

TUG HILL TIMES



May 3, 2024

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



LGC 2024



The NYS Tug Hill Commission's

33rd Annual Local Government Conference

Turning Stone Conference Center, Verona, New York

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The 33rd annual Tug Hill Local Government Conference was successfully held this week, with over 600 exhibitors, speakers, and attendees spending a day and a half learning and networking at the Turning Stone Conference Center. This year's conference featured a half-day infrastructure roundtable, followed by a full day of local-government specific topics for local governing boards, clerks, planning and zoning board members, highway departments and assessors.

PowerPoint presentations from the day will be available soon on the commission's [website](http://www.tughill.org).

Thank you to all who attended, spoke, sponsored, or tabled at the event!

Job Opening – Senior Planner

The NYS Tug Hill Commission is hiring a **Senior Planner** to assist local governments in the rural Tug Hill region in land use planning, local law development and revision, and general technical support to planning boards and other municipal boards. Work at the Tug Hill Commission allows staff to be involved with a variety of municipalities and organizations. There are also opportunities to be involved in regional and state level policy issues and be a voice for rural communities in New York State. For more information see tughill.org/job-openings/.

Typical Work Activities

- The preparation of town and village comprehensive plans;
- The preparation of zoning laws, subdivision regulations, and other local land use controls;
- The creation of maps and other GIS products in support of planning projects;
- The organization and/or delivery of training workshops for municipal land use officials;
- Other related tasks as required.



Letters of interest and resumes should be submitted to Matt Johnson, matt@tughill.org, no later than Thursday, May 23, 2024.

CTHC Spring Meeting May 16

On Thursday, May 16 the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) will hold their annual spring meeting at the Steak and Brew Restaurant, 4497 NYS Route 26, Turin. Social hour will start at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. and the business meeting to follow.

The meeting agenda includes a review of the fall 2023 meeting minutes and current financial report and election of 2024 officers. Additionally, the search for a new associate circuit rider will be discussed, the Tug Hill Commission will update the council on matters of interest, and the proposed work goals for 2024 will be reviewed for approval. The speaker for the evening will be Linda Garrett from American Farmland Trust, speaking about solar projects and agriculture and how they can work together. The meeting will close, as usual, with supervisor and mayor topics and any other comments from the floor.

Invitations to the meeting have been sent out to representatives. Attendance at the meeting portion of the event is free of charge and open to the public. CTHC will pay for dinner for two representatives from each member municipality, and any other dinner guests will be charged \$36. Reservations should be made by May 10 by contacting Angie Kimball at angie@tughill.org or 315-599-8825. The invitation and more information can be found on the CTHC website at www.tughillcouncil.com.



CTHC Search for Associate Circuit Rider

The Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) is looking for a new contract associate circuit rider to help provide meeting coverage and share information between municipal board meetings and the CTHC coordinator. Generally, the associate would attend approximately seven meetings per month, in portions of Jefferson and Lewis Counties, depending on schedules. A draft contract outlining the expectations and responsibilities of the position is available [here](#). Interested people or those with questions should contact Angie Kimball, angie@tughill.org.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
**CONFERENCE ON
THE ENVIRONMENT
2024**

Day 1

Virtual
Presentations

In-person
Social Hour

Boonville

Day 2

In-person
Field Trips

Conference
Reception

Lyons Falls

Day 3

In-person
Field Trips

Trenton

SEPTEMBER 18 - 20

REGISTRATION AND DETAILS
TO FOLLOW

Using a grassroots approach to engage, support, and assist community actions that balance conservation and rural development.

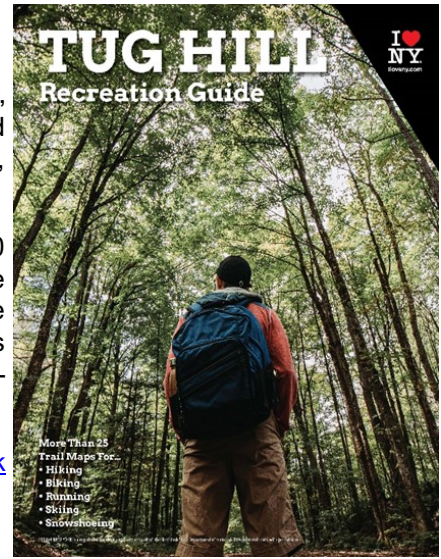


Tug Hill Commission at Zoo New York May 4

Come celebrate the improving spring weather at Zoo New York's Season Kick-Off on Saturday, May 4 in Watertown! Apart from the usual opportunities to engage with native and extirpated Tug Hill and New York State flora and fauna, this event will also feature crafts, activities, booths, and fun learning opportunities for all ages.

