

Tug Hill Community Recognition Program

Background

The NYS Tug Hill Commission (commission) holds an annual meeting and dinner to network with leaders across Tug Hill and beyond, which provides an opportunity to share what the commission has accomplished. Occasionally and since 1983, the commission designates new Tug Hill Sages at this annual meeting. The commissioners have honored a number of worthy candidates, each with their own special contribution that they have brought to the region. However, starting at the 2021 annual meeting, the commission will begin a new recognition program to honor a Tug Hill community based on what they have accomplished.

Selection Process and Timeline

The nomination window will start April 1, 2021 and end June 1, 2021. The region's five councils of governments, individuals, businesses, agencies, and organization are welcome to make nominations. Nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee of seven individuals:

- The executive director, NYS Tug Hill Commission
- One commission board member selected by the commissioners, NYS Tug Hill Commission
- One representative from each of the five council of government

The selection committee will choose the application that best fits the eligibility and criteria for the category of that particular year. The community recognition award recipient will be announced at the annual NYS Tug Hill Commission dinner. The recipient will receive a plaque and letter from the commission. In the case that there are honorable mentions, they will receive a letter of congratulations.

Annual Award Program Guidelines

Eligibility and Criteria

Eligible nominees are towns, villages, councils of governments, and community groups within the Tug Hill region. Any individual, business, agency, council of government, organization, or jurisdiction may submit one or more nominations.

General Criteria for all Nominations and Categories

- Built local capacity through training program(s).
- Promoted or implemented actions, projects, programs, plans, and/or laws in partnership with other organizations, institutions, or jurisdictions.
- There was overwhelming community support and positive feedback from the actions, projects, programs, plans, and/or laws.
- The actions, projects, programs, plans, and/or laws can be replicated in other municipalities on Tug Hill and/or in NYS i.e. it is transferable.
- Promoted or implemented programs for natural resources conservation, protection, preservation, and/or sustainable development, such as water conservation, stormwater management, and tree planting.
- General involvement in natural resources projects.
- Outstanding recycling and waste reduction efforts.
- Created, updated, passed, or enforced an open space plan.

- Created, updated, passed, or enforced a local waterfront revitalization program or wetlands conservation program.
- Created, updated, passed, or enforced a comprehensive outdoor recreation improvement plan.
- Created, amended, passed or enforced local laws related to forces that are driving land use change (e.g. residential development, renewable energy development, etc.).
- Updated a long-term, strategic comprehensive plan.
- Wrote or amended a zoning law.
- Improved shared governmental and social services (e.g. planning committees, fire department and/or ambulance resources, highway resources, etc.).
- Developed a program for leadership succession.
- Wrote and adopted a complete street policy.
- Implemented a Smart Growth strategy into a policy or local law.
- Wrote, administered, or finished a grant project with funding from outside the community that promotes mixed-use development plans, design guidelines, outreach and education efforts, and other similar efforts.
- Created or updated an agricultural protection plan.
- Developed a cultural or social resource that accommodates a growing senior population, which would include housing, services, transportation and recreation.
- Made improvements to cell and broadband coverage.
- Made improvements and/or extended coverage to water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Made improvements and/or extended coverage to utilities, roads, and other infrastructure.
- Made improvements to a recreational asset which will increase tourism in the area.

All nominated communities should be implementing or will have implemented innovative and creative actions, projects, programs, plans, and laws *over the past five years* in one of these categories.

Category 1: Community Group Efforts

A community group, for the purposes of this award, are any community organizations unaffiliated with local government.

Category 2: Governmental Efforts

Governmental efforts refers to towns, villages or council of governments within the Tug Hill region as well as any town or village affiliated with a council of government within the Tug Hill region.

How to Make a Nomination

Nominations can be towns, villages, councils of governments, and community groups within the Tug Hill region. Any individual, business, agency, council of government, organization, or jurisdiction may submit one or more nominations.

Nominations should include (1) a cover page, (2) a one page description, and (3) two supporting items – see details below.

The cover page should include:

1. Name of nominated community.
2. Contact person, address, telephone number and email in nominated community.
3. Name of partnering agencies that the nominator would like mentioned on the award.

4. Contact person, address, telephone number and email for each partnering agency.

The one-page description should include:

1. Name of the nominated community.
2. Description of the nomination with a brief background on the community's work.
3. Evidence of having met the criteria as well as positive reception from the community (see the list of supporting items below).
4. Explanation of how and to what extent this project has been implemented.
5. Description of how the nomination meets at least two of the criteria listed under the "Eligibility and Criteria" section.

You should also include at least two supporting items:

1. Images of a project.
2. A report, study or other background.
3. A letter of support from an elected official, member of the community, or program participant.

Contact us if you have other supporting information that could be relevant to the nomination and selection process.

Please send nominations by email to:

Katie Malinowski, (315)785-2380, katie@tughill.org

Nomination Form

Nominations can be towns, villages, councils of governments and community groups within the Tug Hill region. Any individual, business, agency, council of government, organization, or jurisdiction may submit a nomination. All nominated communities should be implementing innovative and creative actions, projects, programs, plans, and laws in accordance to the award criteria.

There are two ways you can complete a nomination form:

1. Complete the nomination form online at: [GOOGLE FORM LINK](#).
2. Complete the information below and return your nomination to the NYS Tug Hill Commission, Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY, 13601

Deadline to nominate: June 1, 2021.

Name of Community/ "Nominee": _____

Nominee's address: _____

Nominee's phone number: _____

Nominee's e-mail address: _____

Please explain in detail why you think this community deserves special recognition based on the eligibility and criteria listed in the Annual Award Program Guidelines. Use additional paper if needed. Stories, reports, letters, and pictures from the community are welcome.

Please provide your name, address and telephone number (or e-mail address) so that we may be able to contact you if we have questions about your nomination. We cannot accept anonymous nominations. Thank you.

Nomination submitted by: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

If you would like to make more than one nomination, please use additional copies of this form. Any questions please contact Katie Malinowski by phone, (315)785-2380, or by email, katie@tughill.org.