

September 9, 2022

## Tug Hill Commission to Meet September 19

The Tug Hill Commission board will meet Monday, September 19 at the Trenton Municipal Building, 8520 Old Poland Rd, Barneveld, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Remote access will also be offered by Zoom at [us02web.zoom.us/j/87144555136](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87144555136), or by calling (929) 205-6099, meeting ID 8714455136. The public is welcome to attend.



## Cooperative Tug Hill Council Fall Dinner Meeting September 22

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council will hold their Fall Dinner Meeting on Thursday, September 22. Social hour is at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. and meeting to follow. Speaker Scott Steiger, SUNY Oswego, will discuss the Lake Effect Lighting Study on Tug Hill.

Please RSVP by September 14 by contacting Angie Kimball at 315-599-8825, 315-480-6857 or [angie@tughill.org](mailto:angie@tughill.org).



## RACOG Board Meeting September 28

The next River Area Council of Governments (RACOG) meeting will be held September 28, 2022 at the village of Carthage board room at 6:00 p.m. April Roggio, PhD, a Research Associate from the Center for Policy Research at SUNY Albany will be coming to present

about local food systems and policies. They are currently interviewing local governments about their local food supply. Their goal is to better understand how communities design and sustain resilient and vibrant local food systems in New York by identifying the degree to which towns, cities and counties have begun to address localization of food systems. They are specifically interested in how communities define their local food system, and the activities and projects communities have developed as a result of their efforts.

## Town of Worth Holds Zoning and Subdivision Law Open House

On August 25, the town of Worth held an open house. Residents were invited to comment and ask questions regarding a proposed update to the town's zoning and subdivision regulations. A zoning committee was formed over a year ago to update the current regulations, which have been in place since 1978. Members of the committee include Barbara DeYear (Planning Board Chair), Kris Stephenson (ZBA Chair), Donald Holman (resident), and Norm Paradis (Town Board member and Zoning Committee Chair).

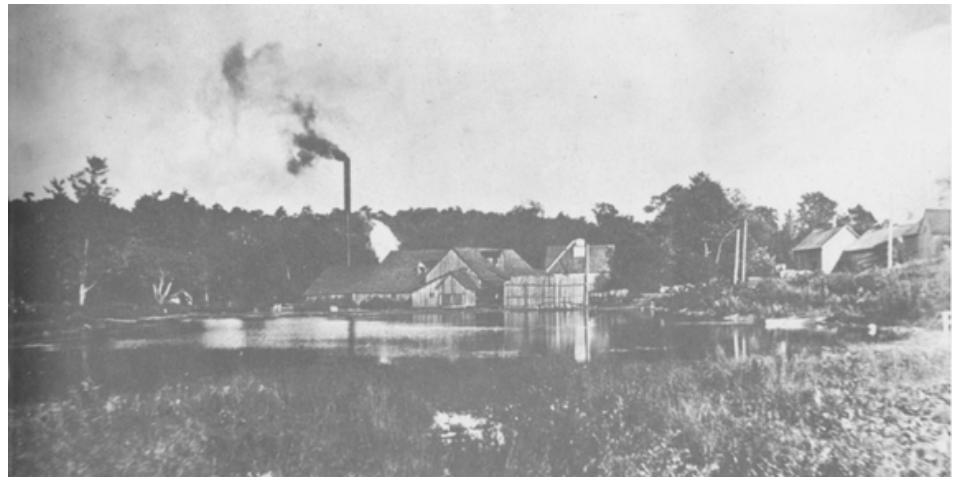


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A NYS TUG HILL  
COMMISSION HISTORY  
PRESENTATION

# 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.

# Annual Land Use Training

**Wednesday, September 21, 3:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Lewis County JCC Education Center**

**7395 East Rd., Lowville.**

For all planning board, zoning board of appeals members and code enforcement officials.

- Registration 3:30-4:00 p.m.
- Planning & Zoning 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Joint Boards: Options for Consolidating Review Boards 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.
- Short Term Rentals 7:30-8:30 p.m.

