

NOCCOG Holds Annual Meeting

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) held their annual meeting Thursday, October 26, at the Woods Valley Ski Area in Westernville. Nearly 90 local government officials attended the event, including NYS Assemblymember Ken Blankenbush and Dana Olney, representing Assemblymember Marianne Buttenschon. Also present were NYS Tug Hill Commission Chairman Jan Bogdanowicz and Commissioner Gerry Ritter, Tug Hill Commission Executive Director Katie Malinowski, and Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects Jennifer Harvill. Oneida County Legislators Steve Boucher and Steve DiMaggio attended as well.

Chair Bob Sauer called the meeting to order and read his annual report. The current officers were re-elected to the executive board. Bob Sauer will remain in his position as Chair, John Doiron returns as Vice-Chair, Betsy Mack will continue as Fiscal Officer, and directors Tom McDonald and Larry



Mierek will also continue to serve on the board. The 2022 minutes were approved and the 2024 budget was passed, after which there was a brief update on the NOCCOG GPS mapping program.



James Genovese, Commissioner, Oneida County Department of Planning

The keynote speaker was James Genovese, Commissioner of the Oneida County Department of Planning and Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program. James gave a brief rundown of what the program does, as well as ways in which the planning department works with local municipalities.

North Shore Study Community Meeting Well Attended

The North Shore Council of Governments (NorCOG) held a community meeting on its ongoing economic resiliency and recovery study on Monday, October 30, at A.A. Cole Elementary School in Constantia. Fifty North Shore residents attended the meeting,

which was conducted by Tracy Verrier of the MRB Group, the consultant under contract with NorCOG to conduct the study.



In This Issue

- NOCCOG Holds Annual Meeting
- North Shore Study Meeting Held
- Lake Effect-Electrification Workshop
- Worth Wind Meeting
- Tug Hill Video
- Glenfield & Western Railroad Presentation Held
- Save the Date Local Government Conference
- NYPF Last Chance Training
- Newly Elected Officials Training
- Forest Carbon Credits for Small Landowners Workshop
- Conservation Field Day
- 2024 Solar Eclipse
- Technical Assistance for Drinking Water

After a summer kickoff, the economic and market analysis and existing plan review are both completed, and community engagement is underway. This takes several forms – surveys are in process, and Monday night's opportunities and challenges workshop is another. Next steps include development of an economic development action plan, and a final public meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2024.

Strengths identified include Oneida Lake and natural and historic resources; weaknesses include Route 49 congestion, infrastructure limitations, and lack of resources to improve and expand infrastructure with a declining population, high taxes, and not enough broadband access. Attendees also identified impediments posed by government structures, and negative cultural changes as additional problems.

The [business](#) and [community](#) surveys are still open, and more information about the overall study is available [here](#).

Lake-Effect and Thundersnow, Oh My! Lake Effect-Electrification Workshop November 14

Last summer, the commission published an article in Tug Hill Times regarding a pending lake-effect research project focused on Lake Ontario and the adjacent Tug Hill region. The State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego, University of Oklahoma, National Severe Storms Laboratory, and several other partner universities secured a \$1.3 million National Science Foundation grant to study lightning and lake-effect storms off Lake Ontario from the fall of 2022 to the spring of 2023.

To collect field data, the investigative team out of the Lake-Effect Storm Prediction and Research Center (LeSPARC) needed to set up a network of temporary lightning sensors on Tug Hill, and to be able to deploy state-of-the-art weather balloons that, due to their newness and sophistication, needed to be tracked and retrieved following a lake-effect storm, often landing within the core forest of Tug Hill. Thanks to the involvement of local landowners, who volunteered their properties as potential sites for the lightning mapping arrays (LMAs), the GIS/GPS coordination of the Tug Hill Commission, and the equipment and expertise of local people who aided in the field retrieval of the balloon soundings, the field-work season was a success.

