

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Commission Welcomes Second New Board Member



William Scriber of Parish was appointed as a Tug Hill Commissioners by New York Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie earlier this month. Bill brings significant experience in local government, economic development, and education, having served on various boards for over 20 years. He is currently chairman of the joint town-village planning and environmental board in Parish, and served on the SUNY Oswego Council, Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Board of Education, Oswego County BOCES, as well as other local committees and organizations. Bill is employed as the Manager of Port Logistics-Administrative Services at the Port of Oswego Authority.

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Focus On The COG - Special Insert

For the next five editions of Tug Hill Times, one of our five councils of governments (COG) will be featured to highlight the work they are doing and the major things happening in their part of Tug Hill. This week we start with the Cooperative Tug Hill Council, the "granddaddy" of the COGs as they are the oldest and cover the most land area.

East Branch of Fish Creek Working Group Reconvenes

Approximately 60 landowners, club members, snowmobilers and agency representatives gathered Thursday evening in Constableville to discuss recent changes in the East Branch of Fish Creek conservation easement lands. The group, known as the East Branch of Fish Creek Working Group, meets periodically in order to have meaningful and open discussions about what's happening on the easement, challenges people may be experiencing and possible solutions to those challenges. The group met regularly in the late 1990's and 2000's to discuss the future of the former Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper Mill lands on Tug Hill in Lewis County. The group last met in 2014, but, last night, decided to meet more regularly on an annual basis during the spring season.

Last night's meeting featured an introduction and timeline by the Tug Hill Commission and updates from the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Nature Conservancy and Molpus Woodlands. If you would like more information about the group or want to participate in future meetings, please contact the commission.



Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Northern NY

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that invasive pest emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found and confirmed for the first time in Franklin and St. Lawrence counties. DEC captured the insects in monitoring traps at the two locations. The adult specimens were found within a few miles of the Canadian border and may represent an expansion of Canadian infestations into New York.



Emerald ash borer is a serious tree pest, killing hundreds of millions of ash trees in forests, yards and along streets. The beetles' larvae feed in the layer just below the bark, preventing the transport of water and nutrients into the crown and killing the tree. Emerging adult beetles leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of the branches and the trunk. Adults are roughly 3/8 to 5/8 inch long with metallic green wing covers and a coppery red or purple abdomen. The pests may be present from late May through early September but are most common in June and July. Other signs of infestation include tree canopy dieback, yellowing, and browning of leaves.

Restricted zones encompassing the current known EAB infestations have quarantine regulations defining movement of regulated articles. For more information about emerald ash borer, please visit DEC's website. Any signs of EAB attack on ash trees outside of the existing restricted zone should be reported to DEC's Forest Health Information Line toll-free at 1-866-640-0652.

GIS Workshop

The Local Government Education Committee (LGEC) is offering a **FREE** GIS Workshop on Thursday, October 26 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Deerfield Town Hall, 6329 Walker Rd., Deerfield, NY 13502. Jeff Quackenbush, GIS Coordinator, Herkimer-Oneida County Comprehensive Planning Program will be presenting. Topics include: GIS products and services available to local municipalities; examples of spatial data and mapping capabilities; live demo of free map viewing software. A GPS receiver will be on display for viewing. This is a **FREE** workshop. Pre-registration is due October 24. For more information and to register contact the LGEC at 315-792-7270.



Tuesday, October 10, 2017
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Lowville Academy
Elementary Cafeteria
7668 N State St
Lowville, NY 13367

Wednesday, October 11, 2017
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Watertown High School
Large Cafeteria
1335 Washington Street
Watertown NY 13601

Choose the location most convenient for you.

Presentations will be the same.

Your Input Matters! Save the Date!

You are invited to a public open house regarding compatibility planning around Fort Drum.

The Development Authority of the North Country is hosting the second set of public open houses for the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) to address compatibility planning around Fort Drum. The overall goal of the JLUS is to protect the viability of current and future missions at Fort Drum while accommodating regional growth, sustaining the economic health of the region, and protecting public health and safety. The materials presented at each open house will be the same.

Your input is essential! Please attend these open houses to provide your comments and receive an update on the JLUS process and documents, overview of compatibility issue analysis, and next steps.

Questions?

