

December 30, 2022

Commission Meeting January 23, Trenton

The first Tug Hill Commission meeting of 2023 will be held on Monday, January 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Trenton Town Hall, 8520 Old Poland Road, Barneveld. Agenda items will include plans for the 2023 Tug Hill Local Leaders Survey, report on the 2023 NYS budget and legislative agenda to date, and a report from the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments. The public is welcome to attend.

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

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NY Finalizes Climate Action Council Scoping Plan

On December 19, 2022, the NYS Climate Action Council voted 19-3 to approve and adopt the NYS Climate Action Council Scoping Plan. The plan outlines a multitude of recommended policies and actions to help meet the goals and requirements of the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act). The plan is available to the public [here](http://www.tughill.org), and will be submitted to Governor Hochul and the state legislature by January 1, 2023.

The Climate Act created requirements in law for New York to achieve 70 percent renewable energy by 2030; 100 percent zero-emission electricity by 2040; a 40-percent reduction in statewide greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2030, an 85-percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2050; and net-zero emissions statewide by 2050.

Recommendations of specific interest to Tug Hill communities include:

- **Amend Real Property Tax Law § 480-a** to create tracks for forest carbon management, induce greater landowner participation and integrate stronger sustainability provisions (such as forest regeneration) with the primary goal to remain unchanged and encourage sustainable timber management. The tax abatement benefit for landowners should remain unchanged with up to 100% reimbursement to municipalities.
- **Enact legislation to create a new Real Property Tax Law § 480-b** to allow private forest landowners to enroll at least 15-acres of contiguous forestland to manage for multiple benefits (such as wildlife habitat, water quality, wood products, carbon sequestration, and carbon resilience) and, if desired, conserve their forests in natural conditions to participate in tax programs. Initial benefits should start at a lower level than Real Property Tax Law § 480-a and a new Real Property Tax Law § 480-c with up to 100% reimbursement to municipalities.
- **Enact legislation to create a new Real Property Tax Law § 480-c** to provide forest landowners a tax incentive to undertake practices that increase carbon storage, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience while addressing the need for additionality (additional carbon or climate benefits generated due to practices above the current baseline state). To be eligible for this program, a landowner would be required to enroll at least 15 acres of contiguous forested land. The tax benefit to landowners should increase as the years of commitment increase to recognize accumulated sequestration benefits over time with up to 100% reimbursement to local municipalities.
- **Expand legislation** to secure local government's ability to designate Minimum Maintenance Roads to reduce subdivision and development pressure on roads that may result in conversion of farmland and forestland to other land uses.

Ground Truth FCC Broadband Map by January 13

The New York State ConnectALL office is encouraging every New Yorker to participate in the national broadband census to confirm the accuracy of their broadband service to help to direct millions in federal funding to our state.

To help ensure the most affordable and accessible internet for every home and business, ConnectALL is mobilizing people and organizations to help raise awareness about the FCC national broadband map, the importance of its accuracy and how to submit a challenge to update the map.

The deadline for submitting a challenge is January 13, 2023.

Local business owners and community residents are being asked to review their address on the [FCC national broadband map](#) and submit a challenge if needed (from their home or business, smart phone, local library or a community based organization that can provide access to a computer terminal).

The ConnectAll office, using NYS broadband mapping data, prepared a bulk challenge to the FCC's maps in November. In addition, counties are also preparing their own bulk challenges by the January 13 deadline. Households and businesses add another layer of ground truthing important to understand broadband needs that will direct future investments.

Black River Stakeholder Meeting January 25

Organizers are excited to announce a kickoff meeting for stakeholders to learn about and share feedback on the Black River Adaptive Modeling (BRAM) Project, Phase II. Phase I of the BRAM project aims to identify existing water quality data, assess data usability, and identify gaps towards developing an adaptive watershed model for the Black River at the HUC 12 scale. The revised watershed model planned to be developed during phase II of the project will be a more applicable resource for funding and conservation initiatives and will contribute to an update of the 9 Element Watershed Plan.

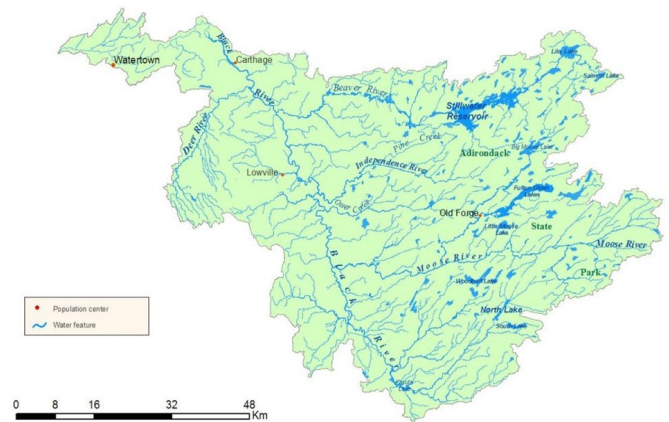
The BRAM project is a collaboration between the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc., CC Environment and Planning, the NYS Tug Hill Commission, and the Lewis, Jefferson, Hamilton, Herkimer, and Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Please join on January 25, from 3:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. virtually via Zoom, to share your local knowledge and expertise on existing water quality data, issues, and needs, and to learn how you can get involved with the BRAM project and benefit from the data being collected and shared as the project moves forward.

