

Tug Hill Commission to Meet September 20

The next business meeting of the Tug Hill Commission will be Monday, September 20 at the Village of Carthage offices, 120 South Mechanic Street Carthage, New York 13619.

There is also an option to join remotely via Zoom, using us02web.zoom.us/j/82338298144 or calling 929-205-6099, meeting ID 823 3829 8144.

CTHC Fall Meeting September 30

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council will hold their fall meeting this year following a hiatus of a year and a half due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 30 at Kevin's Tug Hill Hideaway in West Leyden. Social hour will start at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting to follow.

The meeting agenda includes review and approval of the 2022 budget, acknowledgement of the retirement of long-term Associate Circuit Rider Kay Chapman, village of Adams membership discussion and a presentation on broadband action plans in the region by Tug Hill Commission staff Carla Fowler and Alaina Mallette.

The meeting is open to the public and free to attend, but RSVPs are required to make sure the maximum safe attendance is not exceeded, to maintain adequate spacing due to COVID-19. The CTHC will pay for the dinner for two representatives from each member municipality and the cost for guests to join us for dinner is \$11.50, payable at the restaurant.

Please RSVP to Angie at angie@tughill.org or (315) 599-8825 or (315) 480-6857 by Tuesday, September 21. You can also RSVP to your circuit rider at your municipal meeting. Invitations have gone out in the mail to municipal representatives and clerks.

NOCCOG Annual Dinner Meeting October 28

Invitations have been sent for the 37th Annual Northern Oneida County Council of Governments Dinner Meeting to be held Thursday, October 28, at Gone Coastal in Lee Center.

Cash bar social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 7:00 p.m. Along with a regular meeting agenda, guest speakers include Oneida County Tourism President Kelly Blazosky and representatives from the Oneida County Sheriff's Department Drone Unit. Kelly will discuss the snowmobile economic impact study and what those numbers mean for Oneida County. The Sheriff's Department will demonstrate and explain the capabilities and numerous uses the drone unit can provide to our communities.

The price for dinner is \$30 per person and RSVPs are needed by October 11. Whatever COVID protocols are in place at the time will be followed. For more information, or to make a reservation, please email John at jhealt@tughill.org or call 315-941-2818.

Remote Meetings Authorized Through January 15, 2022

A new state law was enacted last week that authorizes local public bodies, among others, to hold remote meetings by "conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed," effective immediately, expiring January 15, 2022. More information at opengovernment.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/09/chapter-417-of-laws-of-2021.pdf. Tug Hill communities interested in using Zoom again should contact their circuit rider.

September 10, 2021

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Local Law Adoption and SEQR

You or your municipality may not be aware that the adoption of most local laws, with the exception of land use moratoria, are considered ‘actions’ under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). A SEQR “action” is “any governmental decision to approve, fund, or directly undertake projects or physical activities that may affect the environment by changing the use, appearance, or condition of any natural resource or structure.” The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), who oversees the SEQR program, does not have any specific guidance on what defines actions that “may affect the environment.” While the adoption of certain local laws would appear to have no impact on the environment, and therefore would not be actions under SEQR, those are decisions your municipality needs to make (often with the help of your municipal attorney) and document the record as such. If you are unsure, the best option is to prepare parts 1, 2 and 3 of the short environmental assessment form (EAF) and issue a negative declaration. In this case, your board would answer question 1, Part 1, on the short EAF as Yes, and by doing so would not need to complete the rest of the Part 1 questions - just attach a narrative of the proposed action and proceed to complete Parts 2 and 3. Please contact the commission with any question you have regarding the SEQR process.

Black River Trail Extension Open House September 16

The Watertown-Jefferson County Transportation Council (WJCTC) has been studying the possibility of extending the Black River Trail to connect with the village of Black River, Fort Drum and other communities. Additionally, WJCTC has been looking at options for enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity throughout the city of Watertown and the urbanized portions of Jefferson County. After months of study, the project team is ready to present draft recommendations on the trail extension and other possible improvements for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

A Bike-Ped Study Open House will be held on Thursday, September 16 from 5 p.m. -7 p.m. at the Mayor Joseph M. Butler Pavilion in Watertown. A map is available [here](#). More information at www.wjctc.org/projects/alternative-transportation.html.

