

May 8, 2020

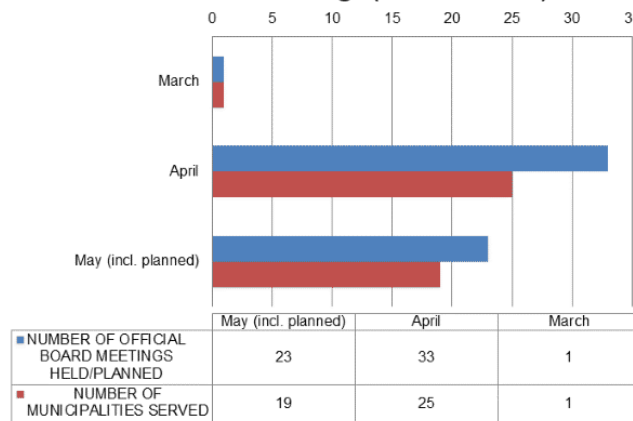
Commission Hosts Zoom Meetings with Municipalities

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced everyone to interact with each other in innovative ways, both personally and professionally. As certain aspects of local government are considered “essential”, it is important that various boards meet while also maintaining social distancing standards. To meet this demand for virtual meetings, the commission subscribed to Zoom, and commission staff have been hosting meetings for municipalities’ town boards, planning boards, and zoning boards of appeal as requested since late March.

Communities are holding board meetings to keep municipal business moving forward, while grappling with the implications of the pandemic on day to day operations. Public hearings can even be conducted over Zoom

meetings. Hosts have the option to “share their screen” with participants so that documents can be shared and viewed by all in real time. All public meetings have been recorded and are transcribed by Zoom technology, which allows municipalities to share their meeting video online. If your community is interested in holding a Zoom meeting, please reach out to your circuit rider or staff contact to schedule the meeting. If you are new to using Zoom technology, the commission has created a user’s manual and a checklist for communities to review before holding their first virtual meeting (<https://www.tughill.org/covid-19/>). Furthermore, commission staff will do a test run with the board prior to the official meeting to troubleshoot any technological issues.

NYS THC Zoom Usage (as of 05/08/20)



In This Issue

- Zoom Meetings
- Updated Executive Order
- Small Wireless Facilities and 5G Webinar, May 14
- Tug Hill Commission Meeting
- Green Corner Solar Project
- Commission Staff Assists NYS Accelerated Renewable Energy Webinar, May 18
- Site Planning Webinar
- Arbor Day at JCC
- Cornell Local Roads Webinars
- Urban Forestry Webinar
- 2020 Census Update

Executive Orders Extended until June 6, 2020

Governor Cuomo enacted Executive Order 202.28 on May 7, which continues various suspensions and modifications of law made by Executive Order 202 and each successor Executive Order up to and including Executive Order 202.14, until June 6, 2020. This includes, among other things,

“Suspension of law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or by other similar service: Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed;”

The full text of EO 202.28 can be found at www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20228-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency.

Commission staff will update COVID-19 FAQs early next week, available at www.tughill.org/covid-19/.

Webinar on May 14, 10:30 am to Noon, *Small Wireless Facilities and 5G in New York State*

Rebecca Ruscito, Counsel, NY Conference of Mayors, will deliver a live webinar on Thursday, May 14 on *Small Wireless Facilities and 5G in New York State*.

Originally scheduled for the Tug Hill Local Government Conference in March, Rebecca will describe the next generation of mobile networks, which builds on today's 4G wireless broadband infrastructure. This next generation of wireless service uses higher-frequency wavelengths transmitted through a network of "small cell" devices, roughly the size of a backpack, scattered throughout communities. As stewards of substantial amounts of public rights-of-way, municipalities are concerned with recent federal actions that undermine local governments' ability to serve as trustees of public property, safety and well-being. This session will discuss this issue and next steps in the 5G infrastructure build-out. There will be time for questions and answers at the end of the webinar.

Register at: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Vy2T2OSaRyKqjQSami8H2g.

Tug Hill Commission Meeting May 18

The Tug Hill Commission board will meet remotely via Zoom on Monday, May 18, 2020 from 10 am to 11:30 am. The agenda will include routine business of the commission, consideration of the commission's 2020-21 budget, consideration of personnel policy revisions, and updates on projects and community needs.

The meeting can be accessed at us02web.zoom.us/j/82194279008, or by phone (929) 205-6099 with meeting ID 821 9427 9008. Call-in number users note this is a long-distance call so please plan accordingly.

Greens Corners Solar Project Considers New Section 94-c Permitting Process

In an April 24, 2020 letter filed on the Greens Corners Solar Facility Article 10 project website (<http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=19-F-0512&submit=Search>), developer Boralex indicated that they are exploring the possibility of opting into the new Section 94-c permitting process enacted in the 2020-21 New York State budget. The Greens Corners project is currently in the "Preliminary Scoping Statement Submitted" phase of Article 10. The approximately 120 MW solar development is proposed to be located in the towns of Hounsfield and Watertown, Jefferson County.

