

August 14, 2020

## EO 202.55 Extends Remote Public Meeting AND Hearing Ability Through September 4, 2020

The entire Executive Order 202.55 is available at [www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20255-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency](http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20255-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency).

Municipalities, however, are not required to offer virtual opportunities to join meetings (with the exception of public hearings). Meeting sizes are allowable up to 50. Given a meeting room which can accommodate six foot physical separation distances, and with use of masks by meeting participants and attendees, a municipality may be able to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend in person without have a remote component. If you community would like to meet via Zoom or allow that option, please contact Tug Hill staff for assistance.

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## New and Improved Tug Hill Recreation Guide Website Launched

Following the newly designed print version of the Tug Hill Recreation Guide, significant improvements have now been made to the companion website, [www.visittughill.com](http://www.visittughill.com). Compatible with both desktop and mobile devices, the website includes video footage and photography highlighting Tug Hill. Each individual trail map is available for printing, and links are provided to places to stay in each of the five regions broken out in the guide: Northern Edge, Black River Valley, Core Forest, Northern Mohawk Valley, and Oneida Lake Forest.

The new recreation guide and website are the result of joint project of the Tug Hill Commission, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, 1000 Islands International Tourism Council, Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, Oneida County Tourism, and Oswego County Tourism.

**VISIT TUG HILL**

**HOME**

**REGIONS**

**TRAILS**

**DIGITAL RECREATION GUIDE**

**PLACES TO STAY**

### Explore The Tug Hill Region

The best way to experience the 2,100-square mile Tug Hill region is to think of yourself as an explorer wandering through the many trails and along the riverbanks inside one of the "last untouched wildernesses" in New York State.

Tug Hill falls between Lake Ontario and the Adirondacks, covering parts of Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego and Oneida counties.

## Evaluating and Amending Your Zoning Law Workshop September 29

Commission planning director Matt Johnson will deliver a training session entitled *"Evaluating and Amending Your Zoning Law"* on Tuesday, September 29 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Lowville Town Hall, 553 Botswick Street, Lowville 13367. This presentation will explore reasons you may want or need to update your zoning law and cover the statutory process for doing so. Is your law lacking standards for newer land uses? Is it out of sync with your comprehensive plan? Are parts of it 'un-enforceable'? We will discuss these and other issues. We will also detail the proper procedure for adoption in regard to public hearings, SEQR compliance, and county planning review.

**In-person attendance will be limited to the first 23 registrants, and all attendees will be required to socially distance, wear a mask, and answer questions about health and travel.** Hand sanitizer will be available, and no walk-ins will be allowed. The training session will also be viewable live via Zoom. Both in-person and remote participants should use this link to register: [us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_iZnAz4fQSSaWyzLnP2bE4A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iZnAz4fQSSaWyzLnP2bE4A). Please pay special attention to the question regarding how you plan to attend.

## 2020 Virtual Black River Watershed Conference Free Online Webinar Series

Join the NYS Tug Hill Commission, the Lewis, Jefferson, Hamilton and Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as they present this free series of webinars in conjunction with the annual Black River Watershed Conference.



**Tuesday, September 29, 2020 · 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

### ***10 Years of Progress in the Black River Watershed***

Emily Sheridan, NYSDEC Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator

Highlights from our recent report on the Black River Initiative's Ten Years of Progress will be presented, evaluating the implementation of watershed management plans throughout the region.

To register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0sLxnjgmRIqoWUA\\_ILzBeA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0sLxnjgmRIqoWUA_ILzBeA)

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020 · 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

### ***Emerald Ash Borer***

Christine Watkins, Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District  
and

### ***Lewis County Fairgrounds Green Infrastructure Project***

Nichelle Swisher, Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District

To register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UeC0seCzRyWo2dx9WzbCKA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UeC0seCzRyWo2dx9WzbCKA)

**Wednesday, October 7, 2020 · 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

### ***The State of Hamilton County Lakes: A 25 Year Perspective***

Caitlin Stewart and Jaime Parslow, Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District  
and

### ***Japanese Knotweed***

Katherine Whitcomb & Bob Tilbe, Herkimer County Soil & Water Conservation District

To register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_QT8OG-F\\_RFCCUe5xU2DbkA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QT8OG-F_RFCCUe5xU2DbkA)



