

June 4, 2021

Tug Hill Community Survey: Respond by June 18

Research shows that communities are at their best when residents feel connected to each other and feel invested in each other's welfare. The Tug Hill Commission, a regional task force, and the University of Albany invite Tug Hill residents, homeowners and visitors to complete a short survey at tinyurl.com/tughillcommunity. The findings from this survey can benefit our community members by identifying any gaps that prevent a strong sense of belonging. The findings will be shared publicly and will inform efforts to improve how residents, homeowners and visitors feel about the community.



ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF THE TUG HILL COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS SURVEY

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?

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, 4820 Old Poland Rd, Bancroft
- 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: tinyurl.com/tughillcommunity

Paper copies are available at many municipal offices and by calling the commission's office at 315-785-2380. Drop boxes for paper surveys are located at the Lowville Redfield,

Trenton, and Watertown town halls. Thank you for your time!

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Tug Hill Commission Meeting June 21, Forestport

The commission's next meeting will be held Monday, June 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Forestport Town Hall, 10275 NY-28, Forestport, NY 13338. In-person meeting attendance will be limited per COVID-19 safety precautions. Please contact Gwen Decker at gwen@tughill.org for in-person RSVP. Zoom access information is us02web.zoom.us/j/82669688230 or dial 929-205-6099, meeting ID 826 6968 8230.

EO 202.109 Extends Remote Public Meetings Through June 24, 2021

According to the [Committee on Open Government](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-202109-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency), Executive Order 202.109 extends suspension of the in-person meeting requirement of open meetings law through June 24. The entire executive order is available at www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-202109-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency.

UPCOMING COMMISSION WEBINARS

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 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

Technical Solutions and Things to Consider for Broadband Expansion

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time

David Wolf, Development Authority of the North Country, will discuss technological options and solutions in broadband expansion efforts.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uSJ4hQmbRoq7ww1GWRb15Q

A Well-Perfected Organization: The Underground Railroad in Oneida County, NY

Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

The panelists, including Judith Wellman, Historian, and Jan DeAmicis, Mary Hayes Gordon, Deirdre Sinnott, all members, Oneida County Freedom Trail Commission, will provide an overview of their current survey of UGRR sites, abolition, and life in Oneida County while tying in their current work to answer key questions in their research: Did the UGRR have tunnels? Was the UGRR a secret movement? Did everyone who left slavery on the UGRR go to Canada? Did only people of European descent keep stations on the UGRR? Did only men travel and work on the UGRR? The panelists will also highlight important women on the UGRR.

To register: us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9zILHGAqSxu5W-KoE1ubZQ

BLACK RIVER WATERSHED WEDNESDAY

SWCD Municipal Assistance Programming – Presentation and Panel Discussion

Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) will discuss County SWCD municipal assistance programs including stormwater pollution prevention, green infrastructure, North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAAC), stream corridor and floodplain management, forestry management and more. Brian will also discuss how SWCDs and municipalities can cooperate and coordinate programs through Intermunicipal Agreements (IMAs).

[Register here.](#)



Hamilton and Herkimer County Conservation Initiatives in the Black River Watershed

Wednesday June 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Jaime Parslow, District Technician, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, will present an overview of green the infrastructure project in Inlet's Arrowhead Park and an update to the county's lake monitoring project. Also, Katherine Whitcomb and Robert Tilbe of the Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District will present Streambank Stabilization – Stake Your Bank, an overview of a partnered project with the Herkimer County BOCES Conservation Class, Herkimer County Highway Department, and the Herkimer County Soil & Water Conservation District. This project utilizes streamco willow stakes as part of a larger streambank stabilization project.

