

## Two Successful Complete Streets Workshops Held

DECEMBER 14, 2018



Lowville - Walk audit & workshop



Two workshops were held in West Carthage and Lowville last week featuring Mark Fenton, a national public health, planning, and transportation consultant and adjunct associate professor at Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. The workshops were supported by Funding Opportunity Number CMS 1G1CMS331402 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and a partnership between the Tug Hill Commission and Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization.

Mark enthusiastically discussed how to build environments, policies, and programs that help create places where more people walk and bike and are physically active. Over 35 participants attended the workshops to hear Mark's presentation and participate in short walk audits, which consisted of walking and talking about techniques that can be used to make walking and biking safer in the community. Done well, active community designs lead to economically, environmentally, and socially thriving towns, villages and rural settings where people of all ages, abilities, and incomes lead long, vibrant lives. Video of the December 4<sup>th</sup> workshop is available on the commission's website at <http://www.tughill.org/services/training/workshops/> and Mark's PowerPoint presentation will be available soon.



West Carthage - workshop

Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to stores, and bicycle to work. Creating Complete Streets means transportation agencies and local governments at all levels must consider changing their approach to streets. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct highway superintendents, planning boards, transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.

Next step in this project is to have Mark return to the North County next year and work with individual communities to identify projects they can do to make streets more complete and to assist communities in adopting complete streets policies that will help them accomplish these projects.

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# Tug Hill Commission Approves 2019-20 Officers, 2019 Calendar

At its December 10 meeting, the Tug Hill Commission approved officers for the 2019-20 terms:

- Jan Bogdanowicz, Chairman
- Mike Yerdon, Vice Chairman
- Tom Boxberger, Secretary

The commission also finalized their 2019 meeting calendar.

Date/Time	Location
Monday, January 28, 10 am	Parish
Wednesday, March 27, 4 pm	Watertown
Monday, April 22, 10 am	Lee
Monday, May 20, 10 am	Osceola
Monday, June 17, 10 am	Lowville
Monday, September 16, 10 am	Cleveland
Monday, October 21, 10 am	Lyons Falls
Thursday, November 7, 5 pm	TBD – Annual Meeting
Monday, December 9, 10 am	Watertown

## Got Questions? We Have Answers!

If you are a municipal official or board member, you may have a question that we have already answered. When topics arise that are of concern to many Tug Hill municipalities, commission staff develops issue or technical papers to provide information and background in a concise, organized manner. Issue papers explore more complicated topics important to the region, where technical papers describe how to do something or provide data-driven information.

Please go to our website <http://www.tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/> to see the variety of papers available for you to read, print and distribute.

Maybe you want to know more about fundraising and gifting? We have a technical paper for that! Thinking about consolidating your justice court? We have an issue paper for that! Do you have questions about open burning, low volume roads, appropriating unanticipated funds or natural gas?? We have a paper for you! These are just a few examples of the papers we've developed with you in mind.

In addition to a whole host of commission papers, you can also follow a link from our website to the DOS Local Government Services website <https://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications.html> where you'll find addition resources including *Adopting Local Laws in New York State*, *Controlling Junk* and *Land Use Moratoria*. You'll also find a link to the State Comptroller's publications <https://osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/> where you'll find publications on accounting, financials, economics and all things budget-related. Finally, you'll find a link to the NYS Archive's resources at <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/publications> where you can find materials on microfilm, retention and disposition of records and guidelines for choosing records management software.

If you need help finding answers to you questions, you are always welcome to call us at 315-785-2380 or visit our website. We will help you find the answers you're looking for! Then again, who knows?? Your question may be the reason for our next issue or technical paper.

## Tug Hill Commission Map Portal Webinar Training

Here is your chance to learn about the Tug Hill Commission's online map portal from the comfort of your own home! The commission is holding a webinar on Wednesday, December 19, from 6:30 pm to 7 pm, to show local government officials how on-line mapping can assist decision-making in communities. If you are not a GIS professional, that is perfect! This platform is easy to use for all. If you are a supervisor, mayor, board member, planning board member, or zoning board member, this platform is made for you. There will be time for questions and answers after the presentation. To register, click on this link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tug-hill-commission-online-map-portal-webinar-tickets-8056674731> or contact Mickey Dietrich at [mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org) or (315) 681-5023.



