

Tug Hill Commission Celebrates 45 Years

November 16, 2018

Approximately 100 people gathered at the Grape N Grog in Camden on Thursday, November 8 to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Tug Hill Commission. With entertainment provided by the NYS Old Tyme Fiddlers' Association, the commission paid tribute to late commissioner Arnie Talgo, heard retrospectives from the organization's three prior executive directors, reviewed the commission's activities and accomplishments in 2018, and released a new book *"Tug Hill, Shaping the Future of the Region"* by Norah Machia.



Commissioner Gerry Ritter, Brooke Slag, Betty Talgo, Chris Talgo, Katie Malinowski.

Commissioner Arnie Talgo passed away earlier this year. In remembrance of Arnie's substantial contributions to the commission and greater North Country, Commissioner Gerry Ritter presented his widow Betty Talgo with a framed, original painting by Loretta Lepkowski of Arnie's hunting camp. Arnie's son Chris and daughter Brooke as well as their spouses were also present.

Original executive director Ben Coe shared his memories of the early days of the commission, recalling Assemblyman Ed Crawford and Dr. Richard Mark as the original architects of the commission's legislation, and Senator Douglas Barclay's support for the commission then and continuing to present day, as he joined in the evening's celebration. Ben also toasted SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Cornell Cooperative Extension for the important roles they played in the early days of the commission. Former executive directors Bob Quinn and John Bartow also shared stories from their years as leaders of the commission.

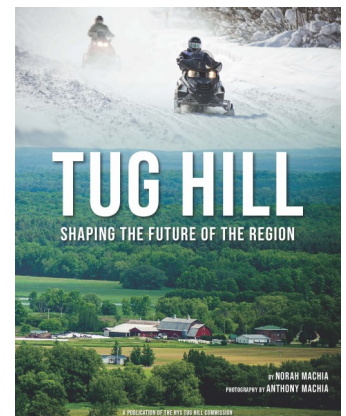


Ben Coe, John Bartow, Bob Quinn, Katie Malinowski.



Attendees at 45th Anniversary Dinner in Camden.

Lastly, Norah Machia talked about her experiences on Tug Hill while conducting research and interviews for the new book, *"Tug Hill, Shaping the Future of the Region."* Every dinner attendee received a complimentary copy of the book, which is available for purchase from Amazon, Kinney Drugs, local book sellers, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust's website (<https://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/shop/>), and the Tug Hill Commission office.



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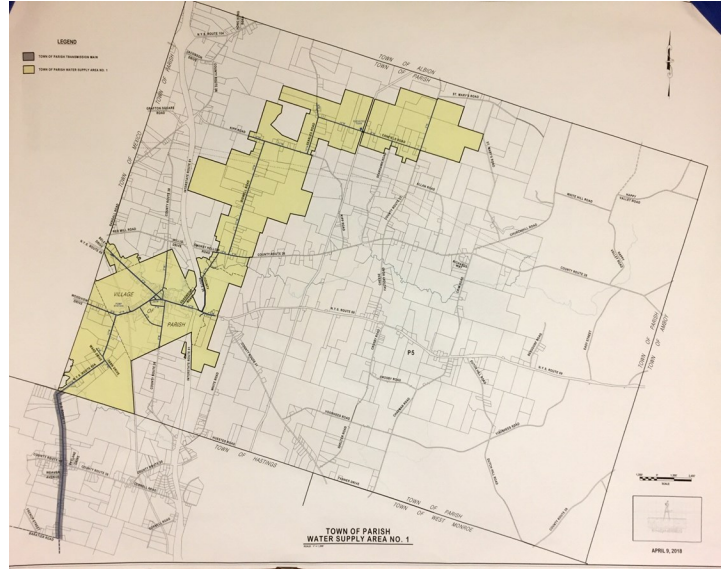
- Commission Celebrates
- Parish Water District
- Complete Streets Workshops
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Parish Referendum to Create Water District Passes

The people of the proposed Water District No. 1 in the town of Parish voted on Tuesday, November 13 to create that district, provided that grants that have been identified through initial feasibility studies are received.

