

# TUG HILL TIMES



NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION | DULLES STATE OFFICE BUILDING | 317 WASHINGTON STREET | WATERTOWN NY 13601 (315) 785-2380 | www.tughill.org

December 16, 2022

## Commission Elects Officers for 2023-24

The Tug Hill Commission held its last meeting of 2022 on Monday, December 12 at the town of Watertown municipal building. The following slate of officers was elected for the 2023-24 term:

**Chairman**, Jan Bogdanowicz, Montague, Lewis County

**Vice Chairman**, Mike Yerdon, Redfield, Oswego County

**Secretary**, Tom Boxberger, Watertown, Jefferson County

Leona Chereshnoski (Lorraine, Jefferson Co.), Roger Maciejko (Turin, Lewis Co.), Gerry Ritter (Forestport, Oneida Co.), and Bill Scriber (Parish, Oswego Co.) also continue as commission members.

The commission was briefed on the proposed Thousand Islands Event Center by Watertown Supervisor Joel Bartlett, and adopted a 2023 meeting schedule.

2023 Tug Hill Commission Meeting Schedule		
Date	Location	Time
January 23, 2023	Trenton	10:00 a.m.
March 20, 2023	Rodman	10:00 a.m.
April 5, 2023	Floyd	3:00 p.m.
May 15, 2023	Constantia	10:00 a.m.
June 26, 2023	Castorland	10:00 a.m.
September 18, 2023	Williamstown	10:00 a.m.
October 19, 2023	Tailwater Lodge	5:00 p.m.
December 11, 2023	Champion	10:00 a.m.

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## Tug Hill Commission Begins 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



In 2023, the Tug Hill Commission will celebrate 50 years of service to the Tug Hill region. As part of this celebration, the commission is kicking off the year with a poster contest for local high school students. Any students Grade 9 through 12 enrolled in one of the Tug Hill region school districts are eligible to apply. The contest's first place winner will have their submission featured on the brochure cover for the 2023 Local Government Conference on April 5 and 6 at the Turning Stone Conference Center in Verona.

The theme of the poster contest is **“What does the Tug Hill Region mean to you?”** Contest submissions will be accepted from **January 1, 2023, to February 15, 2023**, and winners will be announced no later than **February 21, 2023**. All submissions

must be sent through a Google Form at the following link, which will not go live until January 1: [tinyurl.com/tughill50poster](https://tinyurl.com/tughill50poster).

If you have any questions about this, please contact Taylor McKinney at [taylor@tughill.org](mailto:taylor@tughill.org) or (315) 785-2606. A flyer with more information is also available at [tughill.org/about/50th-anniversary-poster-contest/](https://tughill.org/about/50th-anniversary-poster-contest/).

Also, Tug Hill Roasters is continuing their theme of Tug Hill-related labels by commemorating the commission's milestone with a special run of coffee. The commission appreciates the recognition by [Tug Hill Roasters](https://tughillroasters.com), and special thanks to Taylor McKinney for designing the Tug Hill graphic.



# 2023 Local Government Conference Registration Live

Registration materials for the 2023 Tug Hill Local Government Conference (LGC) are in the mail! Please check your mailboxes, talk to your circuit riders, or check our [website](#) for LGC registration information. On our website, you'll find a copy of the registration materials and detailed information about the drone session and reception on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, and the full-day training event on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

## Sandy Creeks Stakeholder Meeting January 17

Do you live or work in the towns of Adams, Ellisburg, Lorraine, Rodman, Worth, Sandy Creek, Boylston or Richland? We need your input!

Jefferson County and Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, NYS Tug Hill Commission, and Upstate Fresh Water Institute are working together to develop a 9-Element (9E) Watershed Management Plan for the Sandy Creeks Watershed. The 9E Plan will identify water quality concerns, priority areas for water quality sampling, and strategies for addressing water quality concerns. The plan will be beneficial to municipalities and anyone seeking grant funds to improve water quality in this area. View an interactive map of the target watershed [here](#).

