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](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.](https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?RGID=ra3123ddf068a6052e926b3f116d20a0e). 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 Tribs projects. To register for this webinar, go to [https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?RGID=ra3123ddf068a6052e926b3f116d20a0e](https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?RGID=ra3123ddf068a6052e926b3f116d20a0e). The webinar will be recorded and posted to the DEC Trees for Tribs 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](mailto: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](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](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](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 for owls 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@nnymail.com.

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.