

May 21, 2021

Last Chance: Award Nominations Due June 1

Do you know of a local government or local group that has gone above and beyond to complete an impactful project? Did the project build local capacity and promote partnerships? Can the project serve as a model to others, and was it well supported by the community? If the answers are yes, please review the full program description and detailed list of criteria at tughill.org/about/tug-hill-community-recognition-award/.

Nominations are due by June 1, and should be emailed to Katie Malinowski, katie@tughill.org. Please contact the office at (315) 785-2380 with any questions.

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Information on Do-It-Yourself Remote Meetings

Commission staff have prepared a brief document to help guide municipalities on how to host their own remote meetings. As more people become vaccinated and local COVID infection rates are dropping, many communities are holding in-person meetings but want to still allow for remote attendance. Remote options have allowed for broader public participation and more convenient attendance by experts (attorneys, engineers, etc.). However, demands on commission staff to attend meetings in-person and pick up on projects that were set aside during COVID is increasing and putting a strain on staff resources. **Starting July 1, we will be scaling back our hosting of remote meetings and working with our communities to find a balance that meets everyone's needs as much as possible.**

Read [here](#) for more information on ways to set up your own remote meetings, and please do not hesitate to ask staff for assistance as we navigate the new normal!

Next Commission Meeting June 21, Forestport

The commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 10 a.m. at the Forestport Town Hall, 10275 NY-28, Forestport, NY 13338. Zoom access information is us02web.zoom.us/j/82669688230, or dial 929-205-6099, meeting ID 82669688230.

Town of Parish Updates Zoning Law

The Parish Town Board voted recently to adopt revisions to its zoning law and map. The new law, which includes updated standards for solar energy facilities, is the result of a major effort undertaken by the Town and Village Planning Board. The new law will be posted on the Parish website in the near future - www.townofparish-ny.us. Please contact the commission if your community is in need of zoning help.

EO 202.107 Extends Remote Public Meetings Through June 9, 2021

According to the [Committee on Open Government](#), Executive Order 202.107 extends suspension of the in-person meeting requirement of open meetings law through June 9. The entire executive order is available at www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-202107-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency.

UPCOMING COMMISSION WEBINARS

Comprehensive Planning

Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

This session will highlight the ins and outs of creating a comprehensive plan for your community. What is a 'comp plan'? Why do one? How do you do it? How do you use it when it is done? These questions and others will be answered as we detail the process of planning for your community's future.

Matt Johnson is the Planning Director for the Tug Hill Commission and has over 25 years' experience working with small rural communities in the Tug Hill region on a wide variety of planning and land use issues. Matt assists communities with comprehensive plans, zoning laws, subdivision laws, and GIS projects. He received his bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in 1993 and a master's degree from Boston Architectural College in 2018.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sbRY-GRDRnyoqBkdBy3-1Q

The New Cannabis Law: Considerations for Towns and Villages

Tuesday June 1, 2021 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time

The Marihuana Regulation and Taxation Act of 2021 created a new "Cannabis" section of NYS law. Several of its provisions affect town and village governments, including licensing and taxation, and there are many questions regarding what can be regulated locally and the timing and process for local regulations. Questions about what this means for employers and their employees will also be addressed. Please join the Tug Hill Commission for a live webinar on **Tuesday, June 1, 2021 from noon to 1:00 p.m.** featuring Wade Beltramo, General Counsel for the NY Conference of Mayors, and Sarah Brancatella, Counsel and Legislative Director for the Association of Towns of NYS, about the new cannabis law. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QiR6XWS0SXGV0rlwjU16Uw

The Underground Railroad: Routes Through the North Country

Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

The North Country Underground Historical Association has a wealth of knowledge about routes taken through the North Country to freedom in the 19th and 20th centuries. Jackie Madison will discuss these, the reality and laws that consequently created them, and the people who both made it and used it to find freedom.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4G3FP-cySPKFV2ebQpvUpq

Committee on Open Government Offering Virtual Trainings

Open Meetings Law, Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Kristin O'Neill, Assistant Director of the Committee on Open Government, will present an overview of the statute, followed by questions and answers. Register [here](#).

Freedom of Information Law, Thursday, June 10, 2021 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Kristin O'Neill will present an overview of the statute, followed by questions and answers. Register [here](#).

Pre-registration is required for both sessions, however, all registrations, up to 500 participants, will be automatically approved. Once the host approves your registration, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the session. 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.

BLACK RIVER WATERSHED WEDNESDAY WEBINARS

The series continues! Join us for the third and fourth presentations in this series. For full event information, visit tughill.org/black-river-watershed-wednesdays-2021/.

Ice and Snow Best Practices: Communication and Consensus, Wed. May 26, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Ice and snow removal must balance cost, public safety and environmental considerations. Having a clear consensus on the expected level of service allows everyone a basis to communicate. Tim Hunt, Highway Superintendent at the Lewis County Highway Department, has extensive experience in local government and has served in various leadership roles throughout NY. He has presented at the Cornell Local Roads programs highway school on procurement issues and currently teaches a budgeting class for Cornell Local Roads entitled "Dollars and Sense of Municipal Budgeting."