As a follow-up, Scott Steiger, PhD – Professor of Meteorology at SUNY Oswego and Director of LeSPARC, has prepared a presentation on the project's initial findings and what this means for our understanding of lake-effect snow and lightning. The presentation may also include the experiences of the undergraduate students working under Steiger, all of whom storm-chased in Tug Hill for the very first time.

The presentation will occur in a hybrid (in-person and via Zoom) format on **Tuesday, November 14**, from **7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**, at the **Sandy Creek Town Hall** (1992 Harwood Drive, Sandy Creek, NY 13145). Register for this free event at www.tinyurl.com/leehybridwebinar OR by calling the NYS Tug Hill Commission office at (315) 785-2380.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Proposed Worth Wind Energy Project

SWEB Development USA is hosting a community engagement session on the proposed Worth Wind Energy Project. This engagement session is being held prior to the formal engagement required for the proposed project's 94-C application, and will allow stakeholders to meet our development team, learn about the project's current status, ask questions, and provide feedback to shape the proposed project.

Project Contacts:

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Joseph Mendelsohn
Development Manager
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Joe.mendelsohn@sweb.energy



WHEN: TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

TIME: 5:00 PM -
7:00 PM

WHERE: WORTH
TOWN BARN

ADDRESS:
COUNTY RTE 189,
WORTH, NY

SESSION FORMAT:
DROP-IN STYLE

SWEB DEVELOPMENT
USA

209 West Central Street
Suite 306
Natick, MA
01760

Park It! Tug Hill Video Premiere

The latest documentary in WPBS's "Park It!" series explores the Tug Hill region, taking a four-season look at the snowiest region in America east of the Mississippi. PARK IT: TUG HILL, premiered Thursday, October 26 at 8:00 p.m. on WPBS-TV, after its debut at the Tug Hill Commission 50th anniversary celebration. You can watch it [here](#), and then go outside to enjoy all Tug Hill has to offer!





Glenfield & Western Railroad Presentation Well Received

On Saturday, October 28, the Tug Hill Commission held a presentation at the West Leyden Elementary School on the history of the Glenfield and Western Railroad, which was well attended both in person and online. The presentation was conducted by Charley Sweredoski, a local resident, and staff member Matthew Smith. In total, around 200 people attended the presentation. Snacks were provided for those who attended in person, as well as a few maps. One map was an original blueprint for the railroad, and the other a Lewis County Map from the 19th century showing the areas which would become Michigan Mills and Page. Thanks to all who attended and provided positive feedback after the workshop.



For those who were unable to attend, links to a recording of the presentation, along with the slideshow itself is available on the commission website at tughill.org/services/training/.

NYPF Second Annual “Last Chance Training”

The New York Planning Federation will provide a second annual “Last Chance Training” to help planning and zoning board members meet their annual four-hour training requirement.

WHEN: Saturday December 2, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Online via Zoom, link to be provided upon registration.

WHAT: Four one-hour sessions including:

- “Safeguarding Water Resources Through Local Wetland and Stream Protections” with Ingrid Haeckel and Emily Svenson
- “Whose Role is it Anyway: The Interplay Between the Governing Board and Planning and Zoning Boards” with Katie Hodgdon
- “Motions, Criteria and Decision-Making Guidelines” with Mark Schachner
- “Public Engagement Tools” with Diana Smith

HOW: Email nypf@nypf.org with your name, email address and municipality to register by November 29.

COST: Free for Planning Federation members and \$50 for all others.

THE NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION,
THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
& THE NORTHERN ONEIDA COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PRESENT

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING

Wednesday, December 6, 2023
6:00-8:00 pm

-ONLINE ONLY-
-NO COST-

*Presentations will be made by
Sarah Brancatella and Lori Mithen-Demasi from the
Association of Towns of the State of New York*

Click [HERE](https://tinyurl.com/officialaot) to Register or visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/officialaot>

Topics to be covered include: conflicts of interest, codes of ethics and boards of ethics, financial disclosure requirements, typical town offices and their roles, oaths of office, and preparing for your first meeting. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers!



