

December 2, 2022

Sixth Constable Chronicles Webinar Held

Fifty-nine people attended the webinar “*Constable Chronicles: Into the Adirondack Wilderness*” on November 30. Organized by the Tug Hill Commission and the Constable Hall Association in an ongoing online history series concerning Constable Hall in Constableville, NY, it was the sixth official presentation to appear in the last two years.

CONSTABLE CHRONICLES 6: INTO THE ADIRONDACK WILDERNESS

A Tug Hill Commission
Historical Webinar Series



Presented by Martha “Marty” Constable Murray, daughter of the last Constable family member to own Constable Hall, Wednesday’s presentation focused on the second generation of Constable children who constituted some of the earliest non-native inhabitants to hunt, fish, camp, and explore from the Tug Hill region to the western Adirondacks beginning in the 1830s. Presentation materials were organized by Curator Peter Hayes, and included old photos of camp sites and how they appear now in the modern day, primary source materials through old maps and writings, and secondary source material from Edith Pilcher, Charlie Herr, and Edward Pitts.

The presentation and materials will soon be available on the commission’s [website](http://www.tughill.org) and the webinar recording will be uploaded to YouTube’s Constable Chronicles [playlist](#). Find more information on Constable Hall on their [website](http://www.tughill.org) and [social media page](#).

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Commission Board Meeting December 12

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Watertown Municipal Building, 22867 County Rd 67, Watertown, NY 13601. The public is welcome to attend.

Budgeting & Accounting Training for Towns Well-Attended

On November 29 and 30, municipal consultant Laird Petrie presented a budgeting and accounting training geared toward smaller towns at the Tailwater Lodge in Tug Hill’s hamlet of Altmar. The commission and the Association of Towns (AOT) co-sponsored the two-day event which drew nearly 60 participants from across the state.

The first day of training was designed to cover topics beneficial for elected town officials as well as bookkeepers, accountants, and comptrollers, while the second day was designed to assist town bookkeepers, accountants, and comptrollers to record day to day financial transactions and generate necessary financial reports to the town board and outside agencies.

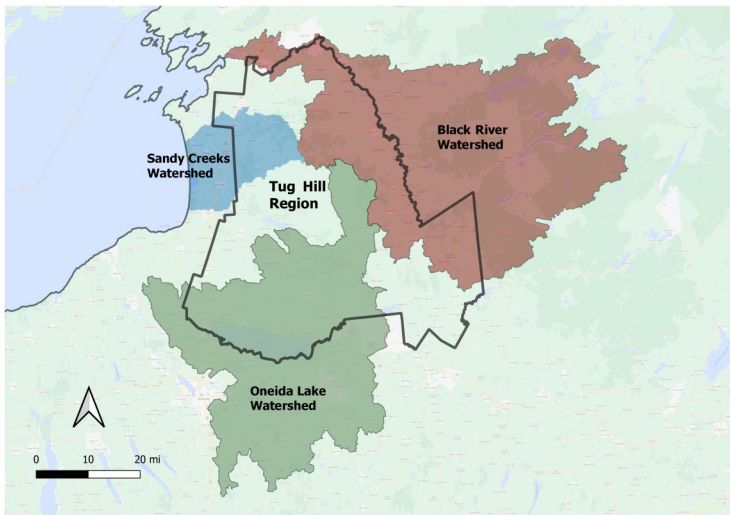
For future programming, see the commission’s website at www.tughill.org.



Laird Petrie, municipal consultant and Chris Anderson, AOT’s director of research & programming, welcoming attendees.

Watershed Plan Updates Underway

Three major watersheds – Oneida Lake, Black River, and Sandy Creeks – in the Tug Hill region are getting “facelifts” by way of watershed management plan updates. The commission is serving in an advisory capacity for all three efforts. All three plans will use a [Nine Element](#) (9E) framework to promote clean water in the Tug Hill region and will have ample opportunity for stakeholder input.



The Oneida Lake 9E plan, spearheaded with a partnership between the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board and Madison County, is being supported with funding from the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of State and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The 9E plan will update a [2004 Management Plan](#) and will include an assessment of the location and sources of phosphorous in the watershed, and identification of opportunities to reduce phosphorus loading.

The Black River Adaptive Modeling Phase 1 project is also underway and being led by the DEC. The goal of this effort is to facilitate effective implementation of the existing [Black River Watershed Management Plan/9E Plan](#), leverage state and federal funding, protect drinking water sources, improve impaired waterbodies, and update the Black River 9E Water-

shed Plan with current conditions and watershed management needs. Phase I will include a water quality data gap analysis assessment report, and a proposal for additional water quality sampling will be developed to evaluate existing data and identify additional data needed to support the calibration of the watershed model.