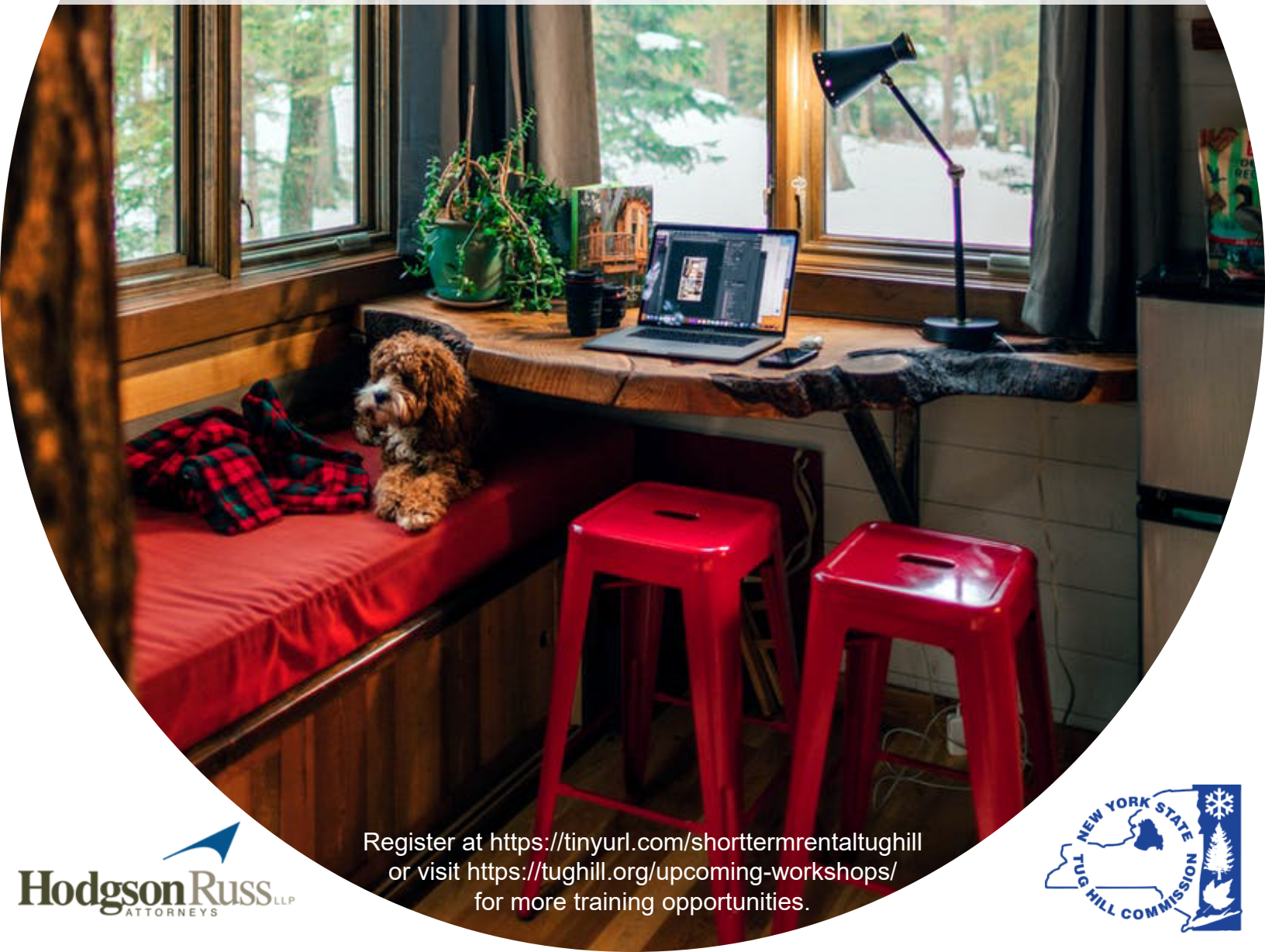
[Register here.](#)

Announcing a new webinar opportunity

Regulating Short-term Rentals

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm EST

The advent of the share economy and its concomitant innovation has presented numerous regulatory challenges for all levels of government. Legislation and regulation typically lag far behind technological and societal development, often resulting in reactionary policies to address new challenges and opportunities. Short-term rentals are a prime example. We have seen the explosion in popularity of individual homeowners or investors utilizing popular websites to rent out rooms, single-family homes, and apartment units for short periods of time, often resulting in significant income to the property owners. This change often results in impacts to neighboring property owners and the community at large. Many local codes have not kept pace with these developments. Charles Malcomb and Alicia Legland, both of Hodgson Russ, LLP, will discuss these short-term rentals, the efforts to regulate them, case law interpreting such efforts, and tips on fashioning regulation.