## 2020 Virtual Black River Watershed Conference Free Online Webinar Series

**Tuesday, October 13, 2020 · 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

### ***Early History of the Black River***

Peter Hayes, Constable Hall & Dr. Laurie Rush, Ft. Drum Cultural Resources

Dr. Rush will introduce the history of the Black River from an indigenous perspective, examining its importance as a key waterway connecting peoples of the Eastern Seaboard and the Maritimes with peoples of the Midwest and the Great Lakes. She will also touch on some of Jefferson County's earliest and most important European settlers and developers. Mr. Hayes will discuss the transition of land ownership from the Treaty to Fort Stanwix to the Macomb Purchase. Particular emphasis will be given to William Constable's role in the purchase, survey and initial selling of the land. The early development of the land will be illustrated by the efforts of William Constable Jr., James LeRay de Chaumont, and Hezekiah Pierrepont – who collectively left us Constable Hall, the LeRay Mansion and the Pierrepont Manor.

To register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_i3-bEmZvTHy46bu-K3CGsA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i3-bEmZvTHy46bu-K3CGsA)

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020 · 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

### ***Geology of the Black River Watershed - Part 2***

Dr. Chris Ebey, Jefferson Community College

Join us for a paleo-safari! The geologic history of the western half of the Black River Watershed records dramatic changes in ecology and biology. From top predators like nautiloids to familiar creatures like trilobites to exotic, mysterious bryozoans, we'll learn how to identify common fossils, how these animals lived and how they shaped the Black River.

To Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_scOGedUmRve1ceuXs2QQEg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_scOGedUmRve1ceuXs2QQEg)

**Tuesday, October 27, 2020 · 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

### ***Black River Dam Relicensing: Who is FERC and How to Get Involved***

Emily Carter and Allyson Conner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

To Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TZ48eadYTOyMFYe1MI3bnQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TZ48eadYTOyMFYe1MI3bnQ)

**Thursday, October 29, 2020 · 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

### ***Floodplain Regulation for Local Review Boards***

Patricia Burke and Christopher Eastman, NYS Department of State

The essence of good planning is to develop areas most suitable to the environment and existing infrastructure, avoiding sensitive areas such as steep slopes, wetlands, and floodplains. With increased storm intensity and years of building in flood prone areas, natural floodplains have been disrupted, resulting in severe damage to flood prone areas. This presentation includes an overview of regulating development around flood plains, with a discussion of the National Flood Insurance Program, and trends in resiliency planning.

To Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gs1eENq4RRHyLTR1\\_X4b\\_Mw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gs1eENq4RRHyLTR1_X4b_Mw)



# Oswego County Releases Four COVID-19 Videos With Themes of Strength, Hope, Collaboration, and Perseverance

The videos, which demonstrate community activities over the past several months in Oswego County related to the pandemic, are the product of teamwork among the County of Oswego Industrial Development Agency, Operation Oswego County, Oswego County Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning, Oswego Health, and SUNY Oswego. Two Oswego businesses - Step One Creative and Kyle Ridlon Productions - created and produced them. Tug Hill locations in the videos include Salmon River Falls, Oneida Lake, and Winona State Forest.

Three of the four videos are available on the Oswego County Government's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1ELFNINuYGu9umMYQoyKMg>. The final video, Perseverance, will be released on August 18.

## EPA Webinar Series on Small Drinking Water Systems

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a monthly webinar series dedicated to topics related to small drinking water systems. More information at [www.epa.gov/water-research/small-systems-monthly-webinar-series](http://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-systems-monthly-webinar-series).

Upcoming webinars will address:

- Risk & Resiliency Assessments
- Disinfectants and Disinfectant Byproducts
- Creating Resilient Water Utilities

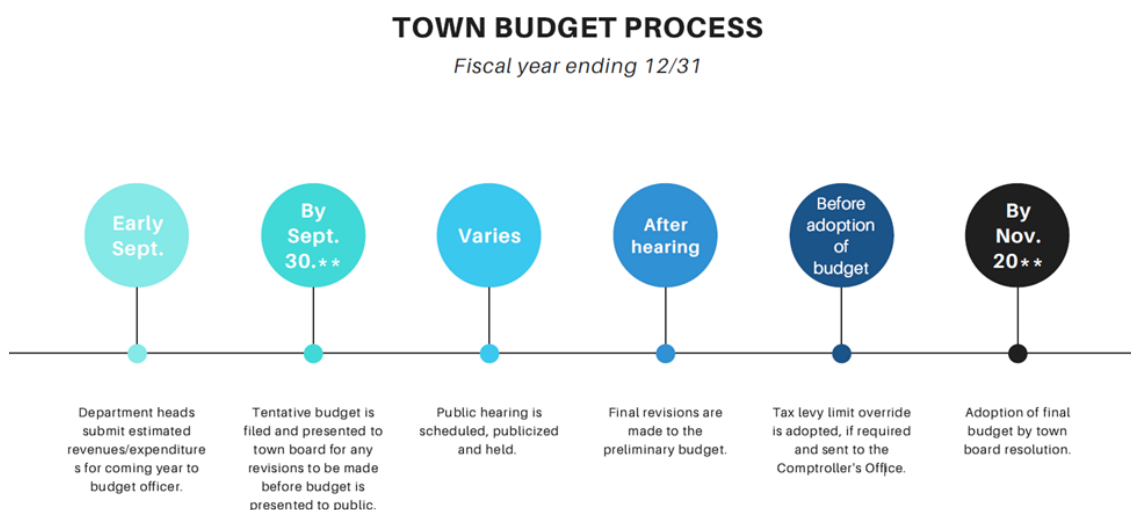
Past webinar records are also available. Topics include:

- Drinking Water Microbes 101
- Harmful Algal Blooms and Algal Toxins
- Drinking Water Regulations 101 and Best Practices for Training Utilities
- Drinking Water Tools for Small Systems
- Legionella Management and Treatment

## Town Budget Process

An annual budget, sometimes referred to as the operating budget, is the document that details the financial plan of the local government for a fiscal year. The annual budget is perhaps the town's most vital document and should be developed using all the most current and accurate information available. The budget is not just a financial plan; it also has legal implications. The budget process does not end with the adoption of the budget. Instead, the budget is a document that must be monitored and amended from time to time, as needed.

For more information about the budget and the process of putting one together, check out the State Comptroller's publication entitled, "Understanding the Budget Process." This publication can be found here: <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/sites/default/files/local-government/documents/pdf/2019-01/budgetprocess.pdf>.



# Anabaptist Community Information Resources

For many years, the Anabaptist community has been a growing population on Tug Hill, particularly Amish and Mennonite families. Oneida County's Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) has periodically collected and packaged government and other resources, both to share with Anabaptist communities and with local towns and villages. The commission has also sponsored several workshops, both at the annual local government conference and stand-alone sessions, to provide information to improve understanding and communication between local governments and the Anabaptist community.

CCE Oneida County has recently updated several of their informational pieces. Some agricultural resources available for Anabaptists include information on agricultural assessments, farm building exemptions, and details about agricultural districts. Some safety information includes immunization schedules, farm workplace safety and safety for children, and home processing guidance and registration for food products.

Resources available for municipalities includes information on sharing the road with slow-moving vehicles and health department handouts for the community.

This information is available from both CCE Oneida County, (315) 736-3394, or by contacting Alaina Mallette at the Tug Hill Commission, [alaina@tughill.org](mailto:alaina@tughill.org).

## Preservation League Technical Assistance Grants Due October 19

Applications are now available to eligible municipalities and nonprofits for 2020 Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and Preservation League of New York State, with additional support from the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area/Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. Interested applicants should [visit the Preservation League website](#) for grant guidelines and pre-application forms. If interested, you must complete a pre-application to receive the full application form. [Start your pre-application today by clicking here](#). TAG applications are due Monday, October 19, 2020.

## Working from Home? A Checklist from NYS Archives

Here are some key points to keep in mind from a records management point of view:

- ◆ Any records created or received on any device might be a public record. This includes use of personal email accounts to conduct official business.
- ◆ You must maintain, store, and preserve all local government records created or received in the course of official business no matter where you work.
- ◆ When using cloud storage or collaborative platforms (i.e. Office 365 or Google Drive), establish directories and files so that records can be stored safely and efficiently retrieved. Create a logical set of folders, metadata, and file names that help you know where to store and retrieve records.
- ◆ Remember privacy considerations and store records appropriately. Avoid saving records with sensitive information to personal devices and be cognizant of the location of any printed materials.
- ◆ Avoid multiple copies. Be conscious about what you are putting on a personal device or government laptop. Try to avoid creating copies of records in various places that you will need to manage.
- ◆ Purge old files. Go through electronic files and purge the digital ROT (redundant, obsolete, or trivial materials). An important part of records management is getting rid of materials you don't need and that have met their retention requirements.
- ◆ Don't leave public records at home. When you return to work on site, return any hard copy or digital records to your official record-keeping systems.
- ◆ Records not normally considered to have long term value may now have historical or research value.

## 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](mailto:tughill@tughill.org)

Visit us at:

Web: [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission](https://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

To request our newsletter electronically please email [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call

1-888-785-2380.

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