Councils of Governments:
Cooperative Tug Hill Council
North Shore
Northern Oneida County
River Area
Salmon Rivers



Forest Carbon Credits for Small Landowners Workshop

THE FAMILY FOREST CARBON PROGRAM

Monday December 4, 2023
6:00PM

Boonville Town Hall: 13149 NY-12, Boonville, NY 13309

Learn how forest owners get paid to practice sustainable forest management!

Benefits of the Forest Carbon Credit Programs include:

- Giving small landowners access to the carbon market
- Higher quality timber stock & improved wildlife habitat
- Increased carbon storage
- Access to a professional forester to help design a forest management plan to meet your individual goals.

Speakers From

The Nature Conservancy New York
The American Forestry Foundation
Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District



The Nature Conservancy
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH



American Forest Foundation

Questions? Contact Gabriel Yerdon

Email: gabriel@tughill.com Phone: 315-785-2387

Tug Hill at Oswego County Conservation Field Day

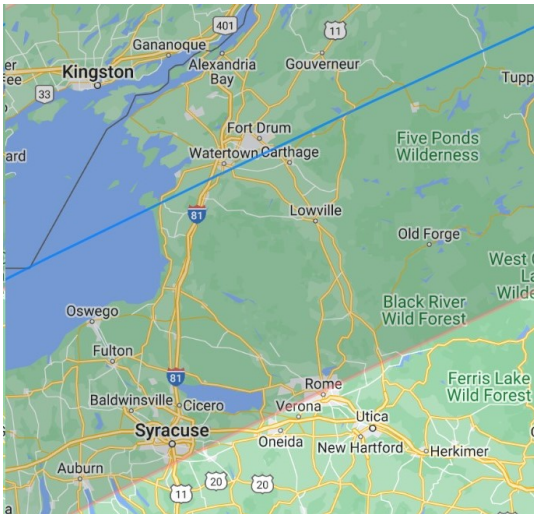
Earlier this fall the 35th annual Oswego County Conservation Field Day was held at Selkirk Shores State Park. Eighteen fifth grade classes totaling over 325 students attended the event. Students were able to spend the day outdoors at the park, where each class participated in five different natural resource related presentations and activities. Tug Hill Commission staff member Gabriel Yerdon engaged students in a Tug Hill natural resources trivia game and picture board, where students showed off their impressive knowledge on topics such as invasive species, outdoor recreation, native and locally extinct species, and land and water resources.

The annual event is organized by the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District, and sponsored by the North Shore Sportsmen's Association, Oswego County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Selkirk Shores State Park and Sandy Tuori-Bell.



Photo courtesy of Oswego County Tourism.

April 8, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse



Shaded area with blue line indicates path of totality.
Map source: [Xavier Jubier](#)

On April 8, 2024, the moon will pass between the Earth and the sun, casting an extraordinary shadow onto the planet below. Tug Hill has the rare privilege of being in what is called the path of totality, where the sun will be completely obscured for a period of time. It is a rare celestial event that New York State won't see again until 2079.

The event will begin at roughly 2:10 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024, with the total solar eclipse occurring at 3:22 p.m. for over three minutes before things finish up around 4:35 p.m.

What happens during such an eclipse? The temperature will drop about 10 degrees, animals and insects will act as if it's nightfall (think crickets chirping), the planets and stars will be visible, and you will witness the effect of a sunrise and sunset all in the span of about two hours.

Stay up to date at the following [link](#)!

Technical Assistance for Drinking Water Source Protection Programs

The NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) have free technical assistance available for municipalities to protect their public drinking water sources through the [Drinking Water Source Protection Program \(DWSP2\)](#). Up to 30 volunteer communities will work with technical assistance providers to develop programs that proactively protect public drinking water sources. Learn more by clicking [here](#).



The deadline to apply for the program is Tuesday, November 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Contact Us

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Visit us at:

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

Instagram: [Instagram](#)

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](#).