

## Phil Street Receives Heissenbuttel Award

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From left to right: Jean Waterbury, Katie Malinowski, Tom Boxberger, Babette Valentine, Phil Street, Ben Street, Matt Johnson, Jen Armstrong-Symonds, Mickey Dietrich, Angie Kimball, Leona Cheresnoski.

**The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, May 20 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Osceola Public Library, 2117 N Osceola Road, Camden, NY 13316. The public is welcome to attend.**

Tug Hill Commission Planning Director Phil Street received the Heissenbuttel Award for Planning Excellence from the New York Planning Federation last week. Phil has been a planner in NYS's North Country for over 40 years. With an undergraduate degree in Political Science from SUNY Cortland, and a Masters of Regional Planning and Masters of Public Administration from Penn State, Phil's first job was with the Black River-St. Lawrence Regional Planning Board in Potsdam in 1978. He quickly became shared staff with the newly created Temporary State Commission on Tug Hill, where he was hired full-time in 1982.

Phil was a charter member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and prepared the first state planning statutes as part of the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources. With much of his work focused on working with communities on land use laws, he is also known locally as "Dr. Phil" with his specialty in delivering training sessions for planning and zoning boards.

Here is an excerpt from the nomination submission: "The night meetings Phil has attended over his career number in the thousands! If you average a night meeting a week for 40 years, that's over 2000 meetings, and there were many weeks he would go to three or four meetings. But there was never a meeting that Phil wouldn't gladly cover because he truly enjoyed working with local officials on Tug Hill. Some of the early meetings were controversial because the commission was new and locals weren't sure what business the "state" had at the local level. Over the years however, Tug Hill local governments have come to realize that the commission is there to help them, and Phil has played a huge role in showing this to town and village officials."

Interestingly, a few Tug Hill Times readers may recall that the Tug Hill Commission received the first Heissenbuttel Award ever given, back in 1980. See Blast from the Past on page 2..

Congratulations Phil!

# Blast from the Past

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Tug Hill Commission and David Portman

"I congratulate the Board for its vision and courage in pioneering an approach to rural planning and governments that can be useful to other parts of New York State and the Nation," words



(Left) Benjamin Coe,  
Executive Director, THC  
(Right) Dr. Richard Mark  
Chairman, THC

from Gov. Hugh Carey to the Temporary State Commission on Tug Hill, and echoed by Michael Wacholder, a director of the Federation, when he presented the first Henry Heissenbittel Memorial Award to Dr. Richard Mark, Chairman of the Commission, who accepted the plaque on their behalf.

Established in memory of Henry Heissenbittel, an outstanding proponent of strong planning practice and an enthusiastic supporter of the Federation, the award is given for innovative accomplishment in planning in New York State. In accepting the award, in addition to citing the members of the Commission responsible for the achievement, Dr. Mark singled out Executive Director, Benjamin Coe and Thornton Ware, Director of Planning.

Named as recipient of the Hugh R. Pomeroy Award was David J. Portman. Established in 1967, the award is given for consistent and outstanding value of

Excerpt from the New York Planning Federation newsletters, "Planning News," November-December, 1980.

## Managing Land Use On Highway Corridors Workshop May 21

The Jefferson County Department of Planning and the NYS Tug Hill Commission are co-sponsoring a land use training session Tuesday, May 21, 2019, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Jefferson Community College, 1220 Coffeen Street, Jules Center, Room 6-002, Watertown, NY 13601

**Presented by: Brian K. Madigan RLA, CPESC, GYMO Architecture, Engineering, Environmental & Land Surveying**

Changing land use and incremental growth along highway corridors is a common problem for all communities. Integrating land use planning with transportation planning is an effective way for communities to address the gradual deterioration of traffic flow, pedestrian safety and even the economic viability of local businesses resulting from unplanned commercial growth. Addressing land use along highways is critical to preserving highway function while, at the same time, improving public safety, economic vitality and the character of the community. This session will explore ways of managing land use to avoid congestion, confusing traffic patterns and accident potential along transportation corridors to maintain or improve community character.

**To RSVP by Monday, May 20th. Please register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/managing-land-use-on-highway-corridors-registration-61530369993>.** You may also call Jefferson County Planning Department at (315) 785-3144 or email: [planning@co.jefferson.ny.us](mailto:planning@co.jefferson.ny.us). *If approved by your municipality, this workshop can provide two (2) hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training Requirement.*



## BUILDING A MORE WALKABLE NORTH COUNTRY

### May 13-15

Walk audits will be facilitated by Walkable Communities expert Mark Fenton for an interdisciplinary group of community stakeholders in Lyons Falls, Alexandria Bay, Copenhagen and Carthage May 13-15. Community members and others interested are invited to join!!