The first stakeholder meeting will be held on Tuesday January 17, 2023, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Sandy Creek Town Hall, 1992 Harwood Drive, Sandy Creek, NY. Light refreshments will be served, please [register here](#) by January 11.

## Oneida Lake Watershed Public Meeting January 24

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. to garner input on the Oneida Lake Nine Element Watershed Management Plan. When complete, the plan will describe the community's water quality concerns and provide a strategy to address those concerns. This plan will be developed in partnership with people who live, work, visit, and enjoy Oneida Lake, its tributaries, and the greater watershed, with guidance from state and local agencies.

Madison County has received funding for the plan from the NYS Department of State with support from the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board and in cooperation with a watershed advisory committee. Interested individuals are welcome to attend the virtual public meeting to learn more about the initiative and share input on a vision and a set of goals for the watershed, please [click here to register](#).

## 2023-2024 Records Management Grant Guidelines Released

New York State Archives has announced that the guidelines for the 2023-2024 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant cycle have been released in advance of the application portal and are available now. The eGrants portal will open on **January 4, 2023**, and applications may not be created, edited, or submitted in the portal before that date.

The Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund provides grants to local governments. These grants assist local governments to establish records management programs or develop new program components. It is a competitive program, awarding grants based on the merits of applications.

If you plan to apply for an LGRMIF grant, your Records Management Officer (RMO) must have a NYS Directory Service (NYSDS) account by **February 15, 2023**. If you do not have a NYSDS account, please complete the [online registration form](#). If you are not sure if your RMO has an account, email [archgrants@nysed.gov](mailto:archgrants@nysed.gov).

The 2023-2024 application due date will be **March 1, 2023**. For more information, and to access the Guidelines, please visit our [LGRMIF webpage](#).

There will be a LGRMIF [Grants Kickoff meeting](#) on January 3, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. They will review:

- how to prepare for grant writing season
- important dates and requirements you need to know
- the resources and contacts you'll need to prepare a strong application

Several other webinars have been recorded dealing with the LGRMIF grants and are available to view at any time. Visit the Archives [Workshops Catalogue](#) to find these and other records related recordings.

# Upcoming Agrivoltaics Workshops

This four-part series, hosted by Penn State, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the NY & PA Farm Bureaus, is designed to assist local and municipal officials in better understanding agrivoltaics and how to consider and discuss dual use as they make planning decisions.

**Preserving Agriculture in the Face of Growing Solar Development**, Thursday, January 5, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

As the demand for renewable energy, specifically solar, grows the competition for our finite land resources is increasing. In this session, we'll explore how municipal officials can maintain their agricultural, rural, and cultural heritage while allowing for solar energy development. Learn more and register [here](#).

**Overview of Agrivoltaics**, Thursday, January 19, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

For planners and other local officials to be better prepared to integrate agrivoltaics into the site plan review process, they first must understand what agrivoltaics is – current and potential future practices. In this session we'll discuss current, and upcoming, agrivoltaic practices. Learn more and register [here](#).

**Planning with Agrivoltaics in Mind**, Thursday, February 2, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

This session will discuss practices and considerations when developing siting and zoning ordinances. Learn more and register [here](#).

**Series Q&A**, Thursday, February 16, 2023, 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

With such a new and pressing topic there will likely be more questions than can be answered in the previous three sessions. At this session, speakers from the previous sessions will be back for an hour plus of Q & A. Learn more and register [here](#).



## Commission Assisting Adoption of CTHC Mini Plans

Tug Hill Commission staff attended the Osceola Town Board meeting this past Wednesday, December 14 and presented a draft mini-comprehensive plan which the town board may adopt as its land use policy document. The comprehensive plan is the central document for a municipality to outline the demographic data, community resources, natural resources, and goals for a town or village moving forward. The comprehensive plan may also be the basis for zoning laws and can provide explanation for how the zoning laws are set up. The Osceola Town Board is set to review the plan for next month's board meeting.

The commission will attend the Harrisburg Town Board meeting on December 20 to present their mini-comprehensive plan.

