

SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

Boxberger, Maciejko, Yerdon Reappointed to Commission Board



Tom Boxberger

Commission members Tom Boxberger, Roger Maciejko, and Mike Yerdon were recently reappointed to the Tug Hill Commission board by Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan. Commissioner Yerdon is currently the vice-chairman of the board, was originally appointed in 1997, also served terms as chairman and secretary, and is from the Oswego County town of Redfield.

Commissioner Boxberger is currently the secretary of the board, was originally appointed in 2008, and is from the Jefferson County town of Watertown. Commissioner Maciejko was originally appointed in 1996 and is from the Lewis County town of Turin.

The Tug Hill Commission is overseen by a board of nine unpaid volunteers, all residents of the Tug Hill region. They are appointed three each by the Governor, Speaker of the State Assembly, and majority leader of the State Senate for five year terms. The nine commissioners are chosen by appointing authorities so that two come from each of the four counties that overlap the region, with a ninth member serving "at large." Commission members set agency policy, budget, and program priorities, and oversee staff through an executive director.



Roger Maciejko



Mike Yerdon

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The Tug Hill Commission will meet Monday, September 17 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Town of Albion municipal building, 15 Bridge Street, Altmar. The public is welcome to attend.

CTHC and NOCCOG Annual Meetings September 27



The Cooperative Tug Hill Council fall meeting and dinner will be held Thursday, September 27th at the Steak and Brew Restaurant in Turin. Social hour begins at 6 pm with dinner at 7 pm and the meeting to follow. The cost for dinner is \$27 per guest, but the meeting is free of charge and open to the public. The evening's speaker will be Joseph Russell, Attorney with Barclay Damon LLP. To RSVP, contact Angie Kimball at angie@tughill.org.

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) annual meeting will also be held on Thursday, September 27th, but at the Delta Lake Inn in Western. Social hour begins at 6 pm with dinner at 7 pm and the meeting to follow. The cost for dinner is \$23 per guest, but the meeting is free of charge and open to the public. The evening's speaker will be Khristina Dodson from Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center speaking about project and grant preparedness. Additionally, NOCCOG will be electing a new officer and considering the 2019 budget for approval. Please RSVP to Jennifer Armstrong at jarmstrong@tughill.org.

The Municipal Budget and Fund Balances

One of the most commonly overlooked elements of the annual town budget is fund balances.

Most municipalities claim a year-end fund balance which can be used to reduce the taxes that need to be raised for each fund. But Town Law section 107 goes beyond that to require

...estimated fund balances, together with a breakdown of such fund balance estimated for encumbrances, amounts appropriated for the ensuing fiscal year's budget, amounts reserved for stated purposes pursuant to law, including reserve funds established pursuant to the general municipal law, and the remaining estimated unappropriated unreserved fund balance for each fund, provided that the remaining estimated unappropriated unreserved fund balance for each fund shall not exceed a reasonable amount, consistent with prudent budgeting practices, necessary to ensure the orderly operation of town government...

Tracking the actual amount of each fund's balance (the basis of estimated end-of-year fund balances) is a valuable tool for towns. Knowledge of actual fund balances at budget time, and comparison with prior year fund balances, will improve the town's sense of its fiscal position, and trends affecting the town's financial strength.

FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Workshops

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik from New York's 21st Congressional District has announced that her office is hosting several FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) workshops. The AFG Program was created to enhance the ability of first responders to protect the health and safety of the public from fire and related hazards. Any fire department, non-affiliated Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agency, or State Fire Training Academy can apply.

The closest workshop to the Tug Hill region will be held Tuesday September 11th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Flower Memorial Library (Watertown Public Library) located at 229 Washington St., Watertown. No deadline for grants has been set yet, but attendance at a workshop will provide extra points on the application.

To view the entire press release and find information about the other two workshops please visit <https://stefanik.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/stefanik-announces-ny-21-firefighter-grant-workshops-0>. For more information on the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program in general visit <https://www.fema.gov/assistance-firefighters-grant>.

Lake-effect Snow Presentation September 24, Sandy Creek

Join us at the town of Sandy Creek town hall on Monday, September 24 to hear a presentation on the results from the Ontario Winter Lake-effect Systems (OWLeS) project and how SUNY Oswego forecasts storms for the NYS Department of Transportation and local schools. It is free to attend the presentation, but RSVP's by September 20 to (315) 785-2380 or gwen@tughill.org are encouraged.

Presenters:

Matthew Seymour and **Nicholas Rodick**, co-forecast leaders of the Lake-Effect Storm Prediction and Research Center (LESPaRC). Matt is a senior meteorology major at SUNY Oswego, and his research interests include lake-effect snow and severe convective storms. He is best known for his weather photography and providing year-round forecasts to a social media audience in Central New York. Nick is a junior in meteorology at SUNY Oswego, and his research interests are tornado formation over complex terrain and lake-effect snow storms. Nick is known for storm chasing in the U.S. Great Plains and Upstate NY.