For more
information,
contact:



Michelle L. Capone

Director of Regional Development
Development Authority of the North Country
Phone: (315) 661-3200
E-mail: mcapone@danc.org

For more information, please visit: www.danc.org/ftdrum_jlus

NYS Park and Trail Partnership Program Grants Due December 8

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) and the New York State (NYS) Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), is offering the third round of competitive grants through the NYS Park and Trail Partnership Program. The program is administered by PTNY, in partnership with OPRHP, and is a \$500,000 capacity-building matching grants program funded through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The program is designed to:

- Enhance the preservation, stewardship, interpretation, maintenance and promotion of New York State parks, trails, state historic sites and public lands.
- Increase the sustainability, effectiveness, productivity, and volunteer and fundraising capabilities of not-for-profit organizations that promote, maintain, and support New York State parks, trails, state historic sites and public lands.
- Promote the tourism and economic development benefits of outdoor recreation through the growth and expansion of a connected statewide network of parks, trails, greenways and public lands.

Eligible applicants are organizations whose primary mission is the preservation, stewardship, interpretation, environmental education, maintenance, and/or promotion of a specific New York State park, trail, historic site or public land under the jurisdiction of OPRHP or Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). In addition:

1. An applicant must be a corporation formed pursuant to or subject to the NYS Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.
2. An applicant must be classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or have a Memorandum of Understanding with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt fiscal agent.
3. An applicant must have a current formal Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with OPRHP or current formal Use and Occupancy, Volunteer and Stewardship Agreement (VSA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DEC at the time the grant is issued.

There are four types of capacity building grants:

1. Capacity and Organizational Effectiveness Grants
2. Step-Up Grants
3. Professional Development Grants
4. Stewardship and Public Access Capacity Grants

For more details, please see <https://www.ptny.org/our-work/support/park-trail-partnership-program>.

NYS Rebates Available to Municipalities for Electric Vehicles, Charging Stations

Clean vehicle rebates are available to municipalities that purchased or leased (minimum lease term is 36 months) an eligible vehicle and placed it into municipal service, at a dealer located within New York, on or after April 1, 2017. Rebates of \$2,500 per vehicle will be issued toward the cost of an eligible clean vehicle with an all-battery electric range between 10 and 50 miles, and rebates of \$5,000 per vehicle will be issued toward the cost of an eligible clean vehicle with an all-battery electric range of greater than 50 miles.

Additionally, approximately \$2,000,000 will be distributed during this grant cycle to municipalities for eligible infrastructure projects which support public use of clean vehicles. The primary purpose of a rebate-eligible facility must be the public charging or fueling of clean vehicles. A 20% local match on the rebate amount (grant award amount) is required in both Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) and Hydrogen Fuel Cell subcategories.

The Department of Environmental Conservation will continuously accept applications through May 31, 2018. For more information, contact DEC's Office of Climate Change at ZEVrebate@dec.ny.gov or 518-402-8448, or go to grantsgateway.ny.gov.

Lake Ontario Fishery Topic of Meeting

On Tuesday, September 12th, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) hosted a meeting at Pulaski High School to discuss Chinook Salmon and lake trout stocking targets for 2018. Lake Ontario fisheries are managed by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Lake Ontario Committee (LOC), comprised of fisheries managers from the DEC and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The LOC manages Lake Ontario based on its "Fish Community Objectives," which were developed in close consultation with stakeholders. New York and Ontario stakeholders want a diversity of trout and salmon species in Lake Ontario, with Chinook salmon as the top predator. Unlike other trout and salmon that eat a variety of prey fish, Chinook salmon eat predominantly alewife. Due to increased natural reproduction of Chinook salmon, as well as increasing numbers and enhanced survival of Chinook salmon reared in net pens, effective Chinook salmon stocking numbers have been increasing and creating additional predation on the alewife population.

Due to concerns regarding the future of Lake Ontario's adult alewife population, the LOC has decided to maintain 2017 stocking levels for Chinook salmon and lake trout (20% reduction for each) in 2018. These adjustments will help reduce future predation pressure in 2019 through 2021 when the adult alewife population will likely be compromised. Alewife are an invasive species in the Great Lakes, and are intolerant of extreme cold. The cold winters of 2013 and 2014 resulted in poor survival of alewife spawned in those years, creating an age "gap" in the adult alewife population (i.e. few age 3 and 4 fish in 2017, translating to few age 4 & 5 fish in 2018, fewer age 5 & 6 in 2019, and so on). Historically, it has not been uncommon to collect alewife up to age 10 or older, however, in recent years fish older than age 6 are becoming less common. Reducing future predation pressure will hopefully allow the adult alewife population to recover. While alewife spawning success and survival from 2016 was excellent, this cannot mitigate for two "missing" years in the adult alewife population. Fisheries Managers are optimistic that these changes will not have measurable impacts on angler success or sport fishing tourism. For more information, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/107705.html>

Contact Us

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TugHillCommission](https://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically please email your request to gwen@tughill.org or call 1-888-785-2380.

Electronic versions appear in full color!

