

December 17, 2021

## Information from Newly Elected Officials Workshop Available

Sarah Brancatella and Lori Mithen-Demasi from the Association of Towns of the State of New York delivered a very informative two-hour presentation this week geared toward newly elected officials. The first hour of the presentation, "Welcome to Town Government: An Overview of Town Government and Administration," provided an overview of town services, funding, roles and responsibilities, and oaths and undertakings. The second hour of the presentation focused on municipal ethics and how to analyze a conflict of interest.

For more information about AOT, including their upcoming Newly Elected Training School, see their website at [www.nytowns.org](http://www.nytowns.org).

A [video](#) of the webinar is available on our YouTube Channel, and handouts are available on our website at [Past trainings and workshops](#).

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## Consolidated Funding Application Grants Announced

Several communities and organizations in and near the Tug Hill region will receive New York State funding as announced this week. They include:

- **Missing Link Snowmobile Club, Inc.**, awarded \$230,325 for trail grooming equipment to maintain and improve snowmobile trails in Lewis and Jefferson Counties. This was one of only four snowmobile groomer grants funded statewide and was assisted by commission staff.
- The **village of Deferiet and town of Wilna's** joint application for a Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) grant for the 200-acre former St. Regis Paper Mill and surrounding area along the Black River in Jefferson County was awarded \$180,000. The BOA nomination will identify potential areas of contamination and identify redevelopment opportunities for the former paper mill as well as potential future employment opportunities in the area through an active community engagement and planning process.
- The **town of Forestport's** Comprehensive Master Plan Update was awarded \$30,600.
- The **New York State Snowmobile Association** was funded for a SLEDNY "Spend Winter With Us Tourism Marketing Plan." Funds will be used to produce a multimedia promotional project to encourage snowmobile tourism in destination communities throughout NYS.
- **Oswego County** will complete a County-Wide Infrastructure Authority Feasibility assessment of the county's current infrastructure capacity and options for consolidated regional management with funding from the NYSDOS's Local Government Efficiency Program.
- The Engineering Planning Grant (EPG) program will fund the development of an engineering report to identify sources of inflow and infiltration, evaluate alternatives, and recommend improvements to the **village of Parish's** wastewater collection system.
- The EPG program will also fund the development of an engineering report to evaluate alternatives for a new East River Road Pump Station forcemain and recommend improvements to the **town of Hastings'** wastewater collection treatment system. Hastings will also prepare a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) to guide desired and sustainable development along the Oneida River, a segment of the Barge Canal System.

Several other regional projects not listed above were funded as well. [A full list of statewide projects funded can be found here.](#)

# 2022 TUG HILL COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Time
January 24, 2022	Zoom	10 a.m.
March 21, 2022	Cleveland	10 a.m.
April 18, 2022	Turning Stone	4 p.m.
June 20, 2022	Adams	10 a.m.
September 19, 2022	Trenton	10 a.m.
October 20, 2022	Carthage	5 p.m.
December 12, 2022	Watertown	10 a.m.

## CTHC Searches for New Associate Circuit Rider

Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) Associate Circuit Rider Karleigh Stuckey will be ending her contract in January 2022. CTHC wishes Karleigh well in her future endeavors. CTHC is now looking for a highly motivated individual interested in local government to contract on a part-time basis providing technical assistance to Tug Hill area communities. The person must be a self-starter and expect to attend evening meetings with some daytime follow-up.

The municipalities currently covered by the contractor include the regular board meetings for Adams, Lorraine, Rodman, and Worth in Jefferson County and Harrisburg, Pinckney, and Montague in Lewis County, although this is subject to change.

A draft contract and qualifications can be found at [www.tughillcouncil.com](http://www.tughillcouncil.com). Send resumes/references to Angie Kimball, P. O. Box 34, Redfield, NY 13437 or [angie@tughill.org](mailto:angie@tughill.org) by 12/31/2021.

Please pass the word to anyone you know who may be interested in the position.

## LED Street Lighting Construction Underway

The LED streetlight project through New York Power Authority started construction the week of December 6, 2021. The following communities are participating: the towns of Adams, Denmark, Martinsburg, Wilna, and the villages of Adams, Carthage, Copenhagen, Croghan, Deferiet, Lowville, Sackets Harbor, and West Carthage. The project is part of the Jefferson and Lewis County shared service plans, which will make them eligible to receive funding. They also were awarded a local government efficiency grant through NYS DOS and some communities received grant funding through NYPA for smart city technologies. The goal is to have the project completed by the end of January for all communities.



Crews installing new LED streetlights in Carthage.



A newly installed LED streetlight casts light directly downward, improving illumination and reducing light pollution.

# Highlights of the Civilian Conservation Corps on Tug Hill

The Great Depression caused millions of people across the country to lose their jobs. In New York, Franklin D. Roosevelt, governor at the time, employed 10,000 people to work on state forestry projects. A few years later, after his presidential inauguration in 1933, he signed the Emergency Conservation Act of Congress, which created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), intended to employ 250,000 men. In New York State, over \$150 million dollars (in 2021 dollars) were spent on CCC work across the state between 1933 and 1942.