Monday, May 13, 2019	
5-8 pm	<b>Lyons Falls Walk Audit</b>
	Meet at the Lyons Falls Fire Hall, 3907, High Street, Lyons Falls NY
Tuesday, May 14, 2019	
10-11 am	<b>City of Watertown Public Presentation &amp; Walkabout</b>
	Meet at the Council Chambers in City Hall, 245 Washington Street, Watertown, NY
1-4 pm	<b>Alex Bay Walk Audit</b>
	Meet at the Admirals' Inn, 20 James Street, Alexandria Bay, NY
6:30-9 pm	<b>Copenhagen Walk Audit</b>
	Meet at the Copenhagen Village Hall, 9915 Main Street, NYS Rte. 12 Copenhagen, NY
Wednesday, May 15, 2019	
1-4 pm	<b>Carthage walk audit</b>
	Meet at the Champion Municipal Building, 10 North Broad Street, Carthage

**Agenda will include:**

- 30 minute introductions and short presentation
- 1½ hour “Walkabout” the community/Walk Audit
- 30 minute follow-up discussion and wrap-up

**Goals for the walk audit include:**

- Education. Guides people to experience and assess the physical activity of an area, not just look at it theoretically.
- Inspiration. Helps leaders and policy makers to explore what could be possible.
- Practical planning. Outstanding way to get community stakeholders actively involved in project or policy development, valuing each person’s input.

*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.*

**Contact Jean Waterbury at (315) 785-2606 or [jean@tughill.org](mailto:jean@tughill.org) if interested in participating.**

**Come prepared to walk and dress appropriate for the weather!**



# We're Hiring: Planner

The New York State Tug Hill Commission is hiring an entry level planner to provide assistance to local governments in the rural Tug Hill region in the areas of land use planning, local law development, and general technical support to planning boards and other involved municipal boards. Required skills include: knowledge of the principles and procedures of planning and related research; ability to present oneself well and communicate effectively both orally and in writing; proficiency with word processing, spreadsheet, database, and presentation software; and proficiency with Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Minimum qualifications are a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning or related field or a Bachelor's degree in City and Regional Planning or related field plus two years of full-time paid experience in municipal, county, or regional planning or directly related work. For more information about the position, see our website, [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

# Smart Solar Siting Webinar June 17

The American Farmland Trust is hosting a webinar on "Designing Solar Land Use Laws that Protect Productive Farmland" from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Join speakers from AFT, Cornell CaRDI, and the St. Lawrence County Planning Department for a lunchtime webinar to learn how to design solar land use laws that permit solar development while protecting productive farmland in your community. Examples of Smart Solar Siting laws from other municipalities in New York as well as tools your municipality can use to support farm operations and keep land in farming in your community will be shared.

To attend, please register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7844589251551930881> by May 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Samantha Levy, New York Policy Manager, at [slevy@farmland.org](mailto:slevy@farmland.org)

# Black River Watershed Conference 2019: Three More Good Reasons to Attend

Learn more about the speakers slated for the watershed conference on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center. **REMEMBER, registrations must be in by May 17, 2019!** For more information and registration information please go to <http://www.tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/black-river-watershed-conference/> or contact Jennifer Harvill at (315) 785-2392 or [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org).

Keynote speaker Peter Annin is the director of the Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation and the author of *The Great Lakes Water Wars*, the definitive work on the Great Lakes water diversion controversy. Before coming to Northland College in 2015, Peter served as a reporter at Newsweek, associate director of the Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources, and managing director of the University of Notre Dame's Environmental Change Initiative. Peter's presentation is *The Great Lakes Compact, A Decade of Lessons Learned*.

Chris Ebey, PhD, grew up in Chicago and attended the University of Illinois at Chicago for her degrees in mathematics and geology, and did her PhD and postdoctoral research in Europe. She returned to teach geology at University of Illinois at Chicago. Six years ago she became the geology professor at Jefferson Community College. Her presentation is *Geologic Natural History of the Black River Watershed*.

Caitlin Stewart, District Manager at the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, is from New Hartford, and spent family vacations at her grandparents' camps on Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga Lake. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Geography from SUNY Oneonta and a master's degree in Geoscience from UMass Amherst. Her presentation is: *The State of Hamilton County Lakes: A 25 Year Perspective*.

## 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!