New York State is in the process of setting up the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and drafting regulations for the Section 94-c siting process.

Commission Staff Helps Larger NYS Effort

Several commission staff members have spent their time assisting other state agencies' high-volume tasks. Identifying feeding needs and assisting New Yorkers with their unemployment claims have been two large efforts that staff has stepped up to support. With the pandemic putting unprecedented pressures on different governmental systems, there simply is not enough infrastructure or staff to handle the emerging needs of the state. However, people are truly suffering, and it is now that they need the support the most to feed their families and pay their bills. The commission is honored and proud to support New Yorkers in our region and outside of it. As all the signs say outside our homes, we are all in this together. Stay safe, stay healthy.

May 14 Webinar, Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth & Community Benefit Act

The New York Planning Federation is hosting a webinar on Tuesday, May 12, Noon to 1:30 pm on the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth & Community Benefit Act. The new act has received significant publicity for its reworking of the state-level review of large-scale renewables by creating new Executive Law Section 94-C. But the law also created new authority within NYSERDA for developing projects and revamped the process for transmission projects under Public Service Law Article VII. It also initiated the first formal Public Service Commission proceeding addressing community benefits, which may influence community benefit agreements on many types of projects. The webinar will examine the new law, how the new regulatory environment may unfold, and review potential impacts on local planning activities.

Certificates of attendance will be issued to attendees to satisfy the training requirements for NYS planning and zoning board members.

Speakers will be **Daniel Spitzer, Esq., and Sarah Main, Esq.**, both attorneys with **Hodgson Russ LLP** focusing on energy and environmental law.

For more information, contact Barbara Samel, Esq., Executive Director, The New York Planning Federation at bsamel@nypf.org.

Planning Official Sign and Site Planning Webinar

The Capital District Regional Planning Council (www.cdrcp.org) offered a webinar this week titled *"That's Not What I Thought I Approved,"* about sign and site planning.

This webinar was presented by Nicole Allen, AICP, Planning Services Manager, Laberge Group. Nicole shared stories and perspective on situations and remedies when what is presented for approval differs from what is ultimately constructed. Ms. Allen has 20 years of experience in developing and managing a wide range of planning projects and has overseen the successful procurement and administration of over \$65 million in grant funding for communities across New York State.

To watch the webinar video, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRWIKc5ctKg&list=PL83adPeiZLCoeQa1hLVNg9WETax02Ls9p&index=3&t=0s>



Jefferson Community College's annual Arbor Day tree planting still took place this Arbor Day (April 24th). SUNY Jefferson is recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a 2019 Tree Campus USA. To learn more about the Arbor Day Foundation, caring for and planting trees, and to plan for next years celebration, visit: <https://www.arborday.org/>

Upcoming Webinars from Cornell Local Roads Program

Running Your Highway Department - Tuesday, May 12, 2pm – 3pm

This presentation will provide some basics for running your highway department efficiently and effectively and review the basic duties and responsibilities of a highway department leader. Presented by Cornell Local Roads Program Director David Orr, PE

Register: https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JKGaFlyVSOCysY7L1zihuQ

Virtual Highway School Legal Panel - Wednesday, May 13, 10am – 11am

Have your legal questions answered by panelists John Mancini and Lori Mithen. You can ask your questions live or send them to us ahead of time at clrp@cornell.edu.

Panelists: Lori Mithen-Demasi, Counsel, Association of Towns of the State of New York (AOT) John Mancini, Counsel, New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM)

Moderated by Cornell Local Roads Program Director David Orr, PE

Register: https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YCPau0HWSXKXRM3YmrgwUQ

Preparing an Asset Management Plan for your Pavements - May 21, 2pm – 3pm

Having a plan in place is a valuable way to determine the how and where to make critical investments when maintaining and improving a municipality’s assets. This webinar will discuss the information necessary for a good inventory, including a means of assessing your pavements, evaluating the results, and using that information to develop a plan to best manage the limited funding available while maintaining and improving your roadway network.

Presented by Cornell Local Roads Program Technical Assistance Engineer Geoffrey R. Scott, PE

Register: https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3mb0fywRTVyZ4xO6gXQKIA

Other CLRP webinars can be found on their website at www.clrp.cornell.edu/.

Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380

Toll Free within the region:

1-888-785-2380

Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission

To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org or call

1-888-785-2380.

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

Urban Forestry Webinar May 13

The USDA Forest Service is presenting “Addressing Loss of Tree Cover in Urban Watersheds: The Importance of Local Codes and Policies” on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 from 1 to 2:15 pm. To register, go to <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/ucf/>

The webinar will include presentations on a worksheet designed to help make your community forest friendly, and share successful strategies and lessons learned from the Chicago Region Trees Initiative.

2020 Census Self-Response Rates Update

County	2020 Response Rate 04/22/2020	2020 Response Rate 05/07/2020	2010 Response Rate
Oneida	48%	54.9%	65%
Oswego	46.2%	54.4%	63.5%
Jefferson	32%	38.6%	59.1%
Lewis	29%	32.1%	66.2%

To complete the 2020 Census online, go to 2020census.gov.