

March 26, 2021

Tug Hill Community Recognition Award Nominations Open April 1

The Tug Hill Commission is starting a new recognition program to honor a Tug Hill community, council of government, or community group at the commission's 2021 annual dinner, scheduled for October 14, 2021 at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. A full program description and detailed list of criteria are available on the [commission website](http://www.tughill.org), but overall the award is looking for local governments or groups that have gone above and beyond to implement a project that has made a real impact in their area. A selection committee made up of council of government and commission representatives will review applications and decide on award winners.

Nominations are due by June 1, and should be emailed to Katie Malinowski, katie@tughill.org.

Tug Hill Commission Meeting April 19, Central Square

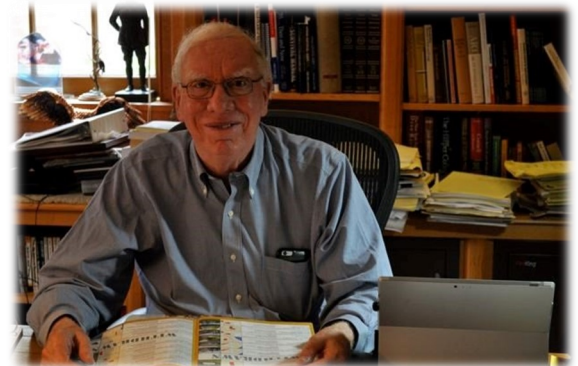
The board of the Tug Hill Commission will meet next on Monday, April 19, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Village of Central Square Municipal Building, 3125 East Avenue, Central Square, NY 13036. In-person meeting attendance will be limited so COVID-19 safety precautions can be followed. If you are interested in attending in person, please contact Gwen Decker at gwen@tughill.org ahead of time. The public is also welcome to join remotely at us02web.zoom.us/j/88426390017 or by calling 929-205-6099, meeting ID 884 2639 0017.

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Ambassador Barclay Passes Away at 88

H. Douglas Barclay, former ambassador to El Salvador, New York State Senator for two decades, and with family roots in Oswego County since the early 1800s, passed away on March 14. His accomplishments were many, including sponsoring legislation for the Urban Development Corporation (now Empire State Development) and the formation of the Temporary State Commission on Tug Hill (now the NYS Tug Hill Commission). In *Tug Hill: Shaping the Future of the Region*, written by Norah Machia, former commission executive director Ben Coe is quoted as saying "Senator Barclay realized that in order for the commission to work, it had to be a non-partisan organization. That was one key to our success." The book quotes Barclay as saying "the goal of the legislation creating the Tug Hill Commission, however, was "to draw together local governments and give them the expertise to create their own land use plans. It was needed, and it's done great things."



Ambassador Barclay was highlighted as a "Venerable Folk of Tug Hill" in 2016 and remained in touch with the commission after his retirement, frequently attending the annual anniversary dinners. This photo of him, at his home in July 2016, was taken during interviews for the Venerable Folks project.

Organizing Your Own “Hybrid” Meeting

Staff has been fielding questions from towns and villages interested in setting themselves up for remote meeting access even after the current crisis is over. While staff has been happy to assist in Zoom meeting logistics while unable to attend in-person due to COVID restrictions, moving forward there will be limitations on staff ability to sustain the current level of remote meeting support.

Here are some considerations as communities look at making investments in technology:

1. **Video display.** How will remote participants be visible/audible at the in-person meeting? A smart TV or screen/projector system allows the remote participants to be viewed by the in-person meeting attendees.
2. **Camera.** The in-person meeting will need to be captured with a camera either built-in or connected to a laptop, tablet or smartphone. Most of these devices will also have a microphone built in, to capture the audio in the meeting.
3. **Microphone.** One of the biggest complaints of remote participants is not being able to hear what is being said by the in-person attendees. A multi-directional microphone can significantly improve the ability of remote participants to hear.
4. **Speakerphone.** If your remote participants are joining only via the phone, a speakerphone would be good to consider, as it can help them be heard in the room, and help the in-person attendees be heard remotely.
5. **Miscellaneous.** Depending on the setup, cords to connect various devices will be needed. Bluetooth options can reduce the number of wires needed.
6. **Remote meeting platform.** A subscription to a remote meeting platform such as Zoom is required to support video, if meetings will take longer than a certain period of time, or if recording, streaming, or transcribing is required. A Zoom pro license currently costs \$150/year. Other options are available as well.
7. **Conference call number.** If remote participants will join only via audio, a conference call number could be an option.
8. **Internet.** The use of anything except for a conference call number with a speaker phone will require good internet and wifi at the location.

