Wind Farm Updates

The Copenhagen Wind Farm in the towns of Denmark and Champion is under construction, with turbines recently delivered to the Port of Ogdensburg: https://www.edf-re.com/project/copenhagen-wind/.

The Number Three Wind Farm (PSC Case #16-F-0328) in the towns of Lowville and Harrisburg is still in the process of finalizing its application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. All correspondence and documents related to the Article 10 process for Number Three can be found at: http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=16-F-0328.

According to developer Invenergy, the Number Three project is continuing to make progress with Fort Drum and NOAA to reduce or eliminate potential impacts to the weather and air traffic control radars. The project aims to begin construction in late 2019, and begin operating in 2020. Project information can also be found at www.Number3Wind.com.

Avangrid, the developer of the Deer River Wind Farm (PSC Case #16-F-0267), in the towns of Harrisburg, Montague, Pinckney and Rodman, submitted proposed stipulations on July 13. All correspondence and documents related to the Article 10 process for Deer River can be found at: http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=16-F-0267.

The Mad River Wind Farm (PSC Case #16-F-0713), in the towns of Redfield and Worth, has filed Preliminary Scoping Statement. All correspondence and documents related to the Article 10 process for Deer River can be found at: http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=16-F-0713.

The Roaring Brook Wind Farm, in the town of Martinsburg, is also still under development: http://www.avangridrenewables.us/roaringbrook.html.

GIS Demo Planned

Among the items under consideration in the 2019 NOCCOG budget is the purchase of GIS equipment to be shared by NOCCOG communities for asset mapping and management. A demonstration and Q&A forum will take place on Tuesday, August 28th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Town of Lee town hall. Tug Hill Commission GIS Specialist Mickey Dietrich will be in attendance to offer explanations and answer questions, along with several local individuals who are experienced in utilizing this equipment. Please RSVP Jennifer at 371-7612 or jarmstrong@tughill.org.
New Whetstone Gulf State Park Trail Map Available; First in a New Series

The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and Tug Hill Commission have been working on a revised version of the Tug Hill Recreation Guide, a map collection of non-motorized trails throughout the region last printed in 2006. The first new-map to be completed is for Whetstone Gulf State Park, and can be downloaded at https://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/events-programs/places-to-explore/

The new trails maps are compatible with mobile devices using the Avenza Maps app (https://www.avenza.com/avenza-maps/). From the Avenza website: “Avenza Maps® is a mobile map app that allows you to download maps for offline use on iOS or Android smartphone or tablet. Use your device’s built-in GPS to track your location on any map, plot locations and photos, measure distance and area, and more.”

Celebrating 45 Years!

Tug Hill Commission Annual Dinner
Thursday, November 8, 2018
Grape’n Grog, Camden
We hope you can join us!

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Trout Restoration Funding

Up to 50,000 is available for projects that conserve or restore brook trout habitat through the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. The grant application packet is available at: http://easternbrooktrout.org/funding-opportunities

Proposals are due by September 28th, 2018.

Tug Hill Communities may be interested in this funding to advance local fish and wildlife habitat restoration goals. The following map, which was made by using the recently developed NYS Riparian restoration opportunity assessment, identifies several watersheds within the Tug Hill region that provide significant brook trout habitat: the darker the green, the better the habitat.
2018 Land Use Training Workshop
for All Town and Village Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals Members and Code Enforcement Officials

“PLANNING AND ZONING: AN INTRODUCTION”
And
“SITE PLAN REVIEW”

The Local Government Training program of New York Department of State is again partnering with the Lewis County Planning Department to present two land use training courses:

Planning and Zoning: An Introduction (2 Hours)
The most elementary of the Training Unit’s course offerings, “Planning and Zoning: An Introduction” is designed for new members of both planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. The course provides a basic overview of the functions of planning boards and zoning boards of appeals and the land use tools they work with, the role of the comprehensive plan, procedures for holding meetings and hearings, and the enforcement of the boards’ decisions.

Site Plan Review (2 Hours)
This course is an overview of the statutory authority local governments have to review site plans. It will address the scope and content of a site plan and the role of the site plan in municipal review of development projects. A discussion of design and the reasons some approaches might be preferable to others is included in this course.

Presenter:
Patricia Burke is a Local Government Specialist with the New York Department of State. Prior to her service at the Department of State, she worked for the New York State Office of Real Property Services. Ms. Burke holds a Master’s Degree in Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany with an environmental concentration that studied wind turbine planning considerations, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. John Fisher College in Rochester. Prior to her public service, she was an editor for a national legal publishing firm.