ANCA Annual Meeting September 17

The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) will hold their annual meeting via Zoom and on the topic of Climate Justice on Friday, September 17 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The climate justice movement acknowledges that the global climate crisis is having and will continue to have more severe negative impacts on marginalized populations — including low-income communities and communities of color — and that strategies that address these inequities must be developed and implemented across our systems. At the annual meeting, participants will learn from experts who are weaving equity and justice into economic development efforts in the face of the impacts of the growing climate crisis. For more information and to register visit: adirondack.org/2021AnnualMeeting.

Cornell Local Roads Workshop Lewis County September 23

“Dollars and Sense for Municipal Operations” is being offered in-person in Lewis County on Thursday, September 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Workshops cost \$50 per person and include lunch. Attendees are asked to wear a mask unless vaccinated, and some workshop facilities may require that everyone wear a mask. For more information, including a full list of workshops, see www.clrp.cornell.edu/workshops/workshops.htm.

September 28 Land Use Workshop Goes Virtual

Due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, the in-person 4-hour Land Use Training Workshop planned for September 28, 2021 has been **cancelled** and **REPLACED with an online webinar entitled “Rural Planning” from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28.** Presenters are Ebony Mapp -Local Government Services, Department of State and Casandra Buell - Director of Planning, Lewis County.

Register early at: meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=ta31d6e8e66038a6994776b9cd6bf3a37. Once registered, WebEx will send a personal URL to use to log into the webinar on September 28. WebEx also sends a reminder email 24 hours before the session as a courtesy. Participants must use the URL that was emailed to them from WebEx. If registrants can’t find that email, search inboxes and junk/spam folders for a message from messenger@webex.com.



THE TUG HILL
COMMISSION
PRESENTS

ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET WORKSHOPS

WITH LAIRD PETRIE

A free training opportunity designed to assist town officials in preparing their annual budgets. Villages are welcome to attend, but the workshops are designed to assist towns in preparing for the 2022 budget process. The same presentation will be given each session.

TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28
6:30 - 8:30 PM

ALBION TOWN HALL
15 BRIDGE STREET
ALTMAR, NY 13302

AND

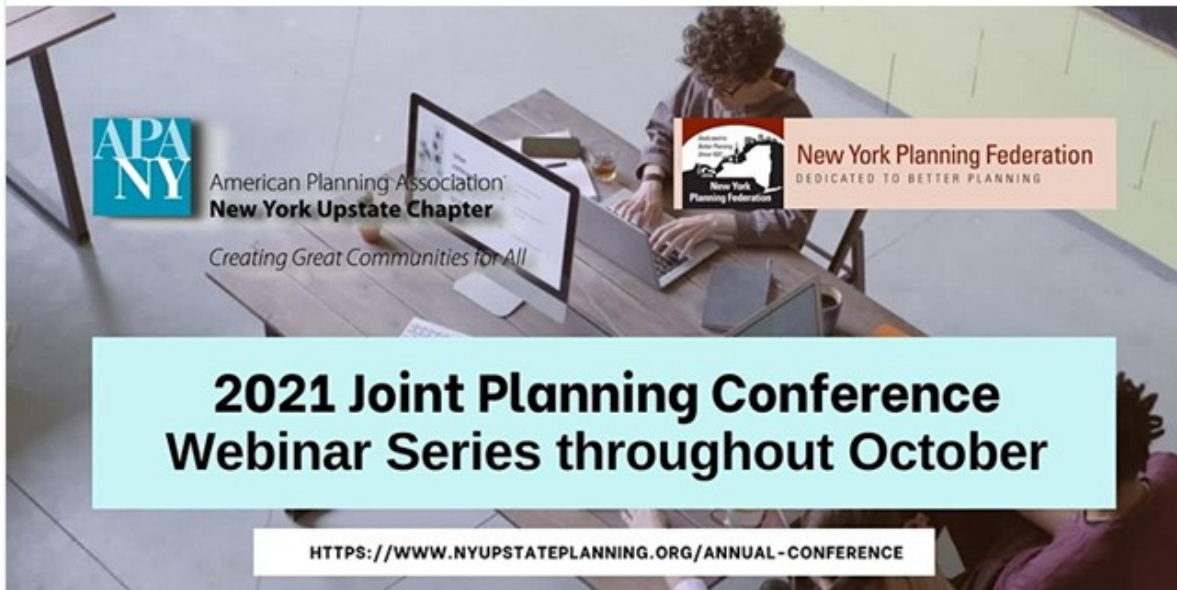
TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 5
6:30 - 8:30 PM

PORT LEYDEN VILLAGE
OFFICE / FIRE HALL
3387 DOUGLAS STREET
PORT LEYDEN, NY 13433

To register, contact the
Tug Hill Commission
at (315) 785-2380 or
tughill@tughill.org

Seating is limited.
Applicable county
and/or state COVID
protocols will be
followed.