The Tug Hill Commission's info table will be present for the duration of the event, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Commission staff look forward to seeing zoo, wildlife, and natural resource enthusiasts in attendance. We highly encourage guests to stop by our table and grab a free copy of the newly-updated Tug Hill Recreation Guide. Hot off the press earlier this month, this guide includes up-to-date trail maps throughout the Tug Hill region that offer a variety of non-motorized recreation opportunities.

For more information on Zoo New York and this event, please view the organization's [Facebook page](#) or [website](#).



Department of Labor Employer Survey – May 10 Deadline

For the last three years, The Business Council has teamed up with the New York State Department of Labor (DOL) and Empire State Development to survey thousands of businesses on their challenges and needs. The New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals is also now a partner.

The state has then worked to address needs and challenges through new and revised processes, programs, and initiatives. Last year DOL secured more funding for teacher residency programs and developed new apprenticeships to help address survey results that suggested businesses were struggling most with hiring and retaining skilled workers. DOL also launched a digital literacy initiative and expanded no-cost online learning with Coursera. These are just a few examples of how your answers help create our solutions.



This year, the Department of Labor is again partnering to gather real-time feedback on the state of the workforce and the needs of businesses in 2024! This survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

Click [here](#) to take the survey!

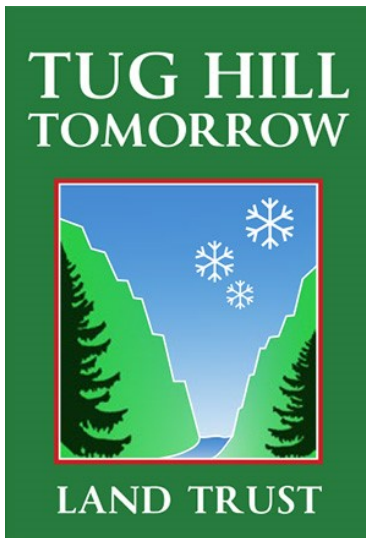
Municipalities Zero-emission Vehicle Rebate Program Open

The next round of DEC's Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle (ZEV) Rebate Program will provide \$750,000 to municipalities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission light- and medium-duty fleet vehicles. These municipal zero-emission vehicles will help New York achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements as part of the State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act).

Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis starting April 25, 2024, on a rolling basis through September 27, 2024, or until funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first. Rebates are available to municipalities that purchase – or lease for a minimum of 36 months – an eligible vehicle placed into municipal service at a dealership in New York State between September 30, 2022 and September 27, 2024. All electric, plug-in hybrid, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles are eligible for rebates.

More details can be found in the [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) posted on the DEC website. Applications are available through the NYS Statewide Financial System Grants Management System.

May Events with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust



Enjoy the spring weather and go outdoors with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust! Information for all events can be found at tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/events/. **Reservations requested for most events.**

Morning Bird Walk and Breeding Bird Survey, May 11, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

THTLT and the North Country Bird Club will join Jeff Bolsinger, New York State Breeding Bird Atlas III northern region co-coordinator, for a morning bird walk at the Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary, 31241 Middle Rd, Watertown, to learn about and survey for breeding birds at the sanctuary. A Breeding Bird Atlas occurs every 20 years in New York for a five-year period. This third New York State atlas effort began in 2020, and birders of all backgrounds are participating through 2024.

Make A Difference As A Volunteer at a Volunteer Project Day! May 18, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Volunteers make so much happen in support of land conservation and education with Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. Have fun and build community while accomplishing some important work!

Evening Birding at Camp Zerbe, May 21, 2024, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Ever wondered what bird that is singing in the woods? Come find out by joining THTLT for a relaxing evening bird walk at Camp Zerbe, 253 NYS Route 104, Williamstown, NY! Camp Zerbe is owned by Oswego County and is operated by the Oswego City-County Youth Bureau, Division of Parks and Recreation. Oswego County has maintained and improved Camp Zerbe as a nature park as well as an educational and recreational resource for the citizens of Oswego County.



Native Food Plants for Pollinators and People, May 29, 2024

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Woodgate Community Hall, 1200 Bear Creek Rd, Woodgate, NY; or 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Lyons Falls Free Library, 3918 High St., Lyons Falls, NY.

Would you like to reap a harvest of nutritious native fruits, berries, edible flowers and herbs each year AND help your local pollinators? Come learn how from Dani Baker, author and co-owner of Wellesley Island's Cross Island Farm has been working with nature over many years to create a thriving edible garden ecosystem at Cross Island Farms and will share her knowledge and tips for incorporating native food plants into yards and gardens. There is no charge for attending.

Contact Us

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Visit us at:

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Instagram: [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/tughill.org)

YouTube: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/tughill.org)

To request our newsletter electronically please email gwen@tughill.org.

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