

January 17, 2020

State Bills Support Worth/Lorraine Court Consolidation

Senator Ritchie and Assemblyman Blankenbush have submitted bills in their respective houses that, if passed and signed by the Governor, will allow the towns of Lorraine and Worth in Jefferson County to consolidate their justice courts.

S6873/A9052 reads "pursuant to section 106-b of the uniform justice court act, the towns of Lorraine and Worth of Jefferson County have conducted and completed a study, each town having adopted a joint resolution providing for the study, conducted a public hearing upon the findings of the study, and adopted a joint resolution adopting such plan providing for the abolition of existing town justice positions in the towns of Lorraine and Worth and providing for the election of a single town justice to preside in the town courts of such towns. The town justice elected pursuant to this plan shall preside in the Towns of Lorraine and Worth following the next general election in such towns and shall preside for the year term as elected."

The consolidation is modeled after the successful Harrisburg-Montague-Pinckney consolidation completed almost a decade ago.

For more information about local justice courts and solutions for a variety of issues, please see the commission's issue paper on the subject, <https://www.tughill.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Justice-Court-Consolidation-Solutions-Final.pdf>

Emerald Ash Borer is Here - Now What?

Do you have ash trees in your yard or forest? Now that the emerald ash borer (EAB) has been confirmed in Jefferson County, do you have a plan? EAB is an invasive insect that attacks ash trees. Tree mortality occurs within 2 to 4 years and is nearly 100% likely to occur. First found in the mid-west in 2002, EAB has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees throughout North America. New York State forests contain 7 to 25% ash species and ash is a common landscape tree. Whether you have ash trees in your landscape or in a forest setting, get the latest, research-based information on how to deal with this pest.

Date: Saturday, January 18, 2020

Snow Date: Saturday, January 25, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM — 12:00 PM

Where: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, 203 N Hamilton St, Watertown, NY 13601

Speakers will include:

- Glen Roberts, DEC Forester
- Michael DeMarco, Watertown City Planner, Certified Arborist
- Herb Frost of ArborCare, Certified Arborist

This is a FREE program, but registration is required!

Please register online by following the link below: https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/AshBorer_222 or contact Sue Gwise at 315 -788-8450 or sjg42@cornell.edu for more information.

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The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, January 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Amboy Town Hall, 822 State Route 69, Williamstown, NY 13493 . The public is welcome to attend.



Boonville Fire Destroys Main Street Buildings

Several businesses and residences were displaced when a fire destroyed several buildings in downtown Boonville on January 7. Thirteen fire departments responded, and fortunately there was no loss of life. A GoFundMe account has raised over \$26,000 to date, and a Main Street Benefit Bash has been organized for January 25. The city of Rome DPW is helping with the cleanup. Additional rebuilding efforts include the submission of a video to the HGTV Home Town Takeover.

Four Communities Adopt Complete Streets Policies

Four Tug Hill communities recently adopted a policy intended to improve the health and wellness of their residents. During the month of October, the village boards of Deferiet, Carthage and Copenhagen voted to adopt a Complete Streets policy. Most recently, the village of Lyons Falls' Board adopted the policy at its November 25 meeting. Complete Streets policies ensure that streets and sidewalks are safe for users of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and motorists. Safety improvements are considered during the planning of construction projects. Not all Complete Streets communities look the same, but some common features include sidewalks, safe road crossings, roundabouts and bicycle lanes.

The Complete Streets efforts are part of a state-wide initiative funded by the NYS Department of Health's "Linking Interventions for Total Population Health" (LIFT) grant. The Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO) is one of six LIFT grant recipients throughout New York State, covering Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties. FDRHPO partnered with the Tug Hill Commission and St. Lawrence Health Initiative to implement Complete Streets.



