

TUG HILL TIMES



NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION • DULLES STATE OFFICE BUILDING • 317 WASHINGTON STREET • WATERTOWN NY 13601 (315) 785-2380 • www.tughill.org

29th LGC In The Books!

APRIL 6, 2018

Over 680 local officials, speakers, and exhibitors attended the commission's 29th Annual Local Government Conference last week at Jefferson Community College, the largest conference of its kind in upstate New York. Elected and appointed officials from town and village governments in Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, St. Lawrence counties and beyond chose from 23 individual sessions on a wide variety of topics. In addition, 29 exhibitors displayed in the gymnasium highlighting a wide variety of services. A keynote address by Regina Clark on "The Seven C's of Leadership" was well-received by the audience.



Powerpoint presentations from most of the day's sessions are available on the commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/services/training/>.

The commission thanks again this year's platinum level sponsors: BCA Architects & Engineers, C2AE Architecture and Engineering, Development Authority of the North Country, Faculty Student Association of Jefferson Community College, and GYMO Architecture, Engineering, Environmental & Land Surveying; gold level sponsors: Comp Alliance and Williamson Law Book Co.; and bronze level sponsors: Local Government Education Committee of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, NYS Association of City & Village Clerks, and the North Shore, Northern Oneida County, River Area, and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments.

In This Issue

- 29th LGC
- Commission Meeting
- Local Leader Survey
- Grants Workshop
- Assessment Tool
- State Budget
- Urban & Community Forestry Grants
- Champion Comp Plan
- Owl Prowl
- Records Management Workshop

Commission Meeting Monday, April 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Annsville municipal building, 9196 Main St, Taberg, NY.



Local Leaders Survey In The Mail April 17

The Tug Hill Commission's enabling legislation requires us to survey the region's local leaders every five years, to gauge our performance and gather input on future work. 2018 is the year, and surveys will soon be in the mail to over 350 village, town, and county officials, as well as many of our partner organizations. All survey responses are kept confidential. The responses will be combined into a white paper delivered to Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature later this year. Survey results will also be reported at local meetings of the Tug Hill Commission board and the region's councils of governments. The results will also be available on our website, www.tughill.org.

If you receive a survey, we would greatly appreciate you taking a few moments to fill out and send back in the enclosed pre-addressed, stamped envelope. We would like a high response rate, so we can feel confident in the survey results. Surveys are due no later than May 4, 2018.

Grants

For Towns and Villages

Monday April 30
6 PM – 8 PM
Port Leyden
Fire Department
3387 Douglas Street
Port Leyden, NY 13433

RSVP to casandrabuell@lewiscounty.ny.gov
OR jennifer@tughill.org

Topics to Include:

- Why prepare
- What grants are available
- How to prepare
- Writing the grant(s)
- Making a successful grant application
- After a grant award is made

Presented By:



Riparian Assessment Tool Available

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NY Natural Heritage Program have developed an online mapping tool to identify and prioritize riparian (stream) sites for restoration and protection. The assessment was funded by the Environmental Protection Fund and developed by NYNHP with guidance from DEC, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, the NYS Department of State, The Nature Conservancy, and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition.

The new program includes user-friendly, interactive online mapping and analysis tools for viewing comprehensive information about sub-watersheds and smaller catchments within them throughout the state. Geographical data layers include indicators of ecological health and stress such as land use, forest canopy cover, water quality, impervious surface, and habitat for rare species. It can be found at <http://www.nynhp.org/treesfortribsny>.

DEC and NYNHP are hosting a webinar for stakeholders to learn more about the new online tools on **April 19, 2018, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** NYNHP will provide a tutorial on how to navigate and use these tools and DEC will share information on how the tools can be used in developing Trees for Tribes projects. To register for this webinar, go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?RGID=ra3123ddf068a6052e926b3f116d20a0e>. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the DEC Trees for Tribes webpage.

State Budget Passed; EFFI and State Land PILOT Payment Language Not Included

The 2018-19 NYS Budget passed at the end of last week, and two provisions that were of interest to Tug Hill communities were not included in the final bill language. One was the Empire Forests for the Future Initiative, which proposed a new forest tax law section 480b, among other things; and the other was a proposal to change the way NYS pays taxes to local jurisdictions on state owned land.

Commission staff will continue to monitor these proposals, as they could be resubmitted as stand-alone bills later in the legislative session.

Urban and Community Forestry Grants Workshop

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is once again offering urban and community forestry grants in 2018. The purpose of the program is to assist communities in comprehensive planning, management, and education to create healthy urban and community forests, and enhance the quality of life through supporting activities including tree inventories and management plans; tree planting and maintenance .

DEC will be holding an information sessions aimed to assist potential applicants in preparation for the Round 14 Grant on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the DeWitt Town Hall, 5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse, New York 13057. Space is limited; please contact Mary Kramarchyk at 518-402-9428, or e-mail her at mary.kramarchyk@dec.ny.gov to RSVP or with any questions.

Two other sessions are planned for Avon and DePew.

The NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant program web page can be found at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html>

The DEC web page for Urban and Community Forestry Upcoming Activities is at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/30859.html>

Information about the April 2018 information sessions, including the session in DeWitt, can be found at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ucfgrantsession041118.pdf

Champion Adopts New Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Champion adopted an updated comprehensive plan Monday, March 5th. The plan, developed by a committee made up of planning board members, town board members and other representatives from the community, is intended to prioritize capital investments and provide direction for future development within the community. The plan provides a framework for the existing zoning and land subdivision controls and will help assure that growth will be in accordance with existing plans for future water, sewer and road development. The adopted document can be found online at: www.champion.racog.org.

Owl Prowl

The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT) will be leading an owl prowl on Saturday, April 14th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 pm at the Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary in Rutland. This hike will be led by THTLT's Executive Director Linda Garrett. Dress warmly, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Depending on the weather be prepared for some spring mud on the trails. Snacks and extra water will be provided.

Plan to meet at 31270 Middle Road, in Rutland, NY. Look for the large Wildlife Sanctuary sign that is in front of the parking lot entrance.

Please RSVP by contacting Community Programs Manager Lianna Lee at 315.779.2239 or email tughilloutreach@nymail.com.



Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380
Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380
Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org
Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
TugHillCommission](http://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!

Legal Aspects of Records Management

This **FREE** workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. at Lowville Town Hall, 5533 Bostwick St., Lowville, NY 13367.

The law has a great impact on records. It influences how we manage them, access them, secure them, and how long we keep them. This course will explore how statutory laws and court decisions affect records management programs and the importance of a good records management program in protecting your organization during lawsuits.

This workshop will:

- Explain the legal requirements of a records management program;
- Review federal and state laws that greatly impact records management;
- Review court cases that affect records management;
- Explain how the legal discovery process works;
- Explain the consequences of not preserving records; and
- Provide practical steps for going forward.

Please register: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule/the-legal-aspects-of-records-management-2018-05-09>.