Five CCC camps were created on Tug Hill in 1935, two years after the program began. Four of the CCC camps were for reforestation and one camp was for fish and game. The four reforestation area camps were S-113 in Camden (near Cobb Brook Pond), S-116 in Mannsville (near Winona), S-122 in Boonville, and S-130 in Williamstown. The single fish and game camp was Little John Game Refuge near Adams. In the state's 1936 Annual Report of the Legislature, it was said that the "[e]stablishment of CCC camp at Littlejohn Game Refuge afforded an opportunity to develop this area for experimental deer management purposes. Extensive experimental work is being undertaken by this camp in addition to their regular construction work on truck trails and dams" (p. 145). Each camp undertook a wide variety of activities, from constructing vehicle bridges, fire towers and buildings to planting trees and building roads.



*Digging out from a mid-winter snowfall at Camp S-116, Mannsville, New York, in 1936.*  
NACCCA

In addition to the highlights mentioned above, CCC camps boosted the local economies where they were located. Local food producers provided food to the CCC employees, and local materials and equipment were purchased for use at the camps. Plus, many employees spent some of their earnings directly in the local communities. Local communities oftentimes supplied skilled labor to the camps, e.g., superintendents, foremen, blacksmiths, tractor operators, and mechanics.

Another impactful part of the CCC program was vocational training and education. Each camp received

an educational advisor and an assistant to that advisor who conducted classes as requested by the CCC employees. Classes covered topics in forestry, engineering, surveying, carpentry, and other subjects. Business training was also available. CCC employees practiced discipline, order, and a uniform dress code based on military practices. CCC camps included barracks, mess halls, kitchens, lavatories, infirmaries, storehouses, and recreation halls.

Little John Game Refuge (Camp S-124) and Williamstown's reforestation area camp (Camp S-130) were both abandoned in 1937. Mannsville Camp (S-116) ended up dividing work equally between its own camp and the Little John Game Reserve. The Boonville (S-122) and Mannsville (S-116) camps closed in 1941 and the Camden (S-113) camp closed in 1942. The entire CCC program ended in July 1942 after the United States entered World War II.

The state's 1942 Annual Report of the Legislature states that "[i]t became apparent at the outbreak of the war that the CCC program would be abandoned, at least for the duration, so steps were taken to close out all work projects and arrangements made for turning over to the Army all operating equipment, such as trucks, tractors, tools, camp buildings, etc., to be used in connection with the war effort." It is believed that many CCC employees joined the war efforts.

We can see the lasting impacts of the CCC camps in our forested areas, state parks, campgrounds, and natural areas. According to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, in 2002, the NYS Corps Collaboration and the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps continue the tradition of the CCC. The CCC also served as a model for youth conservation efforts, including Student Conservation Association, Youth Conservation Corps, Young Adult Conservation Corps, and AmeriCorps.

Commission staff are working to develop one or more webinars in 2022 to further explore CCC Camps on Tug Hill. Look for more information soon.

# Local Government Conference Registration Information Coming Soon

Commission staff are putting the final touches on the 2022 Local Government Conference schedule, and registration information will be in mailboxes soon after the first of the year. This year's lineup of topics and speakers is strong, ranging from budgeting, ethics, open meetings, and planning board basics to timely topics of ARPA, cannabis, renewable energy siting and more. Attendees will be able to register online and through the mail, and are encouraged to send their registration form and payment early.

The commission board and staff look forward to welcoming you to the Turning Stone Event Center on April 19, 2022!

## Contact Us

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1-888-785-2380.

For upcoming trainings, grant deadlines, and meetings, view our [calendar](#).

*NYS Tug Hill Commission*

## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Local Government Conference

**Tuesday, April 19, 2022**  
Turning Stone Event Center - 5218 Patrick Rd, Verona, NY 13478

**\$75 if postmarked by March 18**  
**\$150 if postmarked from March 19 to March 25**  
**\$200 if postmarked after March 25**

Assessors will receive six hours of CE credits.

Certificates of attendance will be available to all attendees.

Please call the commission at (315) 785-2380 with questions.  
~ No refunds after March 18. ~ No registrations by phone, fax or email. ~

## Did You Know...Oaths of Office

Public Officers Law section 10 and Town Law section 25 require that every public officer "...take and subscribe" an oath of office "before an officer authorized by law to administer oaths..." and to file that oath of office before he or she performs any official duties. The oath of office for an elective office must be taken and filed before duties are performed and within thirty days after the commencement of the term of office. The oath of office for an appointive office must be taken and filed within 30 days after notice of appointment or within 30 days after the commencement of the term of office. All "town officers" are subject to this requirement – any position where the functions and duties directly affect the citizens of the town and involve the exercise of the powers of the town, would be considered a town officer (including deputies, planning and zoning board members, assessment review board members, etc.)

The above cited section of the Public Officers Law also outlines who may administer an oath of office. These include notary publics, town councilmen or town justices in the town they serve, town supervisors or town clerks if they have taken their oath of office, justices of the State Supreme Court or Court of Appeals and several others (see Public Officers Law section 10). Once the oath has been completed the oath of office needs to be filed with the town clerk's office, and town justices and court clerks must additionally file an oath of office with the county clerk and the Office of Court Administration. The oath of office is good for the term of the office for which it is taken.

Taking and filing an oath of office is very important because if an individual refuses or fails to file in the time limit established by law, the office automatically becomes vacant per Public Officers Law section 30 (1)(h). Taking and filing the oath late **does not** cure the vacancy. If the appointing body so desires it may fill the vacancy that occurs in this instance. The only exemption to this time frame deals with members of the Armed Forces who are absent from the county they reside in at the time of appointment and this case has its own time requirements. The actions of officers who continue to serve in their positions after a failure to file their oath are still considered valid under Public Officers Law section 15, but the officer can be notified of the vacancy by the town and then replaced at any time.