## Technical and Issue Paper Updates

### ***Tug Hill Aquifer 101 For Local Communities***

The Tug Hill Commission recently updated the issue paper, *Tug Hill Aquifer 101 For Local Communities*. Updates to the issue paper reflect a final report on the Northern and Central portions of the Tug Hill Aquifer, completed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The report, entitled "Geohydrology and Water Quality of the Northern and Central Parts of the Tug Hill Glacial Aquifer System, Jefferson and Oswego Counties, North-Central New York", was completed in 2022 and can be found on the USGS website by clicking [here](#). The updated issue paper includes information on Tug Hill Aquifer history, water quality, water usage, geohydrology, aquifer recharge and discharge modeling, and potential future research. Check out [Tug Hill Aquifer 101 for Local Communities](#) to learn how the aquifer supplies clean water to our region and its people, and how long-term threats could affect it.

### ***Open Burning Regulations in New York***

Remember that burning household trash is illegal in New York and harmful to you and the environment due to the chemicals found in modern day household items! NYS law also prohibits burning leaves at any time and having open fires from March 16 to May 14 annually. Check out the updated technical paper, [Open Burning Regulations in NYS](#), to learn about other state regulations affecting the Adirondacks, Catskills, agricultural land, and more.

# Winter Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

**Winter Solstice Forest Celebration, December 21, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Celebrate the year's longest night, and the return of longer days with Tug Hill Tomorrow at the Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary near Watertown on the 2022 winter solstice. Participants will share traditions of solstice celebrations around the world, take a quiet candlelit forest trail walk, listen to a solstice story and create a take-home nature offering. Reserve [here](#).

**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Training, December 29, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Join a guided walk at the Salmon River Falls Unique Area and learn to recognize and report Hemlock Woolly Adelgid HWA (or the lack thereof) – an invasive insect that kills hemlock trees. The Eastern Hemlock is a key tree species found throughout Tug Hill that provides many benefits for people and nature. Detecting the presence of HWA early on provides enough time to protect infested trees and helps to stop the spread to new areas. Trainers will help participants learn how to identify the Eastern Hemlock, survey for HWA and report observations using their smartphone through a free mobile application called iMapinvasives. Reserve [here](#).

**First Day Fun Outing at Blake Sanctuary, January 1, 2023, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Greet the New Year at the Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary on New Year's Day. This outing can be listed as a part of the [Tug Hill Winter Fun Challenge](#).

**XC Ski/Snowshoe at BREIA's Jackson Hill, January 14, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Cross-country ski or snowshoe with Tug Hill Tomorrow at the Black River Environmental Improvement Association's (BREIA) Jackson Hill Sunfield trails near Boonville. Some of the most impressive views and landscapes of the BREIA campuses can be found at the Jackson Hill Sunfield. Attendees are welcome to use their own skis or snowshoes. If needed, BREIA can provide xc-skis, snowshoes and associated equipment upon request. This outing can be listed as a part of the [Tug Hill Winter Fun Challenge](#).

**Guided Snowshoe Expeditions with the Great Lot Sportsman's Club**

2023 Saturday snowshoeing dates, all trips start at 10:00 a.m. Free and open to all age groups.

- January 14
- February 4
- February 18
- March 4
- March 18

For more information or to reserve a date please contact Guy Case at 315-378-7592.

## Oneida County DPW Plow Trucks Go Green



Oneida County Department of Public Works plow trucks are now using green flashing lights as part of a pilot program to increase visibility and safety on winter roadways.

The Oneida County pilot program was initiated after New York State passed Assembly Bill A811A during the 2021-2022 legislative session, which allowed for the use of green lights, or alternating green and amber lights, on municipal vehicles being used for snow removal. The law currently applies only to municipalities and not to privately-owned vehicles.

Some of the DPW's 25 plow trucks have already been outfitted with the flashing green lights and have been out on snow removal duty. The rest of the county fleet should have them installed by the end of December.

## Contact Us

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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](#).