Land Use and Zoning Nonconformities Training

Monday, October 30, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Jefferson Community College, Jules Center Amphitheater Room 6-002, 1220 Coffeen Street, Watertown 13601

Zoning nonconformities are existing uses, structures or lots that were legally established prior to the adoption of a zoning law or a change in zoning, which do not comply with new zoning law standards. As communities revise land use policies and zoning regulations they are faced with questions regarding the continued use, replacement or expansion of such nonconformities. Attorney Scott Chatfield will be on hand to discuss what a nonconformity is, the different types of nonconformities, and the many issues surrounding them.

The Jefferson County Department of Planning and the NYS Tug Hill Commission are co-sponsoring this land use training session. RSVP's are strongly encouraged by Thursday, September 15th. Contact Jefferson County Planning Department at 315-785-3144 or email: planning@co.jefferson.ny.us for more information.

Focus On The COG

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) is the oldest of the five Tug Hill council of governments (COGs). It was formed in 1974 as the Cooperative Tug Hill Planning Board (CTHPB) with a mission of providing environmental land use guidance to its original nine town members. In 1988 the structure and name changed to the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) to reflect the council's evolving mission which included being a voice for the region, training, community development, grant writing, regional projects as well as the core planning and zoning work.

Currently the CTHC consists of sixteen towns and two villages located in all four Tug Hill counties. The total population is about 13,500, over about 890 square miles. Each municipality appoints two members, the chief elected official and an at-large member. The council meets twice a year in the spring and fall to discuss regional issues, work on joint projects, set goals and a budget and elect officers. Day-to-day operations are carried out by a seven member executive committee. The work of the council is carried out by a full-time circuit rider, Angie Kimball, and two part-time contract associate circuit riders (see next article).

The annual fall meeting of the CTHC is scheduled for next Thursday, September 28 at the Tug Hill Hideaway in West Leyden. Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. followed by the meeting. On the agenda for this year's meeting are the proposed 2018 budget, updates to the inter-municipal agreement, the update of the Resource Management Plan, approval of Osceola's updated Special Area map and guest speakers from Avangrid Renewables and Invenergy regarding local wind projects. The meeting is open to the public, but there is a dinner cost for guests. Any questions can be directed to Angie Kimball, the CTHC Circuit Rider, at angie@tughill.org or (315) 480-6857.

Meet CTHC's Associate Circuit Riders

The CTHC operates through the work of a full-time circuit rider, Angie Kimball, and two part-time associate contractors, Kay Chapman and Beth Steria. CTHC's two associates help cover municipal meetings and keep member municipalities informed of current events and available resources. The associates also answer technical assistance requests and field requests for other assistance to the circuit rider, all while listening for projects or ideas which might lend themselves to regional action.

Kay, living in Rodman, started work for the CTHC in 2006. She is a former town clerk and currently a notary public and school tax collector. Kay currently provides monthly meeting coverage for Harrisburg,



Lorraine, Montague, Pinckney and Rodman, as well as filling in at other meetings as necessary.

Beth, living in Lowville, started work for the CTHC in 2013. She also works part-time for Kinney Drugs. Beth currently provides monthly meeting coverage for Leyden, Martinsburg, Turin, West Turin and Worth as well as in filling in at other meetings as necessary.



Due to the conflicting scheduling of municipal meetings and the large number of municipalities in the CTHC area, one person cannot cover all of the monthly municipal meetings. These two hard working ladies traveled more than 2,500 miles in 2016 and logged more than 200 hours in meeting and travel time helping the CTHC provide the service their members have become accustomed to over the past 40 years. So a big thank you to them for their excellent service.

Current CTHC Projects

The CTHC has developed a reserve plan called the Planning Accord for Tug Hill (PATH) under the provisions of the Tug Hill Reserve Act, (Chapter 486 of the Laws of 1992). PATH describes the Cooperative Tug Hill Council area and establishes the goal of retaining important headwaters, major river corridors, core forest, gulfs and plant and animal habitat areas which are important to the character and economy of the area. At the heart of PATH are "special areas" which are designated by the town or village in which they occur, and are depicted on maps adopted by the member communities. For the last several years, the CTHC has embarked on updating the existing special areas maps to make use of new mapping technology and data. Updated maps have been approved for twelve of the sixteen CTHC towns. Osceola has locally approved their updated map and it is proposed for council approval at next week's CTHC fall meeting. Adopted maps can be viewed on the CTHC website www.tughillcouncil.com.

The council is also updating the Resource Management Plan (RMP) which was the comprehensive land use plan for the original nine towns of the council in 1976. The RMP has since been expanded to cover the entire 16 current towns, the last update being in 2006. The RMP functions as a collaborative land use plan which individual towns can use as their own, or modify and expand on to suit individual town needs.



Tug Hill COG Map