For the [Sandy Creeks Watershed](#), the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District will lead the creation of a Sandy Creeks 9E Plan, also in cooperation with DEC. District staff is undertaking this effort with assistance from the Upstate Freshwater Institute. Planning is underway to engage stakeholders in identifying water quality issues and monitoring needs.

If you are interested in learning more about these efforts or getting involved, please contact Gabriel Yerdon (gabriel@tughill.org) at the Tug Hill Commission.

Save the Date: Snow Ridge Event, Jan 29

The Tug Hill Commission invites you to mark your calendar for an upcoming hybrid webinar event on the history of the **Snow Ridge Ski Resort** in Turin, New York. Scheduled for **Sunday, January 29, 2023**, the Snow Ridge Ski Resort will host a panelist presentation on-site, which will also be broadcast online via Zoom. Webinar attendance is free of charge, but pre-registration is required.

For better or worse, snow has long shaped the history of the Tug Hill region, and “snow stories” are thoroughly intertwined with the lived experiences of its inhabitants. The economic boom following World War II and the Alpine expertise of returning 10th Mountain Division veterans cultivated a growing skiing craze in the eastern United States. The start of a booming winter sports industry 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 hand-made 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.



Presenters include Jerry Britton and Bronny Davis, co-authors of *White Magic: The Story of Snow Ridge Ski Area*; Nancy Gisham (née Williams), daughter of one of the original owners; Tom Smith, a Snow Ridge racer, coach, and employee; and the current owner and General Manager, Nick Mir. Stay tuned for more details!



Department of State

Division of Local Government Services

2022-2023 Winter Webinar Series

When:

December 2022 and January 2023

Where:

Attend from wherever you are. You will need a computer with speakers or a mobile device.

Courses:

County Referral, State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Basics, Planning Board Overview, Zoning Board of Appeals Overview.

Who:

Planning Board Members, Zoning Board of Appeals Members, Governing Board Members, Planning Staff, Code Enforcement Officers, Other Local Officials.

Training Schedule:

<https://dos.ny.gov/local-government-training-schedule>

More Training Information:

<https://dos.ny.gov/training-assistance>

To Register:

Click on each course below that you want to attend to register.

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining each session.

December 14, 2022

County Referral

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

1.5 hours training credit

December 21, 2022

State Environmental
Quality Review Act
(SEQR) Basics

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

2 hours training credit

January 11, 2023

Planning Board Overview

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

2 hours training credit

January 18, 2023

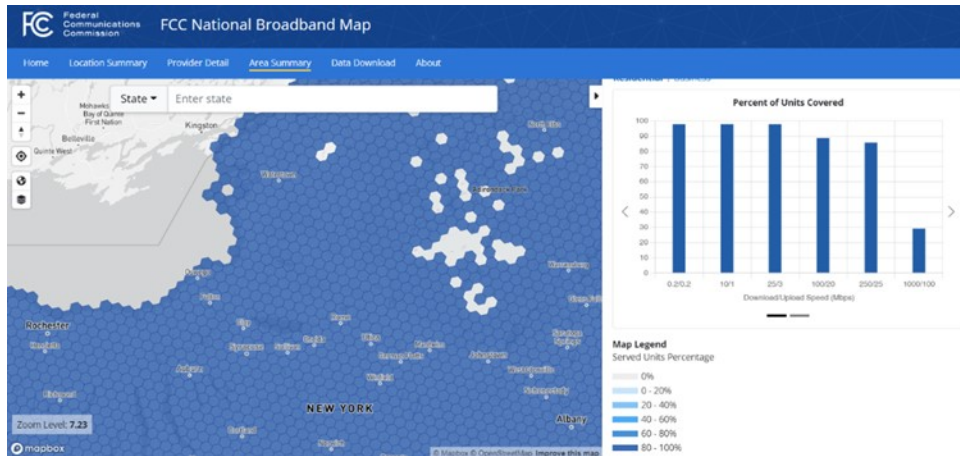
Zoning Board of Appeals
Overview

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

2 hours training credit

New FCC Broadband Maps Available

On November 18, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unveiled the pre-production draft of its [new broadband maps](#), providing a picture of where broadband is and is not available, with updates and improvements to the maps over time. This release sets in motion the process for stakeholders to submit challenges to the map, which will be used to allocate funds. It is important that availability data be as accurate as possible as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) expects to announce \$42.45 billion in formula-based allocations by June 30, 2023, to eligible states and territories through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.