To register call Lewis County Planning Department 315-376-5422, email [suekulzer@lewiscounty.ny.gov](mailto:suekulzer@lewiscounty.ny.gov) or online at <https://www.lewiscounty.org/2022landusetraining>. This training is sponsored by the NYS Department of State and Lewis County.

This workshop will provide four (4) hours of training to meet the NYS Municipality Training Requirement for municipal board members.

## Site Plan Review and Special Use Permits Training

**Tuesday, September 20, 6:30 p.m.**

**Jefferson Community College, Jules Center Amphitheater, 1220 Coffeen Street, Watertown.**

Part 1 - scope and content of a site plan and the role of the site plan in municipal review of development projects. A discussion of design and the reasons some approaches might be preferable to others is included in the course.

Part 2 - will address how some uses require additional review and should be granted permission only if the application meets certain conditions. Examples include gas stations, dog kennels, and uses with drive-through windows. The special use permit is also used for development in environmentally sensitive zones with overlays such as for wetlands, steep slopes, and along scenic ridgelines. Scenarios in which the special use permit tool is most helpful will be discussed, along with rules local boards must follow for reviewing and approving applications for special use permits.

This training is sponsored by the Jefferson County Planning Department and NYS Department of State. The training will provide attendees two hours toward their four-hour annual training requirement, if approved by their municipality.

Please register [here](#).

## Municipality Mondays with MVEDD

The Mohawk Valley Economic Development District is hosting open webinars every Monday from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. The sessions are open to all local governments, covering questions and concerns on a variety of topics including municipality issues, ARPA Funding, funding building improvements, how to offset utility costs, parks or green space improvements, connecting with local residents and businesses, or assistance with comprehensive plans.

Google Meet Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/znj-gtvj-ric>

Or call: 240-775-0085 PIN: 322 752 952#

For more information, contact Amanda Kaier: [Akaier@mvedd.org](mailto:Akaier@mvedd.org) or 315-525-1312.





# Lewis County

## FAÇADE & STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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 throughout Lewis County.



## Small Town Revival



### FACADE IMPROVEMENTS

- 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



### STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

- 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



**Round 2 Applications Due November 4, 2022**

For questions about this program, please contact:  
**Megan Krokowski, Community Development Specialist,**  
at 315-376-5423 or [megankrokowski@lewiscounty.ny.gov](mailto:megankrokowski@lewiscounty.ny.gov)



**THE PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE UP TO 75% IN FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.**

# On the Road: Pulleys and Flywheels

The “Old Time” Gas Engines, Tractors, and Truck Show will be returning to Constableville, New York, for its 47<sup>th</sup> year following a hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. The festival is hosted by the Flywheels & Pulleys Club and serves as its major annual fundraising event. Club membership is not required for attendance.

Located on the Flywheels & Pulleys grounds off Route 26, the show will be active from Friday, September 9 to Sunday, September 11. History and traditional craftsmanship are at the forefront here with antique engines, trucks, tractors, equipment, and other tools on display. Festival events include a live auction, chain saw carving, a greased pole contest, tractor pulls, barbecue and eating contests, races, a beard contest, and folk music. A flea market and craft show will also be accessible to event attendees.

The Tug Hill Commission’s info booth, in partnership with the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, will be on exhibit for the duration of the three-day event. Commission and Land Trust staff look forward to meeting Pulley & Flywheel enthusiasts and handing out more copies of the newly-updated Tug Hill Recreation Guide.

For further event-specific information on the “Old Time” Gas Engines, Tractors, and Truck Show, contact Olga or John Miller at (315) 348-6781.

## Contact Us

**NYS Tug Hill Commission**  
317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: 315-785-2380  
Toll Free within the region:  
1-888-785-2380  
Email: [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org)

Visit us at:

Web: [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission](https://www.facebook.com/TugHillCommission)

To request our newsletter electronically please email [gwen@tughill.org](mailto:gwen@tughill.org) or call

1-888-785-2380.

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

# Six Town Community Fund Grants Available

The Six Town Community Fund of the Northern New York Community Foundation will award up to \$7,500 in grant funding to non-profit organizations in southern Jefferson County. The fund will provide support for local programs, projects and initiatives that help improve the quality of life in the Six Town area. In order to be eligible, organizations must serve the communities of Adams, Ellisburg, Henderson, Lorraine, Rodman, and Worth.

In 2021, the fund provided \$5,000 to different organizations, including \$2,000 to upgrade computers at the Adams Center Free Library, \$1,500 to complete exterior repairs at the Ripley House Museum at the Historical Association of South Jefferson, \$1,000 to the Henderson Harbor Historical Association that allowed for a study to determine the feasibility of developing a performing arts venue, as well as \$500 to the Six Town Chamber of Commerce that helped support their annual holiday meal that is given to 400 senior citizens in the Six Town area.

The Community Fund began in 2012, and has been awarding grants since 2015. It has provided more than \$35,000 to help 34 different community service projects and programs as well as improvement projects, youth programs, new events, equipment purchases, and facility upgrades.

“The Six Town Community Fund is a vital resource we are proud to make available to the many nonprofit organizations that serve our communities,” said Six Town Community Fund Chair Barb Green.

Those interested can contact Community Foundation assistant director Max DeSignore at 315-782-7110 or email at [max@nnycf.org](mailto:max@nnycf.org). The deadline to apply is Oct. 21 and nonprofit’s with a 501(c)(3) classification are eligible.

# Meet the Commissioners - Gerry Ritter

## Where are you from?

I'm from Forestport, NY. Apart from when I attended university in Plattsburgh, I've lived here all my life.

## Tell me about growing up in Forestport?

I attended Forestport Central School and graduated with a class of 12 people. My parents owned a family restaurant called the "Lockwood Inn." They boarded loggers, gave rides to train passengers who disembarked the station, and delivered messages throughout the town before telephones became common in the region. Then and now, it is a very tight-knit, involved community.

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

I don't often have much free time, but I enjoy reading, gardening, and spending time with my family. Since COVID, I have been trying to read one book a week. I'm averaging about 40 books a year.

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

Town government and community involvement were simply part of the family from a very young age. My father was the town supervisor in Forestport for 16 years, and both my parents volunteered heavily in the community. I worked as a teacher in a Woodgate one-room school-house. I was a clerk for the assessor's office and served on the planning board. After receiving my sociology degree, I worked within the Adirondack School District as a case worker while also serving as a part-time NOCCOG circuit rider for the Commission. My role at the Commission then became full time until my retirement.

## What do you like most about the Tug Hill Region?

I like the natural beauty. People who live here appreciate it and take care of it. When making trips to other towns, it's nice to just enjoy the drive and appreciate the view in the different seasons. Even after traveling and seeing sights like the Grand Canyon, Tug Hill is home.

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

I've always liked Whetstone Gulf. I took my children there often to go swimming and hiking. I've always spent a lot of time on the Black River.

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

I try to offer insight as a former commission employee to my current role as a commissioner. People I knew as a circuit rider still stop me to discuss their communities. I

continue to work with the Forestport planning board, serve as a library board trustee and chairman, act as co-chair and treasurer for the local food pantry, and work with other community groups.

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

When I retired as a circuit rider, I still had a strong interest in local events. Acting as a commissioner has allowed me to continue to be very involved in the region. It is so gratifying to see the growth of the region and its projects, like the windmills, for example.

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

My long-term vision is to carry on what we've been doing: to continue to be good stewards of the environment and help municipal officials. As time goes on, greater rules and regulations will mean that municipalities have more responsibilities and things they need to take on. The Tug Hill Commission will become even more important in continuing to educate, assist, and advocate for the communities in the region.

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

As a commissioner, you can make a difference in your community and the region itself. There are opportunities to learn cutting-edge things and bring them back to the communities. Being a commissioner is a great way to give back.

## What are a few major accomplishments you've seen while at the Tug Hill Commission?

Many of my major accomplishments during my time as a circuit rider I continue to see develop now as a commissioner. Helping to establish town planning boards and getting towns official road maps were huge undertakings that were my mission as an employee. Additionally, record management grants eventually led to the digitization of genealogical documents that would go on to ancestry.com.

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

I have a lot of respect for the commission, and those who have worked and continue to work there. It is a unique environment, which I think translates into how we interact with our communities. I am proud to have been a staff member and now serve as a commissioner.