In advance of the referendum, the town and village sent out 451 postcards to owners of affected parcels. Only five were not able to be delivered after initially being returned as undeliverable. 205 property owners voted on November 13. Of those, 135 voted yes, 69 voted no, and one returned the ballot unmarked.

The town and village have been working for years to identify the most feasible and cost-effective approach to bringing public water to the municipalities. Parish suffers from water quality problems, both those of quantity and quality, and some wells have tested positive for arsenic. The proposal would deliver water to these properties via a pipeline from OCWA. Should this district proceed to completion, formation of additional districts are anticipated.



Complete Streets Workshops Planned West Carthage and Lowville, December 4th & 5th

To register for a session, please call the commission office
at (315)785-2380 or toll free at (888)785-2380

A discussion of how to build environments, policies, and programs that help create places where more people walk, bicycle, and take transit more of the time. 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.

December 4, 2018 – Village of West Carthage Community Room, 61 High Street, Carthage, NY, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

9:00 am-12:30 pm. Arrival, sign-in, coffee, Mark Fenton Presentation: *Complete Streets & Community Design for Economic, Environmental and Public Health*. Facilitated walk audit to demonstrate community engagement technique, and explore real world conditions (weather permitting). Interactive group work and share. **Working lunch provided free.** Concluding Discussion.

December 5, 2018 – Lowville Village Fire Hall, 7640 NY-26, Lowville, NY, 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

7:30-11:00 am. Arrival, sign-in, **hearty breakfast provided free.** Mark Fenton Presentation: *Complete Streets & Community Design for Economic, Environmental and Public Health*. Facilitated walk audit to demonstrate community engagement technique, and explore real world conditions (weather permitting). Interactive group work and share. Concluding Discussion.

Featured Speaker: Mark Fenton

Mark Fenton is a national public health, planning, and transportation consultant, an adjunct associate professor at Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and former host of the "America's Walking" series on PBS television. He's author of numerous books including the best selling "Complete Guide to Walking for Health, Weight Loss, and Fitness" (Lyons Press, 2nd edition 2008). He was a developer of the University of North Carolina's Safe Routes to School clearinghouse, and facilitator for the walkable community workshop series of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking; he now provides technical training and community planning as an independent consultant. For more information about Mark, see his website at www.markfenton.com.



SEQRA Training

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2018
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Doors Open at 4:30 p.m.)
Place: the thINCubator, 326 Broad Street, Utica
Presented by: O'Brien & Gere

Session 1: SEQRA Basics (2 hours)

The speaker will discuss the basics ("the who, what and when") of SEQRA along with the benefits as a decision-making tool and a review of recent NYSDEC-proposed modifications. The session will cover:

Processes and Procedures

- SEQRA Time frames
- Classification of Actions
- Coordinated vs. Uncoordinated Reviews
- Determinations of Significance
- Preparation of an Environmental Assessment Form
- Filings and Notifications
- Environmental Impact Statements

Specific Examples

- SEQRA and Litigation
- SEQRA Tools: EAF Mapper
- Discuss the assessment of impacts and mitigation
- Related Regulations: State Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act

Session 2: Sauquoit Creek Flood Plain Restoration Overview (1 hour)

The Sauquoit Creek Channel & Floodplain Restoration Project was initiated in 2016 by the Town of Whitestown to investigate ways to alleviate flooding along the Sauquoit Creek. Development along Commercial Drive corridor has reduced the amount of undeveloped natural floodplain. The proposed flood mitigation project involves the construction of 12 floodplain benches along a 1.25-mile corridor of the Sauquoit Creek on Commercial Drive in Whitestown.

Cost is \$10.00 per person. More information and registration forms are available at <http://ocgov.net/oneida/planning>.

This training provides an opportunity for local planning and zoning board members to receive 3 hours of training credits.

