

November 6, 2020

## Tug Hill Sage George Getman Remembered



George Getman receiving the Tug Hill Sage certificate from Commissioner Roger Maciejko in 2015.

Tug Hill lost another Tug Hill Sage with George Getman's passing last month at age 94. George grew up working on family farms in the Highmarket and Turin area, and began a logging contracting business with his wife shortly after they married. He hauled pulp for Gould Paper Company in Lyons Falls for many years, and later worked on the company woodlands for Georgia-Pacific and then Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper Company on Tug Hill and in the Adirondacks. He was one of the first contractors to enter into chip wood harvesting for energy use.

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Besides being designated a Tug Hill Sage in 2015, he was also recognized as the New York Timber Harvester of the Year in 1985 by the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. He served as a board member and treasurer of the New York Timber Producers Association for many years and was a member of the Board of Directors of the New York State Woodsman Field Days, Inc. In 2012, he was named Honorary Grand Parade Marshal at the Woodsman's Field Days.

## EO 202.72 Extends Remote Public Meeting AND Hearing Ability Through December 3, 2020

The entire Executive Order 202.72 is available at [www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20272-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency](http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20272-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency).

## Constable Chronicles Part 3 December 2

The popular Constable Chronicles series continues on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 7 p.m. EST with Marty Murray sharing Constable family stories. More information and a registration link will be available in our next Tug Hill Times. The video from Constable Chronicles Part 2 is now available on the commission's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpCCsvYjrUc&t=13s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpCCsvYjrUc&t=13s)

### Constable Chronicles

Constable Family  
and Everyday Life in the 1800s



# Updated Zoning Board of Appeals Paper Available Next Week

The commission's technical paper on Zoning Boards of Appeals has been updated and will appear soon on at [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org). The paper covers information on roles and duties of ZBAs, including interpretations, area variances, and use variances. Updates include changes to the SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) regulations as they relate to ZBA activities.

## Renewable Energy and Land Use Training Webinar; Section 94-c Draft Regulations Discussed

Attorneys Jim Burrows and Dave Geurtsen delivered a comprehensive training titled **Renewable Energy and Land Use** on Tuesday, October 27, at the town of Watertown municipal building and via Zoom. The powerpoint presentation, handouts (sample decommissioning bond, wind law, and road use agreement), and video can be found on the commission's website at [tughill.org/services/training/](http://tughill.org/services/training/).

Major takeaways from their presentation include:

- An adopted comprehensive plan is key to making your community's vision of the future clear. It is the foundational document for your zoning and other laws. If renewable energy is not explicitly addressed in a zoning law, then private landowners have greater control of renewable energy development on their property.
- Article 10 currently regulates solar and wind projects of 25MW or larger.
- Projects 25MW and greater will be required to use a new process called Section 94-c falling under the purview of the new [Office of Renewable Energy Siting \(ORES\)](#). Draft regulations for 94-c are available with comments due by November 16. Given the Climate Act's goal of 70% renewable energy electric generation by 2030 goal and 100% by 2040, reaching that goal is unlikely via Article 10. This new legislation is intended to make these energy goals possible.
- [Public hearings](#) on Section 94-c draft regulations will be held from November 17 to November 30 – locally in Clayton on November 19.
- Uniform standards and conditions are also out for comment.
- If approved as proposed, projects 25MW or greater will use Section 94-c, and projects currently pending in the Article 10 pipeline may opt into Section 94-c.
- Solar and wind projects under 25MW are currently regulated by the local municipality, but projects between 20 and 25MW can opt into the 94-c process once regulations are approved.
- As proposed, Section 94-c strengthens the power to set aside all local laws as long as municipalities have been provided with notice of the application. The application is not required to comply with local laws that are deemed to be unreasonably burdensome. Municipalities must consult with NYSERDA in determining the annual payments to be required under a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (i.e., a PILOT).
- As proposed, the value of a project will be determined by an income capitalization or discounted cash flow approach through an appraisal model identified and published by the State Department of Taxation and Finance and NYSERDA.
- Also as proposed, Article 7 of the NYS Public Service Law (which addresses transmission lines) is revised with a one-year timeline unless extended by agreement.

## Tug Hill Communities Awarded Federal Funding for Water Infrastructure Investments

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program recently announced awards under the federal water and waste disposal loans and grants program, and Tug Hill communities were able to leverage significant investments. These will help keep costs of meeting clean water and drinking water standards low in these communities, while protecting important drinking water and recreation resources in the region, and contributing to jobs in the area. Funding was awarded as follows:

- The town of Lowville was awarded \$700,000 in grants to repair a failing water treatment facility.
- The town of Constantia was awarded \$3,015,000 in grants to build a wastewater treatment system that will address on-site septic system problems.

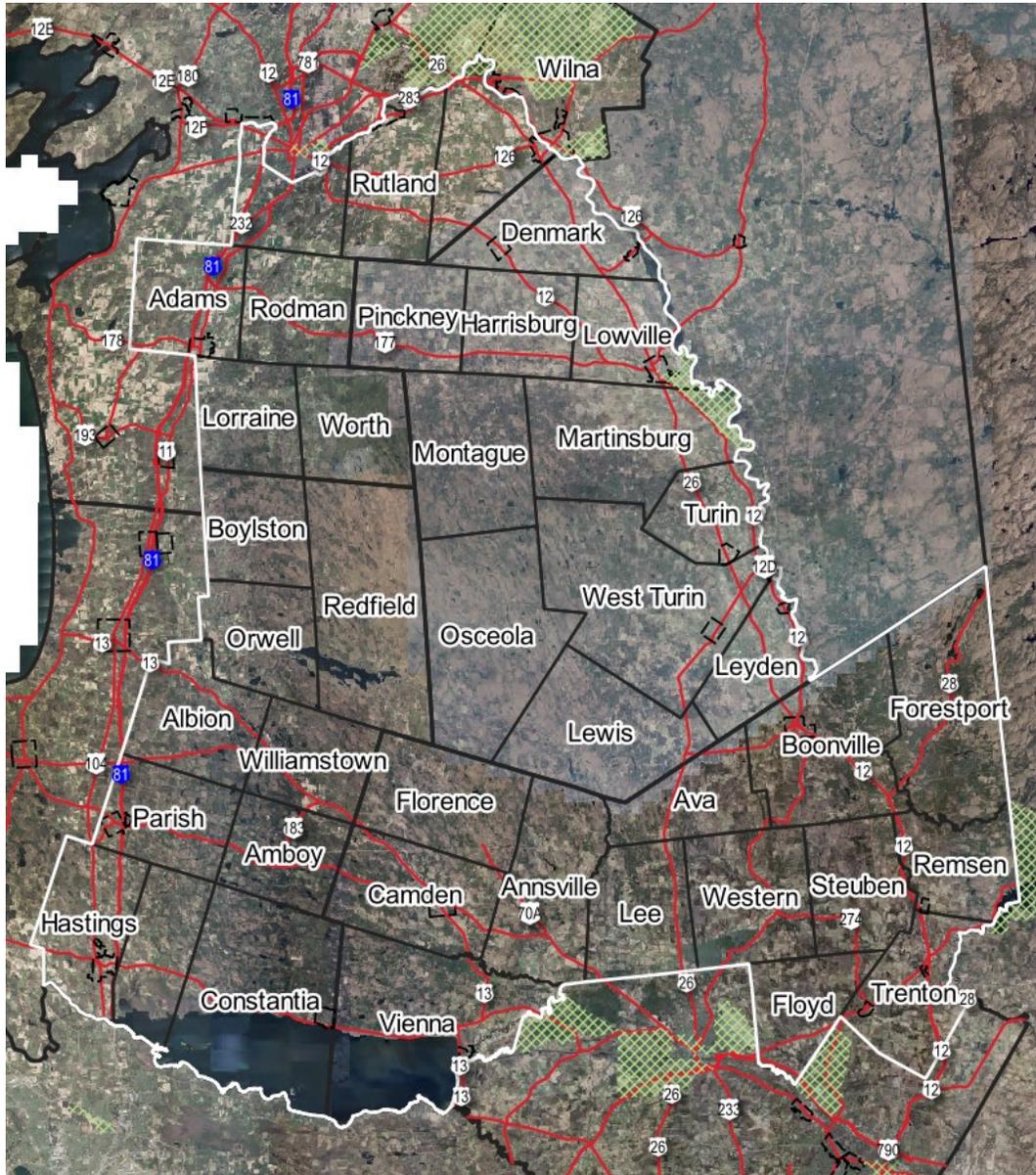
Congratulations to these communities for these grant awards, as well as low interest federal loans, to support these projects. For more information, visit: [www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program).

# Environmental Justice on Tug Hill

The Tug Hill region both contains and abuts census blocks that have been deemed “Potential Environmental Justice Areas” by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), shown in light green hash marks on the map below. Potential environmental justice areas are U.S. Census block groups of 250 to 500 households each that had populations in the Census that met or exceeded at least one of the following statistical thresholds:

1. At least 51.1% of the population in an urban area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
2. At least 33.8% of the population in a rural area reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
3. At least 23.59% of the population in an urban or rural area had household incomes below the federal poverty level.

According to the DEC, these areas fall under Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting. The policy promotes the fair involvement of all people in the DEC environmental permit process. It provides public access to DEC permit information, incorporates



environmental justice concerns into DEC’s permit review process, and pursues technical assistance grants to enable community groups in potential environmental justice areas to participate in the environmental permit review process more effectively.

For more information about environmental justice, Cornell University is hosting a webinar with the New York Sea Grant Program, titled “Environmental Justice Mapping Tools for New York State Communities,” on November 17 at 2:00 p.m. Register and download the guide for this webinar at [www.nyseagrant.org/deiresources](http://www.nyseagrant.org/deiresources). Other useful environmental justice mapping resources can be found on the NYS DEC’s website ([www.dec.ny.gov/public/333.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/333.html)) and the US EPA’s online mapper ([ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/](http://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/)).

# Sample Resolution for Town Board Adoption of Town Budget

As towns move toward concluding their budget process for the forthcoming fiscal year, Town Law Section 109 states that by November 20, “The preliminary budget as submitted or amended shall be finally adopted by resolution of the town board... and it shall be entered in the minutes of the town board.” Should the town board fail to do so by then, “the preliminary budget, with such changes, alterations and revisions, if any, as shall have been made by the town board, shall constitute the budget for the ensuing fiscal year.”

So the budget is adopted *by resolution*, not by simple motion. If you’ve never seen a resolution to adopt a town budget, the following may be useful.

<b>WHEREAS</b>	the town of [town name] has completed its preliminary budget for the fiscal year of 2020, and
<b>WHEREAS</b>	the town has properly advertised and made said preliminary budget available, and
<b>WHEREAS</b>	the town has held a public hearing on the preliminary budget on _____ __, 2020, and
<b>WHEREAS</b>	the town has completed and filed its tax levy limit information with the New York State Comptroller, and
<b>WHEREAS</b>	the town is either in compliance with the applicable tax levy limit, or has properly adopted such a tax levy limit override local law such as may be required, and
<b>WHEREAS</b>	the town board, having made any such necessary and permissible amendments to the preliminary budget subsequent to said public hearing;
<b>THEREFORE</b>	be it declared that the town board of the town of [town name] does hereby adopt the same as the final budget for the fiscal year of 2021.

## What We’re Protecting Webinar, November 19, 1:00-2:00 p.m.



The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO) region (which includes all of Tug Hill!) has an amazing diversity of landforms, land use, ecological communities, plants, and animals. All these different natural and human aspects of our environment have been used to delineate ecoregions throughout the state and these characteristics can tell us a lot about what makes SLELO special.

This webinar will showcase ecological rarities that exist in the SLELO region, an overview of protected plant rankings, and how our work protects our lands and waters from the impacts of invasive species.

Steve Young, Chief Botanist, New York Natural Heritage Program, along with SLELO PRISM staff members will be presenting. For more information, please visit [www.sleloinvasives.org/event/what-were-protecting/](http://www.sleloinvasives.org/event/what-were-protecting/).

# Notice of Final Community Risk and Resiliency Act Guidance

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) announced the release of four documents prepared pursuant to the Community Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRA):

- New York State Flood Risk Management Guidance
- Guidance for Consideration of Flood Risk in Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Assessment
- Using Natural Measures to Reduce the Risk of Flooding and Erosion
- Estimating Guideline Elevations

NYS DEC is releasing these documents in fulfillment of its statutory obligation to develop guidance for implementation of the CRRA and for use of natural resilience measures. NYS DEC intends these documents to serve as nonbinding technical guidance to agencies responsible for implementation of the permit and funding programs specified by the CRRA and to state infrastructure agencies and authorities subject to the Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act.

The documents are available at: [www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/102559.html).

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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](#).

## Jefferson County Economic Development Farmers' Luncheon Webinar Series

# What is the impact of agriculture on climate change?

Featuring "The Greenhouse Gas Guru" Dr. Frank Mitloehner, Professor at the Dept. of Animal Science at U.C. Davis.

Thursday November 19, 2020 at 12pm

Go to [www.agricultureevents.com](http://www.agricultureevents.com) for more information and to register.

Webinar is free and open to the public