To register please complete the following google form:

tinyurl.com/BramRegistration

Please contact Gabriel Yerdon at gabriel@tughill.org with any questions.



View an interactive watershed map here:

tinyurl.com/BlackRiverWatershed

Commission Staff Attend *This is a Soldier 101* Seminar

Three junior Tug Hill Commission staff recently attended the *This is a Soldier 101* seminar with the goal of gaining a better understanding of military culture, Fort Drum, and its dynamic impact on Northern NY and the Tug Hill region. The seminar was presented by the NNY-Fort Drum Association of the United States Army and Army Family Team Building. Staff learned about topics including the Fort Drum Garrison, basic military knowledge, military chain of command, and military customs and courtesies. The training highlighted specific challenges to members of the military and their families that may be more difficult for civilians to observe. Staff also were able to hear from several engaging guest speakers.

Fort Drum has a significant economic and cultural impact extending throughout much of Northern NY and into Tug Hill. The staff who attended this seminar hope to be able to apply what they learned to their work at the Tug Hill Commission in order to best integrate the needs of Tug Hill communities and the members of the military in the region.



Snow Ridge: Through the Years

A NYS Tug Hill Commission History Presentation



Snow has long shaped the history of the Tug Hill region, and “snow stories” are thoroughly intertwined with the lived experiences of its inhabitants. Following World War II, a booming economy and the Alpine expertise of returning veterans initiated the start of what would be a booming winter sports industry. The skiing craze that popped up overnight in the Eastern United States found an outpost at Snow Ridge, transforming the small town of Turin. In its seventy-plus years of operation, the Snow Ridge Ski Resort has evolved from a family-owned ski hill serviced by one handmade engine-operated rope tow into a hotspot that – in its golden age – produced future Olympic racers, served as the staging ground for cutting-edge athletic technology, and even hosted foreign dignitaries.

Join us this winter to explore Snow Ridge through the years!

Sunday, January 29, 2023
1:00PM to 3:00PM EST

Snow Ridge Ski Resort
4173 West Road
Turin, NY 13473

Also available via ZOOM

Pre-registration is required at

tinyurl.com/skisnowridge

Or call the Tug Hill Commission at
(315) 785- 2380

FAST NY Shovel-Ready Grant Program

Under the FAST NY Shovel-Ready Grant Program, Empire State Development will provide up to \$200 million in grants to prepare and develop sites to jumpstart New York's shovel-readiness and increase its attractiveness to large employers, including high-tech manufacturing, particularly semiconductor manufacturing, interstate distribution and logistics businesses. The program is meant to diversify the state's economy with new investments for businesses, communities, and job creation.

Track A - FAST NY Shovel-Ready Certification: This no-cost designation by ESD for site-marketing purposes establishes that the applicant has worked proactively with NYS to address all major permitting issues prior to a business expressing interest in the location. Details will be announced later.

Track B - FAST NY Pre-Development Grants: Working capital grants of up to \$500,000 per site will be awarded to fund the cost of necessary pre-development site planning and reviews for future shovel-ready sites. Grants will fund necessary costs to assist grantees in completing pre-development activities, such as those required for FAST NY Shovel-Ready Certification.

Track C - FAST NY Infrastructure Improvements: Capital grants will be awarded to improve the shovel-readiness of existing, mature sites by funding infrastructure improvements such as water, sewer, transportation, electricity, gas and other capital-eligible site improvement costs.

The first step of the application process is a letter of intent. Eligible applicants are municipalities and municipally designated non-profit economic development organizations, such as industrial development agencies and authorities and economic development corporations designated to act on the behalf of the municipality in which the site is located. Sites must generally be at least 40 acres in size to be eligible for grant consideration. Eligible industries include high-tech manufacturing, including but need not be limited to clean-tech renewable energy, life sciences, agribusiness, optics, transportation equipment, materials processing, industrial machinery manufacturing and other advanced manufacturing, and sites for interstate distribution and logistics. Eligible site activities include manufacturing, research and development, office park, and interstate distribution and logistics.

All grant funds will be issued on a reimbursement basis. For information visit esd.ny.gov/fast-ny.

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 30 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.

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](#).