

November 19, 2021

Online Portal to Submit Cannabis Opt-Out Laws

The NYS Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) has created a web-based [portal](#) where localities seeking to opt-out of hosting cannabis retail dispensary and/or on-site cannabis consumption licensees within their jurisdictions can easily and quickly send their requests to the state Cannabis Control Board.

The Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA) enacted in March gives cities, towns, and villages until December 31, 2021 to pass a local law that makes a request to the state Cannabis Control Board (CCB) to opt their jurisdiction out of hosting retail and/or on-site cannabis consumption licensees. The portal helps localities fulfill this requirement. It also provides an important tool to the CCB, ensuring it has accurate information to make decisions, particularly as these local laws are subject to public referendums that may take place after the December 31, 2021 deadline.

Localities that opt-out by December 31, 2021, can always opt back in. Municipalities cannot otherwise prohibit other conduct made legal by the MRTA, including cannabis possession and use by adults over the age of 21.

After the December 31 deadline has passed, OCM will compile the information provided by localities and make it public so that those seeking a license will have the information they need to find jurisdictions in which they can operate. OCM will provide routine updates thereafter as localities file and update their local laws.

For further information regarding the MRTA and localities, please visit: cannabis.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/09/cannabis-management-fact-sheet-9-21-localgovernment-06.pdf

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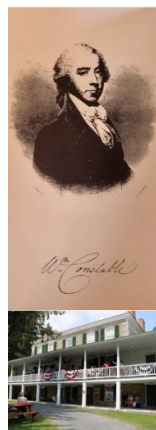


Tug Hill Commission to Meet December 13 via Zoom

The commission's next meeting will be held Monday, December 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Access information is us02web.zoom.us/j/84975868282 or dial 929-205-6099, meeting ID 849 7586 8282.

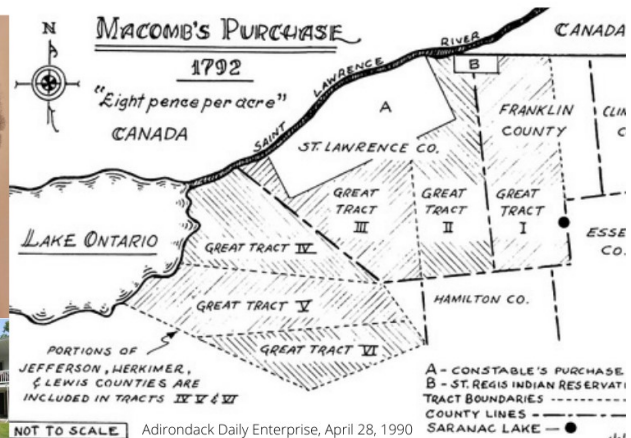
The Constable Chronicles Continue on December 7

Please join Martha Constable Murray and Peter Hayes from the Constable Hall Association on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Register at www.tughill.org/upcoming-workshops/. At one time, William Constable owned most of the North Country, yet never visited it – he hangs over our early history like a ghost. Almost every person involved in the original development connects to him in some way. Join us to learn how he and his wife set in motion our community – and how his spirit of adventure was picked up by the next generation.



William Constable "Spirit of the North Country"

The Constable Chronicles Continue!



Personalized Tug Hill Regional Maps Coming Soon

Back in 2012, the commission updated its regional map and brochure and provided printed individualized maps to each town and village highlighting the municipal boundary and including the name of the community. Many communities framed and hung or tacked them up in their town or village halls, as can be seen in the photo to right, taken in the Boylston Town Hall.

With the new 2021 map completed, the commission is once again printing individualized maps that will be mounted on foam core and delivered to communities in January and February 2022. Our experience is that both board members and residents enjoy seeing their town in relation to the greater Tug Hill region. Also, we hope that the individualized regional map shows our dedication to supporting our communities whenever they need it. If you would like to add any detail to your individualized map, please reach out SOON to Alaina Mallette, alaina@tughill.org. Communities can expect prints of their maps at their January or February board meetings.



Association of Towns Newly Elected Officials 2022 Training School Online January 6-7

The Association of Towns is offering their 2022 Newly Elected Officials Training School online ONLY January 6 and 7, 2022. All supervisors, town board members, fiscal personnel, and town clerks are encouraged to attend. There is a \$75 fee per member / non-member, payable in advance of the program. This fee covers the cost of tuition and course materials.

More information, including the registration form, is available at www.nytowns.org/images/Documents/Training/2022%20Newly%20Elected%20Forms.pdf.

Village of Boonville Receives EFC Grant and Loan

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation recently approved over \$44 million for drinking water and wastewater projects across the state. The funding includes grants, interest-free financings, and low-cost financings, approved by the EFC Board of Directors. This will provide cost-effective solutions for critical infrastructure projects across the state that protect or improve water quality.

The project financings approved at the October 14 EFC meeting included the village of Boonville in Oneida County with \$5,122,500 in short-term, interest-free financing and a \$2,457,500 grant from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for wastewater treatment plant improvements.

The CWSRF and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) are EFC's core funding programs. With its partner DEC, EFC is responsible for the operation and administration of the CWSRF. The CWSRF allows EFC to provide interest-free or low-interest rate financing and grants to support a variety of eligible water quality improvement projects. EFC similarly operates and administers the DWSRF, with its partner DOH, to provide interest-free or low-interest rate financing and grants for drinking water infrastructure projects. To learn more about how EFC provides access to low-cost capital, grants, and expert technical assistance, visit EFC's website at www.efc.ny.gov.

Commission Seeks Intern to Edit Historical Footage

The commission is looking to bring on an intern to edit historical footage from archived videos for our YouTube channel. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the commission has been highlighting Tug Hill history. For reference, you can watch the Underground Railroad series [here](#), the Constable Chronicles series [here](#), and the Letters from a Tug Hill Logger series [here](#). There are also standalone history videos, which you can find on our [YouTube channel](#).

If you are interested in working with the Tug Hill Commission on this initiative and enjoy video editing, video production, and social media outreach, please contact Alaina Mallette, alaina@tughill.org. Those with experience or beginners skills will be considered.

William G. Pomeroy Foundation Historical Markers Grant Round Open

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation's NYS Historic Marker grant program has funded more than 700 markers in 58 NYS counties since 2006. The program commemorates historic people, places, things; or events within the time frame of 1740-1921. All four Tug Hill counties can currently apply in their open grant round. For more information, see www.wgpfoundation.org/history/nys-historic-markers/.



The program is open to local, state and federal government entities, nonprofit academic institutions, and 501©3 organizations in NYS. Applicants may apply for up to five markers per grant round. The colors of this program's markers are blue with yellow highlighted lettering and border. Markers are 18" x 32" cast aluminum with a 7' aluminum pole. The title line allows 15 characters and the five body lines can have 27 characters each, including spaces and punctuation.

Primary source documentation is required to verify historical accuracy. The applying agency is responsible for providing photocopies of sources and specific statements used to verify historical facts. If selected, the strength of supporting materials substantially decreases the time-frame between acceptance and funding. If the William G. Pomeroy Foundation cannot substantiate the historical accuracy based on the supporting documentation provided, the opportunity for approval is limited.

Applicants are encouraged to view the Foundation's pre-recorded webinar: [Tips for Preparing a Successful Marker Grant Application](#). December 13, 2021 is the deadline to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) to verify primary sources. Applicants must submit a proposed marker inscription and list the primary source documentation assembled to verify the historic accuracy of the text. January 17, 2022 is the actual application deadline, and applicants will receive email notification regarding their application's status at the end of March.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust

December Events

Potato Hill Farm: Hike, Ski or Snowshoe, December 11, 2021, 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

[Reservations Required](#)

Come hike, ski, or snowshoe with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT) at the Black River Outdoor Education Program's (BROEP's) Potato Hill Farm campus near Boonville. Attendees are welcome to use their own skis or snowshoes. If needed, BROEP can provide xc-skis, snowshoes and associated equipment upon request free for up to 40 people. Please specify on your registration form if you will be bringing your own or if you need equipment.

The Potato Hill Farm campus in Oneida County, offers over four miles of well-maintained trails across 170 acres of land. Trails are primarily easy, with an area of moderate trails for those who like more of a challenge. Along with the trail system, the site hosts a working farm where visitors can see and visit Black Welsh Mountain sheep, Alpine Dairy goats, Percheron horses, alpacas, and donkeys. Public bathrooms and picnic areas are available on the grounds.

Potato Hill Farm is located south of Boonville on Potato Hill Road (County Route 74) on the left-hand side just 2.4 miles up from its start off of NYS 12. For more specific driving directions, please visit blackriveroep.org/campuses/potato-hill-farm

Winter Solstice Celebration Hour, December 21, 2021, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

[Reservations Required](#)

Celebrate Winter Solstice and welcome longer days together at the Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary in Rutland! Come appreciate the longest night of the year with us as we take a short walk in the forest by candlelight, listen to a solstice story and create a take-home nature offering.

Meet at the sanctuary parking lot at 31241 Middle Road, Watertown. Please wear sturdy footwear and dress for the weather.

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](#).

Work Continues on Town of Western Zoning Overhaul

The town of Western is in the middle of a project to update its zoning law. The law is being amended to better implement the land use and development policies laid out in Western's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. Among the improvements are a reduction in the number of zoning districts, a new zoning map, updated uses, and revised dimensional standards. The draft will eventually be sent for review by the Oneida County Planning Department and a public hearing will be held.