Lewis County, SUNY ESF, and Commission Complete GHG Inventory Collaboration

Starting in March 2021, the commission partnered with Lewis County Planning to undergo a greenhouse gas inventory with the technical support of Dr. Joshua Cousins and students in his class titled "Environmental and Energy Auditing" within the Department of Environmental Studies at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The greenhouse gas inventory was a part of larger efforts of the Lewis County Climate Smart Communities Task Force, led by Kevin Brouillard. Lewis County is setting an example for other counties by working towards becoming a Climate Smart community as soon as 2021.

The students presented the findings of their analyses via Zoom on May 7, 2021, available online [here](#). A major finding of the greenhouse gas inventory is that a hefty portion of emissions are offset by the county's solar energy system. This study is an important part of Lewis County's Climate Smart Communities Certification process, which could open the door to new funding opportunities in the county. You can learn more about Climate Smart Communities programming and action items at climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/. If you have any questions about the greenhouse gas inventory, please reach out to Alaina, alaina@tughill.org.

NYS DEC Environmental Justice Community Impact Grant Program

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Office of Environmental Justice provides funding through the Environmental Justice Community Impact Grant program to not-for-profit community-based organizations for projects that address communities' exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.

Eligibility: Not-for-profit community organizations with a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply. Not-for-profit community-based organizations may partner with a not-for-profit corporation that will serve as their fiscal sponsor. Projects must serve an environmental justice community, as defined in DEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting.

Funding: Approximately \$4,120,588 is available. Applicants will be awarded between \$50,000 and \$100,000 each until funding has been exhausted. Funding from this grant opportunity is provided from the state Environmental Protection Fund with dollars designated to Environmental Justice.

Deadline: July 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. For more information contact Dana McClure: dana.mcclure@dec.ny.gov, or go to www.dec.ny.gov/public/31226.html.

Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle Rebate and Infrastructure Grant Programs Now Open

A total of \$2.8 million is now available to help municipalities install public charging stations and purchase or lease zero-emission vehicles for fleet use. DEC is accepting applications on a rolling basis from now through October 29, 2021, or until funding is exhausted. Applications for are available through the New York State Grants Gateway. More details are available [here](#).

During this round, up to \$300,000 in rebates are available for municipalities that purchase (or lease for a minimum of 36 months) zero emission vehicles from eligible dealerships in New York. Plug-in hybrid, all-electric, or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are eligible for rebates of up to \$7,500 per vehicle, depending on the electric range of the vehicle and provided they were placed into municipal service on or after March 1, 2020.

In addition, up to \$2.5 million is available during this round for municipalities to install hydrogen filling station components or electric vehicle chargers. A variable local match of zero to 20 percent of the total project cost is required based on the community's median household income. The maximum grant amount for any location is \$250,000 and \$500,000 to any one municipality.

Virtual Highway School - Good Roads Week! June 7-10

Sponsored by Cornell Local Roads Program and Association of Towns of NYS, this year's highway school is scheduled for June 7-10 and is being held virtually. Session topics will include: CHIPS and other funding from NYSDOT; pavement/crack repair; work zones – set up and development; FEMA process; highway safety & speed management. For a complete list of sessions, visit the website here: cornell.app.box.com/v/HWS-Program-2021. To register for the program, go to www.clrp.cornell.edu/.

New York State Virtual Cyber Security Conference - June 8 & 9

June 2021 marks the 23rd Annual New York State Cyber Security Conference and 15th Annual Symposium on Information Assurance (ASIA). Hosted by the New York State Office of Information Technology Services, the University at Albany School of Business, and The New York State Forum, Inc., the event takes place June 8 and 9.

The conference is part of a statewide effort to boost cyber security awareness and empower state and local governments, academia, organizations, and citizens to take better control of their digital security. The conference offers something for everyone: whether you are a technology user, IT professional, government employee, or business owner. Learn from leading experts in the industry and participate in engaging sessions that provide real-world information you can apply immediately to minimize the cyber risks in your own environment.

Register at its.ny.gov/2021-nyscsc/registration, and for more information visit the conference website at its.ny.gov/2021-nyscsc.