HOSTED by Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program (HOCPP)

DEC Public Meeting November 27, Tug Hill East/East Branch of Fish Creek

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is asking for public input on the development of the draft Tug Hill East Unit Management Plan and the East Branch of Fish Creek Easement Recreation Management Plan. A public meeting will be held on November 27, 2018 from 6 pm to 8:30 pm at the Constableville Fire Hall, 3000 Main Street, Constableville, NY 13325.

The 20,322-acre Tug Hill East Unit consists of State Forest lands in the towns of Osceola, Lewis, Turin, West Leyden, and Martinsburg in southeastern Lewis County. The unit includes Cottrell States Forest, East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, East Osceola State Forest, Lesser Wilderness State Forest, Line Brook State Forest, Mohawk Springs State Forest, Raywood Unique Area, and Swancott Mill State Forest. The East Branch Fish Creek Easement consists of two tracts totaling 44,146 acres in the towns of Lewis, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, and West Turin.

In addition, public comments can be submitted by mail to Andrea Mercurio, State Lands Forester or Michael Giocondo, Conservation Easement Forester, NYS DEC, 7327 State Route 812, Lowville, New York 13367, or by email to R6.UMP@dec.ny.gov. All comments must be received by January 15, 2019. DEC will review comments received as it develops the draft Unit Management Plan and Recreation Management Plan. For more information please visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/115083.html> for the Tug Hill East Unit and <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/7991.html> and <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/110452.html> for the East Branch Fish Creek Easement.



EAB Workshop Recap

About 30 people, including members of the public, municipalities, agencies and NGO's gathered on Wednesday at the Adams municipal building to learn about ways to minimize the impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), particularly as it relates to municipal property, trees and infrastructure. The workshop, arranged by DEC and partners, including the Tug Hill Commission, featured four speakers from National Grid, DEC and the Onondaga County



Soil and Water Conservation District. Onondaga County has been actively managing their ash trees to minimize potential hazards posed by dead and dying ash trees. A wealth of information about their EAB program is available at <http://www.ongov.net/environment/emeraldashborer.html>. In particular, they have developed and have been implementing their Ash Tree Management Study <http://www.ongov.net/environment/documents/CompAshTreeMgtStrategy.pdf>. If your town or village is considering a way to approach EAB, please look here first!

Dying ash trees are extremely brittle and can break very easily under very little stress. When an ash tree falls, it can shatter into many pieces and affect public utilities, roads, property and public safety. By the time people actually see that ash trees are being affected by the EAB, the infestation can be anywhere from 3 to 5 years along and by that time, options for management are more limited. Many times, a municipality's only management option, other than doing nothing, is to remove large ash trees from their rights-of-ways and properties (parks and forests). One proactive measure to save ash trees, before the infestation occurs, is to treat the tree. This is quite expensive, but we are learning that it is effective and can be a part of a town or village's overall strategy for dealing with the EAB. It's not a matter of if the EAB moves into our area, it's a matter of when.

There are many resources available if you would like to learn more. www.emeraldashborer.info is a national website with a wealth of information for a variety of stakeholders including landowners, municipalities. SLELO PRISM <http://www.sleloinvasives.org/> is also an excellent source for information about EAB and other invasive species, as is the NYSDEC website <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html>.

River Area Council of Governments NY Alerts

You can now signup to receive alerts for the RACOG member communities, the towns of Champion, Denmark, Lowville, and Wilna, and the villages of Carthage, Deferiet, and West Carthage. The alerts can be for emergencies or notifications about work taking place by a municipality that might cause disruptions to services or travel.



Recently, the village of West Carthage put out an alert about hydrants being flushed. It notified people about what times the hydrants would be flushed and what they could expect to experience while the hydrant flushing was taking place.

If interested in signing up to receive alerts, go to <https://alert.ny.gov/> and when subscribing to what service areas you want to receive alerts for, go to your county, then look for the RACOG section, which will have these communities listed. For more information you can watch the video posted on www.racog.org.

Contact Us

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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!