Town of Watertown Holds Public Hearing on Updated Comprehensive Plan

On December 12, in accordance with Town Law § 272-a, the town of Watertown held a public hearing to receive feedback on the proposed amendments to the town comprehensive plan that were made in collaboration with the Tug Hill Commission. Public hearings provide opportunities for citizen participation in the preparation of the comprehensive plan prior to its adoption. Pam Desormo, Town Clerk and Planning Board Co-Chair, and Tom Boxberger, Planning Board Co-Chair, both agreed that the hearing went well and that there was a positive response. The town board was complimentary of the work that has been done by the planning board, especially the new section on the town's history. The town board postponed the final vote to adopt the proposed comprehensive plan amendments by a month in order to allow more time for revision by the public.

Spotlight on the Change in Perceptions of the Tug Hill Economy between 2009 and 2019

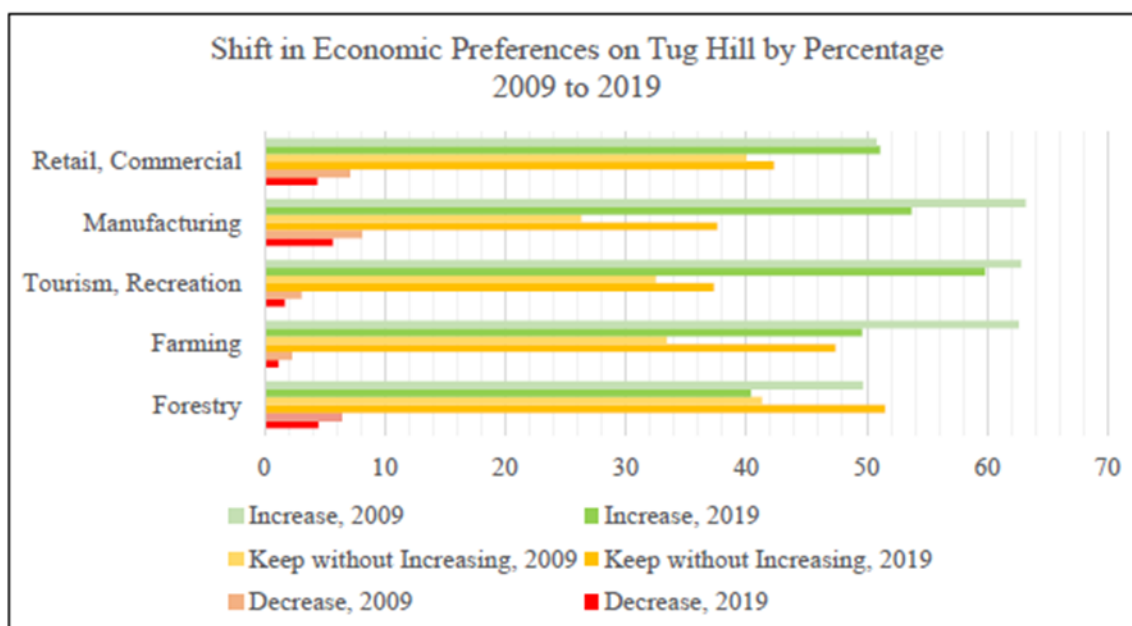
In 2019, of the five studied economic-related development items in the Tug Hill Residents and Landowners survey, most support was for the expansion of tourism and recreation, which was also the case in 2009. This information is timely coinciding with the publication of a brand new, redesigned Tug Hill Recreation Guide which will be available at the end of January. Jefferson and Lewis County were tied for having the greatest desire to increase recreational and tourism opportunities, and the River Area Council of Governments had the greatest interest out of the councils of governments (COG) and unaffiliated municipalities.

Desires to increase farming and manufacturing – which had tied at #1 with tourism and recreation in 2009 at 63% – dropped to 50% and 54%, respectively. In 2019, people seemed to be split between increasing farming and keeping it, without increasing. Oneida County, Lewis County, communities unaffiliated with a COG, and Northern Oneida County Council of Governments were most interested in increasing farming. With regards to manufacturing, people seemed to have shifted slightly (approximately 10%) to the opinion that manufacturing should be kept, but not increased, between 2009 and 2019. Lewis County and the River Area Council of Governments are most in favor of increasing manufacturing.

