

September 24, 2021

RSVP for Annual Meeting by October 4

The commission is holding its annual dinner on Thursday, October 14 at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. RSPVs are due to the office by Monday, October 4. The evening's program includes musical entertainment by the NYS Old Tyme Fiddlers Association, release of the new Tug Hill Commission Regional Map, and honoring of the first two Tug Hill Community Recognition Award recipients.

Please call 315-785-2380 with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Town Budget Workshops September 28, October 5

It's not too late to register for one of two Town Budget Workshops being presented by Laird Petrie, retired Office of the State Comptroller examiner. This free training opportunity is designed to assist town officials in preparing their annual budgets. The same presentation will be given each session.

Tuesday September 28, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Altmar

Tuesday, October 5, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Port Leyden

Space is limited to allow for appropriate spacing. Send an email with name, affiliation, and contact information ASAP to tughill@tughill.org, or call (315) 785-2380.

American Rescue Plan Act Webinar October 19

Sarah Brancatella, Legislative Director and Counsel for the Association of Towns, will present "The American Rescue Plan Act: What Your Board Needs to Know" on **Tuesday, October 19 from Noon to 1:00 p.m.** This webinar will provide an overview of the act, information on how funding can be used and what reporting is required. Recommended background material to review before hand is available on the Association of Towns website [here](#). Come prepared with your questions, or send them in beforehand to tughill@tughill.org.



Register at www.tinyurl.com/tughillarpa, or on our website at tughill.org/upcoming-workshops/.

Sarah Brancatella is counsel and legislative director with the Association of Towns of New York State (AOT). There she coordinates AOT's legislative advocacy, regularly presents on new legislation and other areas of interest to towns, manages AOT's amicus brief program, and works on member inquiries. Sarah is a graduate of SUNY Geneseo and the University at Buffalo School of Law.

Rural Comprehensive Planning Webinar October 28

Please join the Tug Hill Commission on **Thursday, October 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** for a *Comprehensive Planning* training session with the Tug Hill Commission's Planning Director Matt Johnson. This free webinar 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. A certificate of attendance will be emailed to all who attend. Register at tinyurl.com/compplanwithmatt.

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

Job Openings at the Tug Hill Commission

The commission is excited to announce that we are advertising for three vacancies. Full job descriptions can be found on our website at <https://tughill.org/job-openings/>.

The Associate Director of Community & Regional Projects will serve as part of the commission's management team. The successful candidate will report to the executive director and oversee several staff in the areas of natural resources, community development, GIS and community outreach.

An entry level Projects Specialist will provide assistance to local governments and regional organizations in the rural Tug Hill region in the areas of natural resources, community development, and general technical assistance.

An entry level Planner will provide assistance to local governments in the rural Tug Hill region in the areas of land use planning, local law development and revision, and general technical support to planning boards and other involved municipal boards.

Letters of interest and resumes are due no later than October 22, 2021.



Agriculture and the Lewis County Experience

A Webinar with Joe Lawrence
Tuesday October 26, 2021
7:00 pm

To Register: tinyurl.com/LCFarming

The history of the Tug Hill Region and its economic successes are strongly tied to its natural resources. From subsistence farming to today's high-tech practices, agriculture has been a key part of that history. This presentation will share some of the unique history, current happenings, and future opportunities for agriculture in the region.

Lewis County Façade and Streetscape Improvement Grant Open

Lewis County's downtown districts and public spaces hold central importance for community gatherings, special events, and the success of small businesses. The Façade & Streetscape Improvement Program aims to revitalize the historic character and attractiveness of villages and hamlets in Lewis County through public and private investment. To encourage and advance revitalization efforts, this program will provide 75/25 matching funds for eligible improvements to mixed-use and commercial buildings and streetscape enhancements in Lewis County's villages and hamlets. Together, these improvements will help business growth and retention, enhance tourism, increase spending in the local economy, and reduce the number of blighted and vacant properties.

The program will provide up to 75% in funding for eligible projects with a 25% match requirement.

Façade Improvement Project Eligibility: Property owners and businesses with mixed-use and commercial buildings located in a downtown area of a hamlet or village. Aligns with local zoning regulations and/or design standards (if applicable). Example project types include:

- Awnings & canopies
- Interior display & exterior lighting
- Repair or replacement of façade windows, doors, and paint
- Window boxes and permanent planters
- Entryway improvements
- Signage: wall, perpendicular, free-standing signs
- Awning and window lettering
- Ineligible expenses: Engineering and/or design costs associated with project.