NYPF/APA Joint Planning Conference Webinar Series during the Month of October



The New York Upstate Chapter APA and the New York Planning Federation are hosting a joint Virtual Planning Conference in October 2021. The Conference includes webinars and panel discussions highlighting key planning disciplines and timely topics which resonate with professional planners, planning board members, zoning board members, elected officials, and code enforcement officers.

All sessions will be eligible for AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) credits. Attendance certificates will be available for those seeking New York State planning and zoning board official training credit.

Register now for your ticket to the 2021 Virtual Planning Conference!
All sessions will be held on Wednesdays or Fridays during the month of October.
NYPF member pricing is \$50 for the entire program.

**The tracks and topics that will be featured during this year's
APA/NYPF Virtual Conference are below. Session times will be released
shortly.**

Housing:

Exploring Today's Housing Crisis and Solutions
Regulating Short Term Rentals
Accessory Dwelling Units as Affordable Housing

Land Use and Zoning:

Age Friendly Communities
Zoning for E-Mobility
Innovative Zoning Codes for Rapidly Changing Times

Law and Ethics:

Land Use Case Law Update
Ethics for Planning & Zoning Board Members
Recreational Marijuana Implications for Planning and Zoning in NYS

Resiliency and Equity:

Scenario Planning to Increase Community Resilience
New Strategies for Flood Adaptation
Exploring Stakeholder Compensation for Equity

The Role of the Attorney General and the Public Good Webinar

The NYS Archives Partnership Trust is holding a special event on Thursday, September 23 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., in-person in Albany and with online streaming. Current New York State Attorney General Letitia James and former Attorney General Robert Abrams will discuss “Democracy in Action: The Role of the Attorney General and the Public Good.”

They will discuss the importance of public service, and Abrams’ groundbreaking work on environmental, consumer protection and civil rights issues that transformed the role of the office of Attorney General. The webinar is open to the public and free to attend. Advanced registration is required and the link to RSVP is available on the Archives Partnership Trust’s webpage at

www.nysarchivestrust.org/.

NYS Association of Conservation Commission’s 50th Anniversary Conference

The NYS Association of Conservation Commission (NYSACC) will be holding their 50th Anniversary Conference on the Environment: Climate Resilience Through Community Action October 21 through 24.

The conference will be held virtually using Gather Town, an interactive platform with which you can move your avatar among conference and exhibit room, listen to speakers and meet others in various settings via instant video chat. There is no software download required for the platform and pre-conference and on-site technical support will be provided.

The conference sessions have categories of Energy, Environmental Justice, Land and Water 1 and 2, and Waste Not, for each morning and afternoon time slot on Friday and Saturday. The NYSACC awards will be presented during lunch on Friday.

There is no cost to attend the event, but attendance is limited to 450 participants. For more information visit www.nysacc.net or register at www.nysacc.net/home/nysacc-attendees/attendee-registration.

Second Resiliency Workshops for Jefferson, Oswego Counties September 21 and 22

The NYS Department of State is holding public workshops for Lake Ontario communities on its Coastal Lakeshore Economy and Resiliency Initiative (CLEAR) to help improve coastal resiliency and community planning. While the focus is on communities that include the shore of Lake Ontario, some of the information presented may be relevant to communities with smaller lakes or rivers.

As part of the initiative, local steering committees comprised of local community members, state agency experts and dedicated planning firms have been established. These committees reflect the various interests of the community and provide focused assistance to the State and public in assembling the CLEAR Plans. These second virtual public workshops are taking place as follows:

St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties, Tuesday, September 21, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., www.northcountryclear.com

Cayuga and Oswego Counties: Wednesday, September 22, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., www.cnyclear.com

Contact Us

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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](#).