

August 12, 2022

Commission Welcomes New Planner



Matthew Smith joined the Tug Hill Commission this past week as a planner. Matthew, a South Glens Falls native, moved to Adams and joined the Tug Hill Commission because of his belief the region is special, and to learn more about the uniqueness of Tug Hill. Matthew received a degree in Political Science with a focus on International Relations and a minor in History from Siena College last spring. He spent three months in Washington D.C. interning with the Environmental Protection Agency, and during that time he decided to pursue planning as a career. Matthew also interned with the City of Saratoga Springs Planning Department where he worked on an Open Space Plan, a city-wide sidewalk project, and a grant opportunity and award spreadsheet for municipalities. His final research project at Siena included surveying on community attitudes on housing.

In his spare time Matthew enjoys gardening, auto racing and soccer. He is excited to help lay the foundation in local planning and zoning laws to facilitate the future of Tug Hill that its residents would like to see.

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SAVE THE DATE

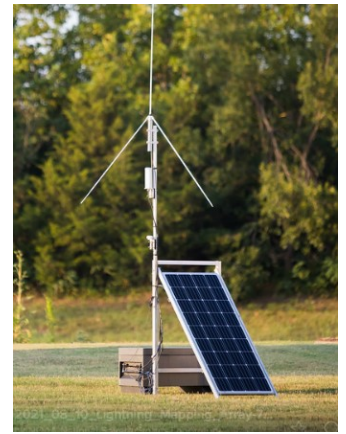


Invitations will be in the mail soon!

Lake-Effect Researchers Looking for Sensor Sites

SUNY Oswego, along with the University of Oklahoma, the National Severe Storms Laboratory, and several partner universities recently secured a \$1.3 million National Science Foundation grant to study lightning in lake-effect storms off of Lake Ontario from September 2022 to March 2023. To conduct the research, SUNY Oswego plans to set up a network of temporary lightning sensors in the area, and collect them after lake-effect snow season, and has asked the Tug Hill Commission to get the word out and collect possible locations. If you would be willing to host a sensor over the winter, please email tughill@tughill.org with your name and address.

The instrument occupies a roughly 5x6 ft space, and photos of what the instrument looks like can be seen at www.flickr.com/photos/noaanssl/sets/72157719674219692/with/51371051850/. The instrument runs off solar power and collects various types of data, described at <https://www.nssl.noaa.gov/tools/oklma/>. The researchers need locations with a relatively good sky view (not in a valley) and that are distanced from electrical interference (transformers, industry, etc.).



Association of Towns Fall Planning and Zoning Schools - Three Locations

Registration for fall training with Association of Towns opened on July 1. Three planning and zoning schools are being held in September, each day offering four hours of land use training. Registration cost is \$110 and includes materials, breakfast, and lunch. Onsite registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Classes begin at 9:10 a.m. and end at 1:40 p.m. More information https://members.nytowns.org/Towns/Common/2022_Fall_Planning_Zoning_Schools.aspx.

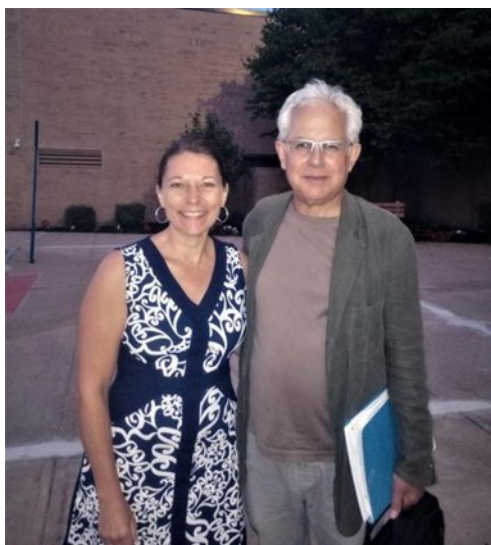
Tuesday, September 13, 2022, Wallace Center @ FDR Library and Museum, 4079 Albany Post Road Hyde Park, NY 12538

Wednesday, September 29, 2022, New York Kitchen, 800 S. Main St., Canandaigua, NY 14424

Thursday, October 6, 2022, Conference Center At Lake Placid, 2608 Main St., Lake Placid, NY 12946

Castorland Journal Presentation Available On YouTube

Over 60 people attended in person at the Lowville Academy auditorium on July 29, and another 20 online via Zoom, to hear Dr. John Gallucci present on *The Castorland Journal: An Account of the Exploration and Settlement of Northern New York State by French Emigres in the Years 1773-1797*. Dr. Gallucci, a professor of French at Colgate University, translated the journal of French explorer Pierre Pharoux and Simon Desjardins, who explored the Black River as part of a proposed French settlement of the area. A video of the presentation can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJF9A1VMfa0. The event was sponsored by several organizations, including Friends of the Black River, and was held to coincide with RiverFest.



