

JANUARY 4, 2019

## Redfield Adopts Wind Law

The town of Redfield adopted Local Law No. 2 of the year 2018 at its December board meeting, entitled Wind Energy Facility Law of the Town of Redfield, New York. The law regulates the placement of commercial and industrial wind energy conversion systems in the town. Such systems are allowed in the wind energy facility overlay district pursuant to a special use permit. The law provides detailed requirements for applications for wind energy permits, defines minimum turbine setback requirements of 1.5x the height of the turbine, and sets a maximum turbine height of 500 feet for wind energy facilities generating 100 kW or more. It also limits the wind energy facilities sound levels to not exceed 35dBA at the property line under certain conditions. The wind law in its entirety can be found on the NYS Department of State's local law filing website, <https://locallaws.dos.ny.gov/>, or by contacting the town clerk.

Earlier this year the town adopted its first zoning law. The town is a party in the NYS Department of Public Service's Article 10 process for the Mad River Wind Farm, a 300 MW wind energy facility proposed for the towns of Redfield and Worth.

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## Tug Hill Commission Releases New Issue Paper – Protecting Town Roads from Snow Plowing Demands: A Checklist

Many Tug Hill communities have many miles of unplowed roads, and frequent demands are placed on them to open unplowed roads. In most rural towns, highway expenditures are the largest component of town budgets. Every mile of Tug Hill road that is opened to plowing costs an average of \$100,000 per mile to bring to a plowable condition, not including the annual increased costs of maintenance and plowing.

This paper provides a checklist of activities a town should engage in to minimize plowing demands and support the decision to leave roads unplowed. Included in the checklist are road mapping, low-volume road designation, comprehensive planning, minimum maintenance road laws,

seasonal use zoning laws, highway access laws, and subdivision road controls. The paper includes a model seasonal use zoning classification provisions and a model driveway installation law. The paper can be found at <http://www.tughill.org/publications/technical-issue-papers/>

**Local Government Conference**  
**March 28, 2019**  
**Jefferson Community College**

**COMING  
SOON**

**Registration information is in the mail  
and can be found on our website**  
<http://www.tughill.org/2018/12/27/2019-local-government-conference/>



# Congratulations 2018 Consolidated Funding Application Awardees!

A number of Tug Hill communities received good news last month when Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA's) were awarded through their Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) on December 18.

Tug Hill Commission staff assisted communities with the following successful applications:

- Town of Florence Salt Storage Facility - \$179,400
- Trenton Town Park Accessibility Project - \$151,390
- Williamstown Salt Storage - \$214,600

Several other Tug Hill communities and partners were funded for their projects, including:

- Village of Boonville- NY Main Street \$138,121
- Village of Boonville- Infiltration and inflow study \$30,000
- Village of Central Square Wastewater & Disinfection Study \$18,800
- Carthage Area Hospital- New hospital facility \$3,000,000
- Village of Adams- Water pollution control facility disinfection \$1,000,000
- Lewis County- microenterprise assistance \$200,000
- Town of Martinsburg- water district improvements in Glenfield hamlet \$750,000
- Town of Martinsburg- water collection & treatment study \$30,000
- Village of Copenhagen- wastewater treatment plant disinfection study \$22,900
- Jefferson County Historical Society- Paddock Mansion roof replacement \$500,000
- The Nature Conservancy- Black River Valley source water protection land acquisition for source water protection program \$537,543

The full list of awards can be found here:

<https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/2018REDCAwardBooklet.pdf>

Another round of CFA will be available in the spring/summer of 2019. It is never too early to start planning your project! Please contact your circuit rider or Watertown staff if you would like assistance.

## Training and Grant Calendars Link

The last issue of Tug Hill Times included an article about a new calendar the commission is maintaining for all grant funding deadlines and training offerings we become aware of. Please use the link below to access that calendar. Hopefully this will help us all stay organized in 2019! <http://www.tughill.org/publications/grants-and-training-calendar/>

## 2018 Black River Initiative Newsletter Now Available

The 2018 Black River Initiative newsletter was developed to highlight efforts to sustain and improve water quality, natural resources, recreation and quality of life in the 1.2 million acre Black River Watershed. Projects highlighted this year include:

- Recent funding announcements for green infrastructure, urban and community forestry, and agricultural best management practices projects that advance the Black River 9 Element Watershed Plan and Watershed Management Plan;
- Black River Trash Bash and Black River Trail I Love My Park Day;
- Invasive species monitoring and volunteer monitoring opportunities;
- Independence River shoreline conservation easement;
- 2018 Black River Watershed Conference and strategic planning;
- Water Quality Monitoring and results of DEC's Stream Biomonitoring;
- Boonville salt storage project to reduce salt runoff;
- Sugar River streambank protection;
- Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition outreach;
- Great Lakes Action Agenda workgroups and funding resources; and,
- New Trees for Tribes small grants and NYS Riparian Restoration Opportunity Assessment.

To learn more and read these articles- go to <http://www.tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/>



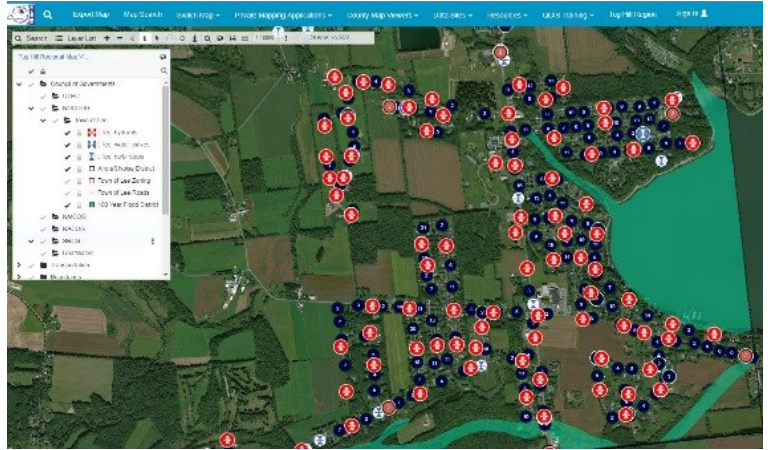
Black River in Watertown. Photo by Emily Sheridan

Thanks to the many collaborating organizations highlighted in the newsletter for all their efforts!