Christopher Eastman is manager of the Local Government Training program at the New York Department of State. He received a Master’s Degree in Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany in 2002. The focus of his study included site value taxation, an alternative approach to property taxation in which land is taxed at a rate greater than the buildings on it in infill areas to provide incentive for development. In addition to having been both a City Planner and County Planner, Mr. Eastman has worked for the Preservation League of New York State and, on his own, restoring old windows.

Ebony Mapp is a Local Government Specialist with the New York Department of State Division of Local Government Services. Formerly, she was the Economic Development Special Projects Manager for the City of Shreveport, Louisiana’s Department of Community Development, where she led city-wide initiatives focused on small businesses and financial empowerment in underserved communities. Most recently, she was a Senior Planner and Land Development Coordinator with the Shreveport-Caddo Metropolitan Planning Commission, where she executed the review and analysis of complex zoning and land use proposals and championed inter-agency cooperation. Ebony is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), and holds a Master of Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Maryland, and an A.S. in Individual Studies from Hudson Valley Community College.

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018
4:30—9:00 pm
Large Group Instruction (LGI) Room
Lowville Academy & Central School
7668 State Street
Lowville, NY

AGENDA
4:30 pm  Registration
4:45—4:50 pm  Welcome and Opening Remarks
4:50—6:50 pm  Planning and Zoning: An Introduction
6:50—7:00 pm  Break
7:00—9:00 pm  Site Plan Review Questions & Answers Session

RSVP’s are strongly encouraged by Friday, September 14th
Please call the Lewis County Planning Dept. at (315) 376-5422 or Email: suekutzler@lewiscounty.ny.gov

This workshop will provide four (4) hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training Requirement for municipal board members.

Code Enforcement Officers can apply to use these courses as professional development electives.

Note to Planning Board and ZBA Chairpersons and Clerks—Please share this notice with other Board members and officials in your community.

Directions to LGI Room at Lowville Academy:
LGI Room is on the 2nd floor of the Middle School building, just around the corner from the High School Library. Use the State Street driveway parking lot and enter through the doors marked “High School” - turn right and climb the stairs by the High School office to the next level; walk to the end of the hall and turn right. LGI Room is half way down the hall on the right.
2018 Black River Trash Bash

The Black River, winding from Forestport to Dexter, is one of the North Country’s most important natural resources. The Black River Trash Bash is a watershed-wide event to clean up along the river and document what litters our shores. Data about trash collected will be compiled and sent to the American Littoral Society (ALS) and the Ocean Conservancy; they will use the data to devise strategies to combat pollution. We also hope to increase public participation in solving the problem of litter and pollution and to increase public awareness and appreciation of the river.

This event is sponsored in part by the ALS, who funnels the statewide data to the Ocean Conservancy, which conducts an annual world-wide beach cleanup day. Our Trash Bash event is organized locally by the Tug Hill Commission and we will hopefully be designating locations for the cleanup in areas like Boonville, Lyons Falls, Forestport, Inlet and Watertown during the months of September and October. White’s Lumber in Watertown donates work gloves to the participants and the Black River Advisory Committee, along with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, have made garbage grabbers available for the event.

Last year, 74 Black River Trash Bash participants from Lyons Falls Alive, South Lewis Central School, Jefferson Community College, Adirondack Communities Advisory League, Lewis County and Jefferson County Water Quality Coordinating Committees, American Society of Civil Engineers Student Club at SUNY Poly in Utica, and Haderondah 4H Club in Old Forge collected 500 pounds of trash and recyclables from the Black River shoreline. If you would like to organize an event, please contact Jennifer Harvill at 315-785-2392 or jennifer@tughill.org.

ANCA Annual Meeting
September 21

The annual meeting of the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) will be Friday, September 21 at The Grand Ballroom at Hotel Saranac, Saranac Lake, NY. The main agenda item is the results of an in-depth analysis of the region’s economy with a focus on the five highest potential investment scenarios.

More information is available on ANCA’s website at https://adirondack.org/2018AnnualMeeting.

The Municipal Budget and Your Web Site

Got a web site? That gives your municipality a chance to communicate more effectively with the public about your municipal finances. Some of that is mandated by state law.

Real Property Tax Law section 495 requires the person preparing the annual budget to attach an exemption report, listing types of exemptions granted and their cumulative impacts. They then “shall be posted on any bulletin board maintained by the budgeting authority for public notices and on any website maintained by the budgeting authority”. This applies to the tentative and preliminary budgets, and the exemption report “shall become part of the final budget.”

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli has a useful guide to the budget process available at https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/lgmg/budgetprocess.pdf

Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill Region for over 40 years.