Maps that show high-speed Internet service availability are nothing new; however, the FCC's maps had previously relied on data collected at the census block level, so if a single home was served in a census block, the whole block would show up as served. The result was that maps were overly optimistic, lacked location-specific information, and glossed over gaps in coverage. With these new maps, the FCC has integrated the information from broadband providers with hundreds of location-specific data sources, giving a more detailed picture of fixed broadband availability.

Users now can search for their address and find information about which internet service providers claim to offer service at the location, the broadband technologies they offer, and the advertised maximum download and upload speeds. The new maps will help policymakers more accurately target investments to expand broadband to unserved and underserved areas and create market pressures on internet providers to improve their coverage.

These *pre-production draft* maps kick off an ongoing, iterative process by consistently adding new data to improve and refine the maps. FCC has set up a system that allows consumers and others to challenge inaccuracies and provide feedback. Individuals who see that the information on the maps does not match up with what they know from their lived experience will be able to submit challenges or request corrections directly through the map interface. Bulk challenges will also be accepted from state, Tribal, and local governments and other stakeholders who see problems to correct in multiple locations. To search a map for your location, visit broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home.

Earlier this year, New York State's ConnectALL office released a similar address-level broadband availability map. In October, the ConnectALL office [reported](#) that they submitted more than 31,000 missing unserved or underserved address locations to inform the federal broadband data and mapping.

Those wanting to challenge the map data are advised to submit challenges by January 13, 2023, so that the FCC can include the corrections in the final version of the map that will be used to allocate BEAD funding. However, the FCC will continue to improve the data and mapping by accepting challenges on a regular basis after this date.

New Associate Circuit Rider for CTHC

The CTHC executive committee recently interviewed and offered a contract to a new associate circuit rider to replace short-term, outgoing associate Kelley Martin who chose to be released from her contract for 2022. Christine Healt has accepted the associate contract for 2023 and will start attending board meetings this month for the municipalities she will cover moving forward. Christine lives in Boonville and has served in local government before. She was the Boonville village justice for many years in addition to her full-time job. Christine can be contacted via email at CHealt63@gmail.com.



Staff Attends Census Bureau Webinars

This week, Tug Hill Commission staff attended multiple webinars held by the U.S. Census Bureau. The webinars were an introduction to the new data.census.gov website and displayed new features and analytical tools. The webinars also featured insight into the 2017-2021 American Community Survey pre-release, which is helpful additional data.

Early in 2023, the Tug Hill Commission will update its ***Tug Hill Regional Census Data Analysis***, last completed in 2015. These webinars will be helpful in learning the tools of the new census website which will be used to create a document for municipalities to easily understand the census data.

Additional census webinars still available are:

December 5: [Methodology Updates for the Vintage 2022 Estimates](#)

December 8: [Directorate Defense Trade Control and Bureau of Industry and Security](#)

December 15: [2021 Annual Business Survey](#)

High Hazard Dam Rehab Grants Available

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently announced the High Hazard Dam Rehabilitation grant program. DEC will accept applications to provide assistance (up to \$100,000) for technical, planning, design, and other pre-construction activities related to the repair, replacement, reconstruction, or removal activities associated with rehabilitation of an eligible high hazard potential dam. Applications are due February 10, 2023. More information is available from [New York's Grants Gateway](#).

Data on dams across the state can be viewed on DEC's [DECinfo Locator](#), an interactive map that provides geospatial access to DEC documents and public data about the environmental quality of specific sites in NYS, as well as outdoor recreation information.

Interactive Resiliency Webinar for Small Water Systems

The Environmental Finance Center Network is sponsoring a free small-water systems webinar on Wednesday, December 14 at 12 p.m. Moderated by Dr. Jack Kartez, emeritus director of the New England Environmental Finance Center, this webinar will cover numerous topics from emergency water service disruptions, disruptions to service continuity, changing environmental conditions (drought, rainfall patterns, flooding), human-based threats such as cyber attacks, or other vulnerabilities, including a shrinking workforce, as well as planning for both emergency preparedness and longer-term resiliency.

The webinar is a peer discussion, lead by questions and comments from attendees. It is geared towards utility managers and operators of water systems serving less than 10,000 people, decision-makers for water utilities, including mayors, finance officers, utility managers, public works directors, city councilors, board members and clerks and is an interactive discussion of lessons and questions about resilience broadly defined.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a substantial toolbox of free aids for risk and resilience planning. They have also created a short document that provides a guide to all the tools from EPA and others and which briefly explains the broad resilience management approach covered in numerous USEPA trainings. Once registered for the webinar, a copy of the guide will be emailed. Register at efcnetwork.org/event/peer-exchange-interactive-resiliency-discussion-for-small-water-systems/. For more information, contact Averil Davis, by emailing adavis02@syr.edu.



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