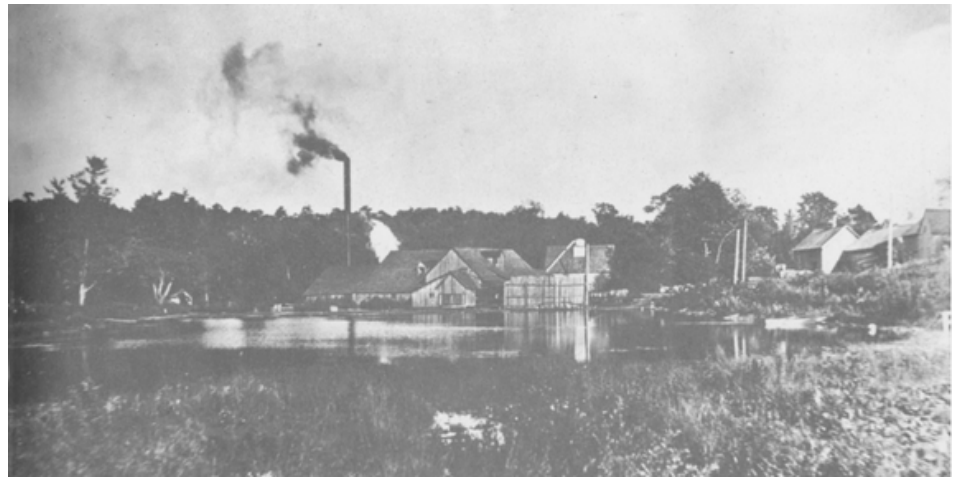
Castorland Trustee Heidi Lehmann and John A. Gallucci at Lowville Academy and Central School.



A RiverFest floating trivia question incorporated the Castorland Journal co-author Pierre Pharoux.

A NYS TUG HILL
COMMISSION HISTORY
PRESENTATION

A CENTURY GONE BY: REVISITING SWANCOTT MILLS



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022
1:00 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M.
WEST LEYDEN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1157 FISH CREEK RD
WEST LEYDEN, NY 13489**

ALSO AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM

**REGISTER FOR EITHER IN-
PERSON OR ONLINE
ATTENDANCE AT**

[TINYURL.COM/SWANCOTT](https://tinyurl.com/swancott)

**OR CALL THE TUG HILL
COMMISSION AT (315) 785-2380**



JAMES BURKE

Author of "A Lifetime on the Hill," musician, and storyteller, Jim will sing and share stories from his family and life experience.



LEIGH PORTNER

Logger, Linn tractor enthusiast and history lover, Leigh will bring artifacts from Swancott Mills and share his recollections.



ROBERT SAUER

Tug Hill Sage, retired Harden forester, NOCCOG chairman and Camden local official, Bob will emcee the event.

Oneida County Consolidation Challenge

Oneida County has announced the Oneida County Consolidation Challenge, an incentive program to improve the efficiencies of municipal governments, in which the county will double the first-year's savings to participating municipalities.

The goal of the program is to create effective consolidation of government services, allow local municipalities to streamline those services, increase efficiencies and save taxpayer money in the long term. The first-year annual savings will be doubled by the county in a one-time incentive.

The application, which can be found [here](#), is a straightforward single-page application, outlining a municipality's consolidation objectives. The incentive will only be paid upon completion of the consolidation.

The Oneida County Planning Department will administer the application and incentive program, working with municipalities throughout the process to identify projects, costs, savings, timeframes, benefits, and barriers to and from consolidation.



Commission staffers Taylor McKinney, Alaina Mallette, and Matthew Smith spent time in the field this week testing and training with new GPS equipment. Pictured with Carolyn Yerdon, Sandy Creek Central School District teacher, who is also North Redfield's National Weather Service weather observer.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust Welcomes New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust appointed Mark Pacilio as Executive Director, officially starting on Monday August 1. Mark will oversee overall organization management including budgeting, personnel, fundraising, and strategic planning. Mark most recently held the position of Administration Operations Director at the Neighborhood Center in Utica, and he was a former chief of staff in the New York State Assembly. J.J. Schell, Associate Director, is the primary contact for land protection efforts on Tug Hill. Former executive director Linda Garrett has taken a position as Northeast Regional Director with American Farmland Trust. Under Linda's almost 30 years of leadership at the land trust, over 21,000 acres of land were permanently protected.

For more information about the land trust, go to www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org.

Local Land Use Training in September

The Jefferson and Lewis County Planning Departments are each hosting four hours of land use training in September. Topics are still being determined for each session and will be shared in a future Tug Hill Times.

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, Jefferson Community College Campus in Watertown

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, Jefferson Community College Education Center in Lowville

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](#).

State Comptroller Announces Tax Levy Limit for 2023 Town Budgets

State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has announced the tax levy limit for local government units with fiscal years ending December 31. These local governments, which include towns and counties, will have a tax levy limit of 2% for the 2023 fiscal year, the second consecutive year at 2%. The tax levy limit has been at 2% for four of the past five years.

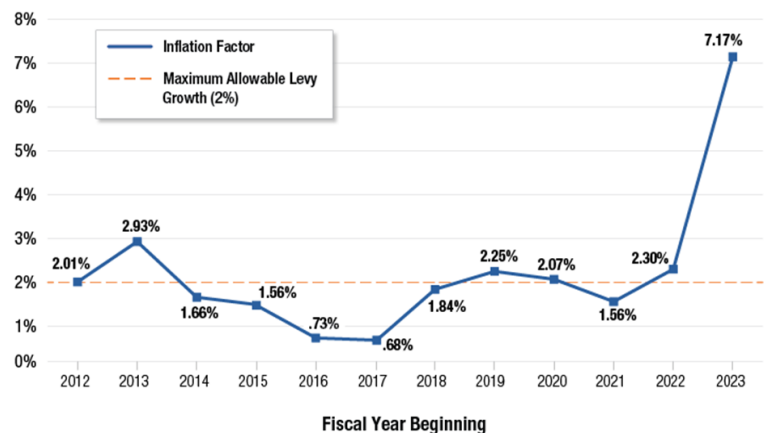
The comptroller's web page concerning the tax levy limit for local governments can be found at:

www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/index.htm

Past years' allowable levy growth factors chart for all governments can be found at:

www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/property-tax-cap/pdf/inflation-and-allowable-levy-growth-factors.pdf

Tax Cap Inflation Factors for Calendar Fiscal Year Local Governments
2012-2023



Meet the Commissioners - Tom Boxberger

Where are you from?

Originally, I'm from Sullivan County, on the edge of the Catskills: Youngsville, NY. I moved to the Tug Hill region after graduating from Cortland and worked for the NYS Department of Health in Watertown. I started my career as a sanitarian and was an office director.

Tell me about growing up in Youngsville?

It was a small town of around 150 people. My life was spent outdoors, hunting, fishing, playing sports, climbing mountains, playing on the Delaware River. It was an idyllic childhood.

What are some of your favorite things to do in your free time?

I hunt and fish, spend time at my home in Dry Hill and at my cottage in Henderson. We travel to Florida every winter. We have seven grandkids all throughout New England and they are very active. I'm the most blessed person I've ever met in my life. My wife and I hiked El Dorado and Black Pond recently.

Tell me a little about your background, career, and journey to become a commissioner?

Most of my career was spent at the NYS Department of Health (DOH) as a director. In that role I relied on Tug Hill Commission staff to help with projects and gain support. When Fort Drum expanded, they were an important partner to the DOH. One of our main projects was providing education and support for alternative septic systems and cost savings. When I was appointed as a commissioner 11 years ago, it became my opportunity to pay back the commission for everything they did to help me as director and the DOH professionally.

What do you like most about the Tug Hill Region?

I love to hunt and trout fish. When my kids were home, we snowshoed and cross country skied. We love the snow, as we get older a little bit less, but we enjoy the remoteness, peace and quiet, uniqueness, core forest, and waterfalls.

Where are some of your favorite places to visit in Tug Hill?

Whenever there is an opportunity to hike, we like to visit the gorges near Sandy Creek, Whetstone Gulf, and Salmon River Falls. Water fascinates me.

What projects or initiatives are you working on for the behalf of the Tug Hill Commission and the community?

I'm a supporting person for the staff and the office. Each commissioner has a different background and set of experiences and skills which we meld together to provide unique and beneficial set of guidance for the commission to implement.

What do you enjoy most about being a Commissioner for the Tug Hill Commission?

I am constantly amazed by the dedication and skill set of the team that forms the commission. I'm also amazed at the ability of a group of people, myself included and members of the commission, to work together. We accomplish an amazing amount of work. We are not an enforcement or regulatory agency.

What is your long-term vision for the Tug Hill Commission and the Tug Hill Community?

I think that vision is constantly changing. I have a planning background. I am a member of Watertown planning board and I see the need in communities to update their guidance for regulations. The commission has always done a great job of providing that planning guidance. I would love to see that continued and expanded. I'd like to see the commission continue to help local governments with comprehensive plans, grant writing, environmental issues, protect local natural resources (water quality, native stands of trees), and promote recreation in our area of Tug Hill.

What would you tell someone thinking about joining a leadership role as a commissioner?

It is an honor and privilege to be a part of the commission. It's a role that I very much appreciate the opportunity to have. The rewards are so significant with the effort we put in. It's a wonderful organization. If anyone has an opportunity to become appointed to the commission, they would cherish it for the rest of their life. There are opportunities to work with people and learn every day.

What are a few major accomplishments you've participated in at the Tug Hill Commission?

Back at DOH the commission staff helped us promote and develop public water supplies, including areas outside of Tug Hill. The ability of the commission to provide assistance and promote good projects and was an asset for us at the health department.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share?

I would like everyone to understand what the commission does. They are there to help our local communities. The staff are truly amazing individuals and a magnificent team. Their services are unique within the state: from hosting the Local Government Conference, attending town board meetings, project development, and grant writing they perform services that are special to the community.