# Tug Hill Commission Map Portal Webinar - January 9

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, January 9th, from 6:30-7:00 pm, to show local government officials how online 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. There are only 25 spots available for the webinar, so if it fills up, don't worry, we will run another one. To register, click on this link <https://tughill.clickmeeting.com/tug-hill-commission-online-map-portal/register> or contact Mickey Dietrich at [mickey@tughill.org](mailto:mickey@tughill.org) or 315-681-5023.



## NOCCOG Board to Meet - January 30

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments Executive Board will meet on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at the Jervis Library in Rome. Among the agenda items will be the review and approval of quotes for GIS equipment to be utilized by the member communities and the official welcoming of new Director Joseph Rowlands, town of Steuben Supervisor, who was elected last fall at the annual meeting. For information about the meeting location, please contact Jennifer at 315-371-7612 or [jarmstrong@tughill.org](mailto:jarmstrong@tughill.org).

## State Environmental Quality Review Act - Adopted Amendments 2018

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announces the adoption of revisions to the regulations that implement the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) to streamline the SEQR process without sacrificing meaningful environmental review.

Among other changes, DEC has adopted amendments to the Type I and Type II lists of actions, as well as the scoping and acceptance procedures for draft environmental impact statements. DEC has also modernized the regulations related to web publication of documents. These changes are the first major amendments to the SEQR regulations that DEC made since 1996. More information is available at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/83389.html>

Documents are also available at the NYS DEC Central Office, located at 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233. Contact: James Eldred at [SEQRA617@dec.ny.gov](mailto:SEQRA617@dec.ny.gov) or 518-402-9167.



## Tug Hill Part of *Great Places and Spaces* at NYS Museum - January 12

This free event allow visitors to take a trip around the state without leaving the NYS Museum in Albany. An array of the state's historic sites and cultural institutions will offer families fun hands-on activities, educational artifacts to explore, and information on regional events to visit throughout the year.

The Tug Hill Commission and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust will display the Venerable Folks of Tug Hill exhibit, and provide other information about Tug Hill.

# Towns and the New Fiscal Year

January 1 marks the beginning of a new calendar year, and a new fiscal year for towns. Towns are now working under a new budget, but responsibilities remain having to do with the old fiscal year and the old budget. According to Town Law section 123 (<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/TWN/123>), on or before January 20 of each year, each person who received or disbursed any money in the previous fiscal year shall account with the town board for that, and produce supporting records and, except for a town justice, file a statement with the town board in writing showing the receipts and disbursements.

Town boards are also to examine the criminal and civil dockets of each town justice, and it needs to be entered in the minutes of that meeting that "such dockets have been duly examined and that the fines and fees therein shown to have been collected have been turned over to the proper officials as required by law." See <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/UJC/2019-A> for law reference.

If a town has a town comptroller or has retained the services of a Certified Public Accountant or a Public Accountant, the town board can have them do the annual audit for them.

Towns also have a responsibility to prepare an annual financial report to the state, called the Annual Update Document. The comptroller's office makes software available which eases the process. For towns smaller than 5,000, the report is due 60 days after the fiscal year's end, and a 60 day extension is available by filing a written request with the Office of the State Comptroller's municipal chief fiscal officer before the end of the original filing period. This request can be faxed to the Data Management Unit at (518) 486-3146 or scanned and emailed to [AFRFILE@osc.state.ny.us](mailto:AFRFILE@osc.state.ny.us).

For more information, see these state comptroller websites:

- Required municipal accounting: <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/finreporting/index.htm> .
- Deadlines and procedures relating to the Annual Update Document: <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/finreporting/deadlines.htm>
- Guide on municipal fiscal oversight: [https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/lgmfg/fiscal\\_oversight.pdf](https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/lgmfg/fiscal_oversight.pdf)

## Preservation League 2019 Winter Grant Workshop Series - January 17

Want to learn more about applying for grants from the Preservation League and how to create a preservation plan for your building or community? Attend a free information session!! The closest workshop to our area is in Utica on January 17, 2019. For a complete list of locations and to register, please go to:

<https://www.preservenys.org/grant-presentations.html?bblink-id=133081723&bbemailid=11327794&bbejrid=874862888>

If you are an organization or municipality who wish to partner with the League to hold a presentation, please go to <https://www.preservenys.org/presentations-we-offer.html> and use the "Request a Presentation" form or for more information, please contact: Frances M. Gubler, Manager of Technical and Grant Programs [fgubler@preservenys.org](mailto:fgubler@preservenys.org) or 518-462-5658, ext. 10.

## 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!

## New York State Archives 2019 Winter Webinar Series

The New York State Archives presents the Winter Webinar Series from January through March.

Each webinar below will begin at 10 am.

- January 9 - The Basics of Records Management
- January 23 - The Role of a Records Management Officer (RMO)
- February 6 - Using State Archives Local Government Retention Schedules
- February 20 - Conducting an Inventory of Paper Records
- March 6 - Creating File Plans
- March 20 - Establishing Records Management Policies and Procedures

For more specifics on each of these webinars, or to register, <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule>