

January 29, 2021

Village of Lowville Joins RACOG

On January 20, 2021 the village of Lowville board approved a request to join the River Area Council of Governments (RACOG). Later that same day, the RACOG board approved their request to join. RACOG is now made up of the following ten communities: the towns of Champion, Denmark, Lowville, Wilna, and villages of Carthage, Castorland, Copenhagen, Deferiet, Lowville, and West Carthage.

www.racog.org



In This Issue

- Lowville Joins RACOG
- Commission Highlighted
- CTHC Meeting Held
- YouTube
- Cyber Security Webinar
- Electric Vehicle Webinar
- Conservation on Tug Hill Part 2 - Farmland Conservation
- Letters from a Tug Hill Logger – Part 2
- COG Meetings
- Bridge NY Program
- FEMA SAFER Grant Program
- Lowville Comprehensive Plan
- RACOG Emergency Management

Tug Hill Commission Highlighted by NYSACC

The NYS Association of Conservation Commission (NYSACC) recently highlighted the Tug Hill Commission on its [website](http://www.nysacc.org). NYSACC's President, Simon Skolnik, reached out to the commission to learn more about our work and approach. Simon noted that county Environmental Management Councils are slowly disappearing in NYS, with only 17 counties (one of which is Oswego) currently with active EM-C's. Additionally, two communities in the Tug Hill region, the [town of Trenton](http://www.townofTrenton.org) and [village of Boonville](http://www.villageofBoonville.org), have Conservation Advisory Commissions/Conservation Boards, which are municipal level (city, village or town) groups that advise their local legislative boards in the development, management, and protection of its natural resources.

CTHC Executive Committee Meeting

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) executive committee met on Thursday January 28 via Zoom. Following reading and approval of the minutes and the financial reports, the committee heard from Matt Johnson, the commission's director of planning. He updated the committee on several matters including updates on the proposed minimum maintenance roads legislation, the commission's newly released Real Property Tax Law 480a paper, and several planning projects underway with the council's towns and villages. The committee also briefly discussed the associate circuit rider contracts and worked on proposed 2021 goals to be presented to the full council for approval. Circuit Rider Angie Kimball reported that the village of Adams had reached out for information on the possibility of joining CTHC. Angie will attend their next meeting to provide more information.

Did you know...YouTube?

You can access all our recorded webinars on the Tug Hill Commission's YouTube channel! Go to www.tughill.org, and click the YouTube

2380 | tughill@tughill.org | Latest News: [Conservation on Tug Hill Webinar Series](#)

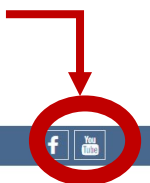


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button at the top right of the page. Recently added videos include Letters from a Tug Hill Logger Part 1, the new NYS Records Retention Schedule, Emergency Management Plan Q&A, Conservation Easements 101, and Culvert Design. All Tug Hill Commission board meetings since April 2020 are also available for viewing.

NEWLY SCHEDULED COMMISSION WEBINARS

Strong Cyber Security Practices in 2021 Webinar February 9

Lisa Atkinson from Zelvin Security will present on the 2021 threat landscape in the cyber security world, including how cyber criminals are attacking public and private organizations. The presentation will explore practical steps you can take to reduce your risk of a cyber-attack, the pillars of a strong cyber security posture, and how to improve your resiliency against hackers-in-wild.

The webinar is available on Tuesday February 9 at the following times:

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OaPUQMGQQU60cmjscO2GKQ

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RFM2Q22sRliryd7IVeyepw

[Zelvin Security](#) is a penetration testing and cyber security consulting company located in Central New York, hired to test defenses and security controls against cyber threats. The team uses some of the same techniques as a hacker-in-wild to simulate an attack and determine the level of sophistication needed to defend against malicious hackers. Industries consulted with include manufacturing firms, financial institutions, healthcare, education, and online retailers.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Webinar February 25

Electric vehicles have gone mainstream and the growing demand for public charging access will significantly impact municipal planning activities. Whether your jurisdiction is considering providing public charging resources for your residents or adding electric vehicles to your fleet, this webinar will discuss the benefits of developing a robust network of charging resources. Highlighting local municipal and commercial projects, PlugIn Stations Online will demonstrate the value of EV charging infrastructure in your community.

On Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., Ron Semp, Director of Commercial Sales for PlugIn Stations Online will present this information, originally slated for the 2020 Local Government Conference. Mr. Semp works directly with stakeholders promoting electrical vehicle charging for commercial, institutional, and municipal end users. He is also responsible for project development which includes site consultation, proposal development, and sales. Register at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Em8FzMtwT-Oo20JIPC_axg.

“NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER” COMMISSION WEBINARS

Conservation on Tug Hill Part 2: Farmland Conservation **Wednesday February 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM Eastern Time**

This is part two of a three-part webinar series from the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust and the NYS Tug Hill Commission about conservation on Tug Hill. The speakers are Linda Garrett from Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Jeff Kehoe from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and Erica Goodman from the American Farmland Trust New York Field Office. In this part, you will learn how towns and farmers can partner with the land trust to protect important farmlands using state and federal grant programs.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bahI7Q_yST-L_aziUOzjjw

Letters from a Tug Hill Logger – Part 2 **Wednesday February 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM Eastern Time**

This is part two of a three-part series narrated by Leona and Peter Chereshnoski, the granddaughter and great-grandson of John Clemens and keepers of his treasured scrapbooks of memories. They will read letters, share stories, show off artifacts and photos and “spin yarns” of Tug Hill logging in its hey-day, all through the eyes of two remarkable personalities, one who wrote the stories and the other that broadcast them over the radio for the masses to hear. In this second session, Leona and Peter will read letters about both hardship and humor, so join us and find out what happens to the snow on Tug Hill at the end of winter.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7FQTt7HgTpmUVADeB7gTDg

COG Associate Circuit Riders Keep Meetings Covered

The commission delivers much of its programs and keeps in touch with communities largely through the region's five Councils of Governments (COGs). Each COG has a full-time commission staff member assigned to coordinate COG activities and member meeting attendance, among many other duties. With growth in COG membership and multiple municipal meetings on certain popular days of the month, contracting with associate circuit riders is key to keeping things running smoothly.

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments is currently contracting with John Healt (Boonville), Lisa Bellinger (Boonville), and Joe Rowlands (Steuben). Long-time associate circuit rider Harlan Moonen retired from his associate circuit rider duties in December after 23 years of service!

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council is currently contracting with Beth Steria (Lowville) and Karleigh Stuckey (Pulaski). Long time associate circuit rider Kay Chapman also retired from her associate circuit rider duties last year after 14 years of service.

The Salmon Rivers and North Shore COGs have been looking for a contract associate circuit rider for the past few months. Vern Sundet (West Monroe) will start attending some meetings on behalf of the COGs in the next few months.

The River Area Council of Governments does not currently have an associate circuit rider. With growth in the COG, it may be something they consider in the future.

BRIDGE NY Program Solicitation

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is soliciting candidate projects for funding under the BRIDGE NY program, which provides enhanced assistance for local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges and culverts. Particular emphasis will be provided for projects that address poor structural conditions; mitigate weight restrictions or detours; facilitate economic development or increase competitiveness; improve resiliency and/or reduce the risk of flooding.

Eligible applicants include any city, county, town, village, or other political subdivision, including tribal governments and public benefit corporations, authorized to receive and administer state and federal transportation funding.



Bridge projects must be on a public roadway that carries vehicular traffic; be eligible for federal aid; and shall follow the federal aid process. Culvert projects must be on a public highway and shall follow the state-aid process. NYSDOT may consider bridge projects that incorporate sensors to monitor structural integrity. Bridges and/or culverts that are on a toll collection facility are excluded from eligibility for BRIDGE NY funds. Multiuse (Pedestrian/Bicycle) and railroad bridges are not eligible for BRIDGE NY funds.

Applications will be accepted January 25, 2021 through May 19, 2021 for culverts, and June 9, 2021 for bridges. Applications and information available at www.dot.ny.gov/bridgeny. Direct inquiries to BRIDGENY@dot.ny.gov for questions. There will be a BridgeNY 2021 Program Application/Program webinar February 16th, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Join this webinar at meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=mf3207dac04a30dd47182aef9f82521ca.

FEMA SAFER Grant Program Application Period Opens February 8

The application period opens February 8 for the fiscal year 2020 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. Hiring activities, recruitment, and retention activities are all eligible under in this program. The application period will close on Friday, March 12.

Start planning your fiscal year 2020 SAFER grant application now by reviewing the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and application guidance materials. These materials were produced specifically to help potential applicants begin to plan their 2020 grant applications ahead of the application period. These documents can be viewed on the SAFER Program website at [FY 2020 SAFER Application Guidance Materials](#).

Lowville Completes First of Two Visioning Workshops for Comprehensive Plan

The town and village of Lowville's comprehensive planning committee hosted a community visioning exercise completely online with the help of the Tug Hill Commission on January 26. This was the commission's first fully virtual visioning workshop, and participants agreed that it was a great opportunity to engage on the issues. In small groups on Zoom, the participants discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the communities, opportunities on the horizon, and potential barriers to actualizing those opportunities.

Many of the themes highlighted in the visioning workshop mirror comments coming out of the community survey, which closes on January 31. You can review the comments made in the visioning workshop via [this link](#). If you were unable to attend the first visioning workshop, you will be able to watch it shortly on the commission's YouTube channel. You can also register for the second visioning workshop, which will be held on February 2, at 10:00 a.m. at [this link](#). Lastly, if you have not yet submitted your survey for the comprehensive plan, please go to [this link](#) to do so.

Thank you to all our community and county partners for your support throughout the comprehensive planning process. If you are interested in getting more involved in the process, here are a few ways for you, your family, and your neighbors to get involved in the comprehensive planning process:

1. Tell your neighbors, friends, and family to fill out their community survey online or in the town or village clerks' offices.
2. Attend the second visioning session to discuss community strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
3. Attend any of the planning committee's monthly working sessions (first Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.) to hear discussions about the comprehensive plan: us02web.zoom.us/j/81419649286 or call (929)205-6099 using meeting ID: 814 1964 9286.
4. Share comments on a comment card in the town or village clerk's office or on the [comprehensive plan website](#).
5. Visit the [comprehensive plan website](https://lowville.racog.org/compplan2021/) (lowville.racog.org/compplan2021/) to stay up to date.
6. To speak with someone directly about the comprehensive planning process, email the town at tolclerk@centralny.twcbc.com, the village at proes@villageoflowville.org, Tug Hill Commission at alaina@tughill.org, and/or Lewis County at kevinbrouillard@lewiscounty.ny.gov.

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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](#).

RACOG Emergency Management Plan Q & A Session

At the RACOG board meeting on January 20, 2021, Joseph Plummer, Jefferson County Emergency Management and Robert Mackenzie, Lewis County Emergency Management attended virtually for a question-and-answer session on the pandemic emergency management plans due by April 1, 2021. The session's recording can be accessed at youtu.be/Jn9sL_3wxYM.