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G3lcl-rXQy6TzAlf8GcN2A

Weather Resilience, Wed. June 2, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

In the northeast, extreme weather events such as floods, heat waves, changing precipitation patterns and storms are increasing in frequency and severity. The ability of local communities to cope with the immediate impact and recover from the aftermath is critical. Mary Austerman, New York Sea Grant and Khristopher Dodson, Environmental Finance Center, will review tools, funding programs, and real-world community experiences.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2GmeMDqmQ4mA1-Ox9LQFeQ



USDA Rural Development Update for Engineers and Fiscal Advisors

Learn about USDA Rural Development updates for your drinking water or wastewater project. In this no-cost webinar, the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center will focus on USDA Rural Development application and technical updates for water and wastewater projects that serve populations of 10,000 or less. Attendees will learn how to submit stronger applications to the USDA RD Water & Wastewater Loan & Grant Program.

Presenters: Representatives from USDA Rural Development

[Register Here for June 3rd Webinar.](#)

Regenerate NY Cost-Share Grants Available for Forest Landowners

Do you own between 10 and 1,000 acres of forest land and have interest in improving your woods? DEC's Regenerate NY program provides cost-share grants to New York landowners looking to enhance forest regeneration on their property. DEC encourages landowners who want to plant trees, control competing vegetation, restore a degraded forest stand, or exclude deer, to apply for project funding. Interested landowners can apply until October 8 or until funds run out. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. To find out more about getting funding for your forest, [please visit DEC's website.](#)

Applicants will need to apply through Grants Gateway. DEC will be hosting a Grants Gateway training webinar on **Friday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.** to assist applicants in navigating the grant process. Private landowners are encouraged to team up with a cooperating forester who may provide application support. [Check out the Regenerate NY webpage on DEC's website for more information.](#)

ANNOUNCING THE L A U N C H OF THE TUG HILL COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS S U R V E Y

*Are residents moving out of your community?
Do boards and community groups have difficulty finding volunteers?
Do you feel connected to other people in your community and Tug Hill?*

Members of communities are most productive when they feel connected to others and when everyone feels invested in the welfare of the region and its residents. The findings from this survey can potentially benefit our community members by identifying any gaps that need to be addressed so that no one experiences isolation or alienation, but rather a strong sense of belonging. Please take 10 minutes to fill out a Tug Hill regionwide survey developed by the Tug Hill Commission, members of a regional task force, and the University at Albany, SUNY. The findings will be shared publicly and used to inform efforts to improve how residents, homeowners, and visitors feel about the community.



SCAN ME

If you prefer to fill out a paper survey, you can pick up copies and envelopes at any of these locations:

- town of Watertown municipal office, 22867 County Rte 67, Watertown
- town of Redfield municipal office, 4830 County Rte 17, Redfield
- town of Trenton municipal office, 8520 Old Poland Rd, Barneveld
- village of Lowville municipal office, 5535 Bostwick St, Lowville

**Drop off paper surveys in
designated drop boxes at these
locations, mail in, or go to:**
<https://tinyurl.com/tughillcommunity>

Each respondent, if they choose, will have the chance to win a \$50 gift card to one of two Tug Hill restaurants. A lucky winner from Jefferson or Lewis counties will receive a gift card to Tug Hill Vineyards while the winner from Oswego or Oneida counties will receive a gift card to the Tailwater Lodge Restaurant.



NYS Tug Hill Commission
Dulles State Office Building
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601-3782

*Responses are anonymous. If you have any questions about the survey,
reach out to Katie Malinowski, katie@tughill.org or 315-785-2380.*

2021 Consolidated Funding Application Open; Applications Due July 30

The 2021 Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) list of available resources is now available [here](#). The Consolidated Funding Application is also [available](#). In-person workshops are not being held this year; instead, all [webinars](#) are pre-recorded and viewable at any time.

Grant opportunities of interest to Tug Hill communities include:

New York Main Street Program: Up to \$6.2 million to invest in projects that provide economic development and housing opportunities in downtown, mixed-use commercial districts.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP): Up to \$1.9 million to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses.

Environmental Protection Fund Grants Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage (EPF): Up to \$19.5 million is available for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas.

Local Government Efficiency Program: Up to \$4 million to reduce the cost of operations and service delivery, thereby limiting growth in property taxes.

Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning Program: Up to \$1 million to advance the preparation of municipal comprehensive plans to establish land use policies which support smart growth and clean energy principles for the community.

Climate Smart Communities Grant Program: Up to \$11 million for municipalities to perform inventories, assessments, and planning projects that advance their ability to address climate change at the local level and become certified Climate Smart Communities.

Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program: Up to \$65 million for local governments and not-for-profits to implement projects that directly address documented water quality impairments or protect a drinking water source.

DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant Program: Up to \$2.5 million to municipalities to help pay for the initial planning of eligible Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) water quality projects.

Green Innovation Grant Program: \$15 million for projects that improve water quality and implement green infrastructure in New York State.

Contact Us

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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](#).