NYS Redevelopment Summit June 16-18

Communities today are on the cusp of unprecedented resources to address brownfield cleanup and reuse challenges. Are you ready? Get the tools, training and connections you need to create and capitalize on opportunities for revitalization at Center for Creative Land Recycling's [6th Annual NYS Virtual Redevelopment Summit](#)™. This year the Summit will revolve around a theme of "Intentional Reinvention" to emphasize the importance of robust community and stakeholder engagement in creating a consensus, practical vision for reuse, and drawing upon all available resources to move forward with implementing that vision.

Topics and speakers include:

- Peggy Shepard, Executive Director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and newly appointed member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.
- Renewable energy development as a means of addressing both reuse and sustainability challenges.
- Public and private land reuse funding sources and how to access them.
- Workforce development to prepare local people for local jobs.
- How New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) will affect land reuse.
- **Updates on State and Federal programs** from the U.S. EPA, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Department of State, NYSEERDA, Empire State Development, and more.

Managing Social Media Records Webinar June 22

Many state and local government entities in New York State engage the public through social media, but few of those properly manage the records created on social media platforms. This New York State Archives webinar will demonstrate how social media content can be a government record and provide guidance on using social media effectively. The webinar will focus on how to capture and preserve social media records to ensure their proper retention, as well as developing social media policies and plans, assessing the risks of engaging in social media, and other topics.

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Click here to [register](#).

State Archives Training Modules Available Online

State Archives has developed six short, easy to follow online training sessions to help you with your records cleaning task. Click their titles and listen at your convenience.

[Promoting Records Management](#)

A program for managing records is required by law and good for business! This session will help you promote the importance of records management and identify partners and resources to help you support and maintain a program in your organization.

[Assessing Your Records Management Program](#)

Determine whether your organization's program meets basic requirements and includes key functions to properly manage records and protect your organization from potential risks.

[Records Disposition Days](#)

Discover all the ways regular, routine disposition of records will benefit your organization!

[Training Your Staff \(On the Importance of Records Management\)](#)

Find out what you need to focus on to ensure staff understand what records they are creating, what records management is, and their role in it.

[Records Liaisons](#)

This session will discuss RMO responsibilities, the benefits of setting up a team of records liaisons and what their roles – as liaisons – can be in terms of achieving your records management goals and making your records program strong and efficient.

[Your Five-Year Plan](#)

Learn the importance of defining a five-year plan for your records management program, how to get your plan started and keep the momentum going once you get it off the ground.

For information contact Michael Martin, Central New York Regional Advisory Officer, Michael.Martin@nysed.gov, (518) 330-7987, www.archives.nysed.gov.

Office for the Aging Launches 300+ Live Online Classes for Isolated Older New Yorkers

The New York State Office for the Aging ([NYSOFA](#)) announced a partnership with the Association on Aging in New York ([AgingNY](#)) and [GetSetUp](#) to offer 50,000 classes, featuring more than 300 different course options developed by and for older adults. The GetSetUp curriculum and community are designed to combat social isolation and promote independence through live, interactive classes. All guides and instructors are retired educators/professionals/technologists, promoting economic empowerment, healthy lifestyles, and a purpose driven life. Instructors are trained to help older adults learn by doing, not just watching, and all learners are encouraged to become creators by leading their own interest groups.

GetSetUp classes are organized into four broad categories:

- Digital Divide/Connectivity (orientation to Zoom and how to use various devices)
- Physical Health (i.e. Tai Chi/Yoga/Healthy Cooking)
- Mental Health (i.e. Dementia/Coping with Stress/Meditation), and
- Social health (i.e. Book club/Gardening/Pets/Travel/Brain Games)

The GetSetUp platform offers more than 40 classes each weekday, and more than ten classes each weekend. They recently launched "GetSetUp TV" for hesitant older adults to get a flavor of the GetSetUp platform without having to fully participate. Classes are rotated regularly to offer the widest variety of programming for older adults in the four main categories.

More information at www.getsetup.io/.

Contact Us

NYS Tug Hill Commission

317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380

Toll Free within the region:

1-888-785-2380

Email: tughill@tughill.org

Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission

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](#).