# "Ag Friendly" Initiative Underway in Oneida County

Communities in Oneida County are considering actions to sustain existing farms and improve conditions for new farms as part of an "ag friendly" initiative headed up by coordinator Mary Wrege through Cornell Cooperative Extension. The program includes assisting local governments with ensuring policies are supportive of agriculture throughout the county, including comprehensive plans and zoning regulations. Wrege has been conducting outreach to local boards to discuss the program.

Last year, the NOCCOG towns of Trenton and Camden underwent a thorough examination of their regulations to assess the viability of continued agriculture, along with Paris and Westmoreland. A survey to all other communities followed, resulting in an expansion of the program and a meeting, which is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Cornell Cooperative Extension offices in Oriskany. The meeting is intended to inform municipalities of potential audit tools to assess circumstances surrounding local agriculture and actions that can be taken. Wrege said a guidance document is being developed and that funding sources may be available to assist those communities who wish to formulate their own Farmland Protection Plans and amend comprehensive plans and zoning.

## Fort Drum Represented at RACOG Board Meeting

The River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) had three speakers representing Fort Drum veteran service programs speak at their December board meeting. The focus was on soldiers transitioning out of military service. The three speakers were AmberLee Clement~ (Employment Readiness Program Manager, Army Community Service), Brian L Jackson (Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, New York State Department of Labor), and Lorrie Guler (Transition Services Manager, Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program). With 30 to 40% of soldiers that leave military service from Fort Drum wanting to stay in the area, there are many different programs to help with their transition and employment opportunities. There is actually a list showing the connection between a soldier's career field and how those skills would translate into the civilian workforce. An example of this came up at the meeting, where there are soldiers who are currently out of military service that have the skills needed for positions like water operators. The best way to make sure soldiers who are out of the service know about job openings, is to have the job openings entered into the job bank at the Department of Labor.



RACOG's next meeting will feature the New York Power Authority talking about LED lighting conversion. This will take place at the village of Carthage municipal building on January 15, 2018 at 6pm.

For more information, contact Mickey Dietrich at (315) 681-5023 or [mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org).

## New On-line Calendar!

### Keep Track of Training Sessions and Grant Opportunities

Tug Hill Times is full of announcements of upcoming training opportunities for local officials, as well as upcoming grant opportunities to fund municipal projects. It can be hard to keep track of all separate dates, flyers, and websites shared. Now, in addition to sharing articles in Tug Hill Times, commission staff is keeping two on-line calendars populated with all those dates and resources. Below are links to two Google calendars.

Grant Opportunities and Deadlines: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=c2g3bXZnZDYybGwzNWxudTFwc2hrcmFzcnNAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>

Training Sessions: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=Y3ZzY2tuYXA1aXY5OXJtdjhuN3FkNDI2ZjhAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>

Please contact the Tug Hill Commission if you have any questions, or need assistance in using the calendars.



# Planning Board and Zoning Board Annual Training Requirements

In 2006, Chapter 662 of the Laws of 2006 created a requirement for planning board members and zoning board of appeals members to complete, at a minimum, four hours of training every year. The law further states that the member must have completed the training to be eligible for re-appointment. The municipal board must approve the training. The law does not specify who is responsible for maintaining a record of the training hours achieved.

A town board or village board may waive or modify the training requirement when "in the judgment of the [town or village board], it is in the best interest of the [the municipality] to do so."

It might be considered a 'best practice' for the municipality, at the end of the year, to review whether all members have met or exceeded the training requirement, to waive or modify the requirement as they see fit, **to consider the status of any member up for re-appointment**, and to note this in the minutes of the municipal board's meeting.

These requirements may be found in Section 271 of New York State Town Law and Section 7-718 of Village Law.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/TWN/271>

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/VIL/7-718>

## Contact Us

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

Electronic versions appear in full color!

## Resources Available for State Required Sexual Harassment Training

Circuit riders have been fielding many questions about NYS's new sexual harassment law. Information for employers, workers, and FAQ's are available at <https://www.ny.gov/programs/combating-sexual-harassment-workplace>.

Municipalities must adopt a sexual harassment policy, including a complaint form with a point of contact, and provide interactive training on an annual basis.

Model policies, complaint forms, training videos and more are available on the website.