Scott Steiger, Associate Professor of Meteorology at SUNY Oswego. Scott's research interests are lake-effect storms and severe thunderstorms. He leads the college's annual storm observation and forecasting program, in which he brings students out to the U.S. Great Plains to observe and study thunderstorms firsthand.



September 18 Land Use Training Workshop

**TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018
4:30—9:00 pm**

**2nd Floor Legislative Board Room
Lewis County Court House
7660 North State Street
Lowville, NY**

**Please use the back side entrance of the
Court House on Trinity Avenue.**

AGENDA

4:30 pm	Registration
4:45—4:50 pm	Welcome and Opening Remarks
4:50—6:50 pm	Planning and Zoning: An Introduction Questions & Answers Session
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: suekulzer@lewiscounty.ny.gov**

Please note the location change from Lowville Academy to the Lewis County Court House. Parking will be available in the secure gated parking lot in the rear of the Court House building on Trinity Avenue. Lewis County Planning Department apologizes for any inconvenience.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA) BASICS

**Monday, September 17, 2018 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1220 Coffeen Street
Jules Center, Room 6-002
Watertown, NY 13601**

Upcoming SEQR Changes to be Discussed

The NYS Department of State will be conducting a SEQR Basics training session for local officials on Monday, September 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 at Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen Street, Watertown in the Jules Center, Room 6-002.

Please RSVP by Friday, September 14th by calling Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or emailing planning@co.jefferson.ny.us.

Among other basic SEQR topics, NYSDOS trainers Christopher Eastman and Jennifer O'Donnell will be discussing upcoming SEQR changes that will take effect on January 1st. The changes include minor changes to the short and long environmental assessment forms (EAF), minor changes to the Type 1 and Type 2 lists, and mandatory scoping. The changes can be viewed at the following DEC website address:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/83389.html>

TOWN BUDGET TRAINING

PRESENTED BY LAIRD PETRIE, NYS OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

6:30-8:30PM

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 6PM

TOWN OF SCHUYLER

2090 STATE ROUTE 5, UTICA NY, 13502

Sponsored by the Local Education Committee of Herkimer & Oneida Counties.

For more information and to register contact Jennifer at jarmstrong@tughill.org
or 315-371-7612 or www.lgec.org.

DEC Grant Available for Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling

Not-for-profit emergency food relief organizations are eligible to receive funding to increase the availability of wholesome food to those in need, including the purchase of equipment such as refrigerators for fruits and vegetables and staff expenses that result in increased collection and distribution of food. Municipalities are eligible for funds to promote the reduction of wasted food, increase food donation efforts, and for increased food scraps recycling through the construction of composting facilities or other means.

Grant funding totaling \$800,000 is being made available for **emergency food release organizations, due February 1, 2019. There will be an informational webinar on September 19 at 1 pm.** Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations whose projects include providing wholesome food to those in need, either directly or indirectly. Food Banks are ineligible for this grant program since DEC already has a contract in place to fund activities at the Food Banks. This program provides a 90% reimbursement to non-profits. Total awards can range from \$100 to \$15,000 per applicant. Eligible projects are:

- Personal Services (e.g., staffing and fringe benefits)
- Supplies and Services (e.g., outreach materials, publications)
- Equipment (e.g., freezers, refrigerators, vehicles, physical space expansion, insulated food transporters)
- Contractual Services
- Travel Costs

It is important to note that not-for-profit applicants that have not registered for the Grants Gateway and are not prequalified in the Grants Gateway by February 1, 2019 cannot be evaluated and will be disqualified.

Grant funding totaling \$1.2 million is being made available for **municipalities, due March 1, 2019. There will be an informational webinar on September 26 at 1 pm.** Total awards can range from \$1,000 to \$250,000 per applicant. Funding for staff is limited to \$150,000. Eligible projects and grant match are:

- Outreach and Education Materials - 80% reimbursement
- Equipment and Construction - 50% reimbursement
- Staff - 80% reimbursement

Both grant applications are available through the NYS Grants Gateway, <https://grantsreform.ny.gov/Grantees>, grantsreform@its.ny.gov or 518-474-5595.

Informational webinars More information is also available on DEC's website, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114499.html>.

Contact Us

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1-888-785-2380
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Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org
Facebook:
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!

Potsdam Local Government Conference October 9

Potsdam's 27th Annual Local Government Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 9 at SUNY Potsdam. Sessions are geared toward assessors, municipal board members, code enforcement officers, municipal clerks, and public works employees.

For more information and to register, see their website at <https://clear.potsdam.edu/coursestatus.awp?&course=186CON1004>.