Please reach out to your circuit rider or any Tug Hill Commission staff member if you would like to discuss further.

Ag and Markets Grants Support Conservation in the Black River Watershed

The NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets recently announced Round 26 of their Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control grant program. Three projects in the Black River watershed were funded for a total of \$964,069, to construct waste storage, treat farm waste, and reduce nutrient loading to the Black River and its important source waters. Project details are as follows, congratulations to our partner Conservation Districts!

- \$209,700 was awarded to the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District to work with a farm in the Black River Watershed to construct a satellite manure waste storage, which will better accommodate the number of animals on the farm, contribute towards meeting the goals of the District AEM Strategic Plan and Black River 9E Plan, and enable the farm to spread manure more sustainably during dry weather.
- \$250,950 was awarded to the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District to work with a farm in the Black River Watershed to treat the farm’s milking center waste by redirecting the flow and incorporating it into the sustainable manure spreading plan and construct a concrete livestock heavy use area to store heifers and dry cows during summer months.
- \$503,419 was awarded to the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District to work with a farm in the Black River Watershed to address resource concerns from silage leachate entering a roadside ditch near the bunk silos on the farm and construct a concrete manure storage facility that will accept wastewater and provide additional manure storage for the farm.



Local Regulation: Enactment Procedure

Thursday April 15, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

This session, by Chris Eastman and Patricia Burke of the New York State Department of State, addresses the process a municipality must go through in order to adopt a resolution, ordinance or local law, as well as the merits of using each procedure. Topics will include notice provisions and posting; aging of legislation prior to action; required hearings; and required referrals. Compliance with SEQRA and post-adoption procedures will round out the discussion.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Mcmcho1_Qg2bf8-mYNibBQ

Five Steps to Jump Start Your Cybersecurity Program

Tuesday April 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time



The risks are real, so why is it so challenging for small to medium-sized organizations to get a cybersecurity program off the ground? In this session, Steven Gravel, Cybersecurity Support Liaison at the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, will explore a few of the cyber risks faced by the local government, healthcare and education sectors. He'll also tackle some of the roadblocks organizations can encounter when trying to make headway in mitigating these risks, and how to get around them. While cybersecurity can be complex and technical, this webinar will stay (mostly) out of the weeds, instead focusing on strategy and guiding principles.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1A2PXJB4R3O57DBHzgTUTA

Open Government Issues in Planning and Zoning Decisions

Thursday April 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

"Open Government" is widely accepted as a desirable goal, but there are complexities and intricacies in implementing its principles. This session, by attorney Mark Schachner, focuses on planning and zoning decision-making at public meetings, communications outside of public meetings, site inspections and "FOIL-ability" of various planning and zoning documents. Other topics to be discussed include quorum considerations and refusal; informal gatherings with quorum present; executive sessions; and attorney/client privileged communications and discussions. There will be time for questions and answers.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Wu1Ba5j0RYqHTYV8dEHdUA



EO 202.97 Extends Remote Public Meetings Through April 16, 2021

According to the [Committee on Open Government](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20297-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency), Executive Order 202.97 extends suspension of the in-person meeting requirement of open meetings law through April 16. The entire executive order is available at www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20297-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency.

Three Mile Bay WMA Meeting March 29

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation is holding a virtual information session about the recently completed habitat management plan for Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the towns of West Monroe and Constantia on Monday, March 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The 3,908-acre Three Mile Bay WMA is adjacent to Three Mile Bay on Oneida Lake's north shore. The WMA was originally established to develop high-quality waterfowl habitat for conservation and wildlife-associated recreation. The property is designated as a Bird Conservation Area and waterfowl are abundant, especially during spring migration. Several threatened and special concern species are known to breed in the WMA.

Management activities at the site are consistent with the Young Forest Initiative and include active forest management and improvements to grasslands and wetlands to encourage use by an even greater diversity of wildlife while enhancing public access. The full Three Mile Bay habitat management plan with specific goals is available on DEC's website, along with the link to join the virtual information session and view the recording.

More information is available at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/70681.html.



View of Oneida Lake from Three Mile Bay WMA.

