways and Blueway Trails a higher priority for Consolidated Funding Applications (CFAs). The next step in the Black River Trail and Maple Traditions Scenic Byways is adoption of legislation formally designating the Byway Routes under NYS Highway Law. The North Country Legislative delegation will be asked to sponsor legislation in 2013.



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 to Non-profit organizations, local governments and institutions located or serving areas within the boundary of SLELO. Applicants may request up to \$25,000 with no match required. While match is not required, 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.

About SLELO-PRISM

SLELO-PRISM is one of eight Partnerships in New York State. These partnerships are supported by the New York Invasive Species Council and Invasive Species Advisory Committee. The Council is co-led by the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Agriculture and Markets. As the host organization for SLELO, The Nature Conservancy, has a contract with the NYSDEC to coordinate the Partnership.

Electronic Records Management Boot Camp Workshops

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.

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.

AGENDA

6:30-6:35 pm: Welcoming Remarks

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

Zoning seeks to protect public health, safety and welfare by regulating the use of land and controlling the type, size and height of buildings. The first zoning code was developed in 1916 in New York City, and the constitutionality of zoning laws was established by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark 1926 case Village of Euclid, Ohio vs. Ambler Realty Co. 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.

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

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citizens for over 39 years.**



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versions appear in full color!)

Please contact the
Commission for assistance.

Thank you!



Reminder: Training for Municipal Boards and Highway Departments Page 4

Mr. Ken Ayers will be returning for the upcoming workshop, *Highway Issues are His Business*. The session will be held **November 1, 2012** from **1:00 pm to 4:00 pm** at **Kunsela Hall, SUNY IT, Utica**. Topics covered will include:

- Highway right-of way road management
- Width of user roads
- Abandonment procedures and effects
- Local control over roadways (i.e., given natural gas exploration & development of word energy and impacts on local roads)
- Town's right to grant permits & franchises for use of local roads to utility companies, developers, and others.

Registration information is available at the following website: <http://lgec.org/content>. There is a \$15 fee for the workshop. **Payment is due by October 26** and checks should be made out to The College Association and be sent to: Continuing Professional Education, LGEC Registration, SUNYIT, 100 Seymour Road, Utica, NY 13502, Phone: 315-792-7270.



Training Session Held in Florence

Fourteen planning officials attended a training session on "Site Plan/Special Use Permit Reviews" in the Town of Florence on Wednesday on October 24th. Planning Director Philip Street discussed the process and paperwork involved in reviewing a site plan/special use permit reviews at the local level. Planning officials from Florence, Osceola, Vienna and town and village of Camden received 2 hours of training credit for attending this training session.