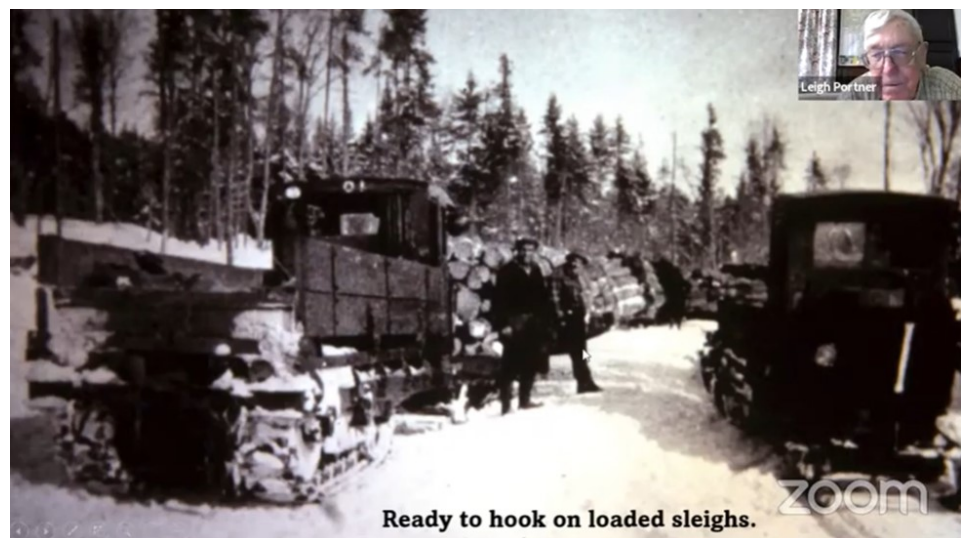
Streetscape Project Eligibility: Open to municipal governments, improves walkability and/or community aesthetics in a village or hamlet that are publicly accessible. Example project types include:

- Permanent public art (murals, sculptures, etc.)
- Gateway & wayfinding signage
- Street furniture
- Public fixtures (kiosks, plaques, etc.)
- Street trees and permanent landscaping
- Bike racks and similar active transportation infrastructure
- Ineligible expenses: Engineering and/or design costs associated with project.

For more information or to apply, go to naturallylewis.com/initiatives/facade-streetscape-improvement-program or contact Megan Krokowski, Community Development Specialist, at 315-376-5423 or megankrokowski@lewiscounty.ny.gov.

Learn about Tug Hill's History on YouTube

The commission hosted another very interesting webinar this week with Leigh Portner, "Gould's Logging on Moose River Plains in the Early 1900's." You don't want to miss hearing Leigh share his extensive knowledge and historical images on one of the defining times and activities on Tug Hill and nearby areas. To view this webinar and many others, check out our [YouTube](#) channel!



Ready to hook on loaded sleighs.

zoom



Left to right: Commissioner Tom Boxberger, Natural Resource Specialist Jen Harvill, Wilna Supervisor Paul Smith, Castorland Trustee Heidi Lehmann, RACOG Circuit Rider Mickey Dietrich, Deferiet Mayor Janet Zando, Commissioner Roger Maciejko, Carthage President Wayne McIlroy, and Champion Trustee Tom Stewart.

Commission Meets in RACOG

The Tug Hill Commission board held its September meeting in the River Area Council of Governments (RACOG), meeting in the newly refurbished West Carthage Community Room, and enjoying lunch at Zero Dock Street in Carthage. Discussion items included approval of a contract with Laird Petrie to provide technical services to Council of Government member communities, go-ahead on filling three commission staff vacancies, review of Consolidated Funding Applications supported by commission staff, and ongoing training efforts both in person and virtual.

Zero Dock Street is located in a refurbished former cheese factory directly adjacent to the Black River.



From left: Champion Supervisor Bruce Ferguson and Councilman Henry Watkins.

Henry S. Watkins Board Room Dedication

On September 7, 2021 at the town of Champion board meeting, there was a dedication and recognition of Henry S. Watkins for his 44 years of service as a councilman. Town Supervisor, Bruce Ferguson, unveiled a plaque in the newly established Henry S. Watkins Board Room in his honor.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Celebrates 30 Years

The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust celebrated 30 years of working in the Tug Hill region at the land trust annual meeting this week. Held at the Barn at Windy Hollow, located on a Tug Hill Tomorrow-protected property, the menu featured many local agricultural products. Accomplishments highlighted at the meeting included protecting over 20,000 acres of land since 1991, holding several successful outings this year, and making significant progress on the Tug Hill Traverse trail.



Land trust executive director Linda Garrett recognizes volunteers and highlights accomplishments at annual dinner.

Contact Us

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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](#).

East Branch of Fish Creek Working Group Meeting *Thursday, October 21, 2021*

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Snow Ridge Ski Resort's Tavern 230, 4173 West Road
Turin, NY 13473

Pizza and Wings provided

Meet and hear updates from a variety of stakeholders in the East Branch of Fish Creek area, including NYS DEC, Molpus, and The Nature Conservancy.

Please RSVP to the Tug Hill Commission, 315-785-2380 or gwen@tughill.org, by Friday, October 15, 2021.



Tug Hill Books Available in Old Forge

Through a new partnership with Blue Line Book Exchange, both *Tug Hill: Shaping the Future of the Region* by Norah Machia and *Tug Hill, A Four Season Guide to the Natural Side* edited and illustrated by Robert McNamara are available at the Old Forge Hardware Store. With North Country Books going out of business last year, distribution of both books were on hold until Blue Line Book Exchange began stocking them in stores they work with.

USDA Forest Service Funding Available for Community Forestry

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's (USDA FS) annual [Request for Applications for Fiscal Year 2022](#) for the [Community Forest Program](#) (CFP) is now available. Applications are due to State Foresters by **January 10, 2022**. Applications are encouraged from across the country. If you are interested in applying, the contact for NY is Neil Bungard neal.bungard@usda.gov. For complete information on the program and application process, see the [Final Rule](#) and the [Community Forest Road Map](#), a resource for potential program applicants or grant recipients. Additionally, the Tug Hill Commission and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust held a webinar earlier this year that discussed the Community Forest Program, which is available to view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l898eAU3aHY>.