CDBG Cares Act Funding Available; Webinar March 29

NYS Homes & Community Renewal (HCR) has announced the opening of the NYS Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)-CV CARES Act application for eligible projects. CDBG CARES Act Application materials are available now: hcr.ny.gov/community-development-block-grant#cdbg-cares-funding.

CDBG Eligible Applicants include non-entitlement villages, towns, cities or counties throughout New York State, and all metropolitan cities and urban counties that are HUD designated Entitlement communities. HCR will make \$60 million available with no less than \$30 million to be awarded to non-entitlement communities. Additional funds may be made available in a subsequent funding round.

CDBG-CV General Activity Areas

- **Supporting Small Business** (i.e. point of sale improvements, new equipment or fixtures to guide social distancing, working capital to resume operations, etc.)
- **Improving Air Quality in Public Facilities** (i.e. assist municipal public facilities, nursing homes, supportive and public housing developments and other critical institutions with reconfiguration and physical adjustments to comply with social distancing, reduced occupancy and other requirements)
- **Environmental Improvements in Housing for Safe Shelter** (i.e. lead remediation, rental and single-family homeowner repairs, reconfiguration of communal spaces, down payment assistance to increase homeownership and reduce density in housing, etc.)
- **Conversion of Underutilized Buildings for Affordable Housing** (i.e. conversion of vacant and abandoned residential and commercial properties for housing and to better respond to COVID-19.)
- **Public Services** (i.e. vaccine outreach and awareness, support for mental health services, wi-fi connectivity for underserved communities)

Applications will be accepted on an open round basis with rolling awards until Friday, August 27, 2021 or until funding has been exhausted. OCR program staff will conduct an application webinar presentation on Monday, March 29, 2021 at 10 a.m. to provide instructions and guidance for preparing successful CDBG CV CARES Act applications. The session will cover program updates, requirements and tips for successful applications. Staff will conduct a Q&A session following the presentation. Follow the link below to register.

[Click here to register now](#)

Lowville Community Survey and Visioning Workshops Reports Complete

Between December 2020 and February 2021, the town and village of Lowville's comprehensive planning committee launched two public participation opportunities: a community-wide survey and two visioning workshops with the public and community leaders. Postcards were sent to approximately 2,000 homeowners in Lowville with information about the community survey, including the link to the comprehensive plan website and who to contact to request a paper copy of the survey. Just under 200 survey responses were recorded. Participants were asked about their community characteristics (i.e., services, growth, and development) and their current employment. Thirty-six respondents identified as business owners and were able to complete a business owner survey.

The town and village of Lowville's comprehensive planning committee hosted two one-hour visioning workshops for the community. In these workshops, the Tug Hill Commission facilitated discussions around strengths and weaknesses of the communities, opportunities to improve the communities, and barriers to those opportunities. You can see the final reports for both the survey results and the visioning workshop feedback on Lowville's comprehensive planning website: lowville.racog.org/compplan2021/.

The Lowville Comprehensive Planning Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. You can attend virtually with this URL: us02web.zoom.us/j/81419649286. The April 7 meeting will be an issue discussion on natural resources and recreation in Lowville. If you would like more information on Lowville's comprehensive planning process, contact Alaina at the Tug Hill Commission, alaina@tughill.org.

Contact Us

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1-888-785-2380.

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

Virtual FOIL Training April 15

The [Committee on Open Government](#) is offering a virtual training on NYS's Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) on Thursday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Kristin O'Neill, Assistant Director of the Committee on Open Government, will present. The program will consist of a one-hour overview of the statute, followed by 30 minutes of a question-and-answer period. Pre-registration is required, however, all registrations, up to 500 participants, will be automatically approved. If you have questions that you believe would be of general interest, please submit them to Ms. O'Neill via e-mail: kristin.oneill@dos.ny.gov.

Click [here](#) to register for this training session. Once you are approved by the host, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the session.

Planning Drinking Water and Wastewater Projects Webinar April 5

The Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center is holding a free webinar on Monday, April 5 at 1:00 p.m. for municipal leaders to learn more about how to plan a successful drinking water or wastewater project. Representatives from USDA Rural Development, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation, Health, Homes & Community Renewal, and State will present. The focus will be on the planning process for water infrastructure projects, the Intended Use Plan, and available engineering planning grants.

Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/541414232736905486>.