Interest in increasing or keeping, but not increasing, retail and commercial development has changed little over the 10 years with about half of people surveyed wanting it to increase and about 40% wanting to keep it, but not increase development. Lewis County and communities unaffiliated with COGs are most interested in increasing retail and commercial development.

Lastly, nearly half of those surveyed in 2009 wanted to increase forestry activities. In 2019, this shifted to more than half of people wanting the forestry industry to stay the same and not increase. The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments and Oneida County municipalities overall were most interested in increasing forestry activities.

For the full survey results, see <https://www.tughill.org/about/survey-2019/>.



Erie Canalway Commission to Meet in Fayetteville

The Erie Canalway Commission and Board meets quarterly at locations throughout the corridor, and their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at The Craftsman Inn & Suites, 7300 East Genesee Street, Fayetteville, New York. The purpose of the meeting is to plan and direct activities of the National Heritage Corridor. The public is welcome to attend.

Those interested are encouraged to RSVP to Diane Jennings at diane_jennings@partner.nps.gov.

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor “works to preserve and share our extraordinary heritage, to promote the Corridor as a world class tourism destination, and to foster vibrant communities connected by more than 500 miles of waterway.” Oneida Lake, at the southern boundary of the Tug Hill region, is part of the Erie Canal system. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission can be found on the Internet at <https://eriecanalway.org/>

Spring Cornell Local Roads Workshops

The Cornell Local Roads Program has announced their spring workshop schedule, available at <https://www.clrp.cornell.edu/workshops/workshops.htm>.

In and near the Tug Hill region, the following workshops are being offered:

- ♦ ***Work Zone Traffic Control, April 14, Oneida County Cooperative Extension, Oriskany***
- ♦ ***Pavement Management, Oswego County, April 15, Scriba Town Hall***
- ♦ ***Tools for Practical Communications, Lewis County, April 23, Lewis County Jefferson Community College Extension Center, Lowville***

Winter Operator Maintenance Fatigue – New Publication from Cornell Local Roads

In this new series, Cornell Local Roads discusses:

- The winter maintenance challenges in NYS
- The different types, causes and effects of fatigue
- Strategies and solutions for fighting operator fatigue
- Worker fatigue resources
- A sample fatigue management plan

To access the document, see <https://cornell.app.box.com/v/SnowFatigueFullSeries> or contact Adam Howell at 607-255-5833, Ah959@cornell.edu.

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For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).

Cornell Local Roads Summer Camp Intern Project 2020

The Cornell Asset Management Program (CAMP) summer intern project helps municipalities implement a pavement management system for local highway networks while providing college students, assisted by a municipal employee, with a valuable work experience. The program work includes students collecting pavement inventory and condition data and creating a five-year maintenance plan for municipalities using the Cornell Asset Management Program-Roads and Streets (CAMP-RS) software.

Municipalities

Municipalities should send a letter on municipal letterhead to the Cornell Local Roads Program (CLRP) by February 28, 2020, stating their intent to participate in the program. By sending the letter, the municipality agrees it will meet all the responsibilities listed on page 3 of the [CAMP brochure](#), and will have the necessary equipment before the training held in late May. The letter should state if the municipality will be recruiting the student.

Student Interns

Students not recruited directly by the municipality need to submit a resume to Geoff Scott, P.E., Technical Assistance Engineer with the Cornell Local Roads Program at grs78@cornell.edu. Interviews will be held through the Cornell Engineering Career Services in March 2020 or directly by the CLRP. The Cornell Local Roads Program will match up students and municipalities as soon as possible after interviews.

For more information on the CAMP program, visit www.clrp.cornell.edu/trainingevents/interns.html or contact Geoff Scott, P.E., Technical Assistance Engineer with the Cornell Local Roads Program at (607) 255-2806 or grs78@cornell.edu.