



We're Hiring!
The NYS Tug Hill Commission is seeking applicants for:

- ▶ Planner
- ▶ Municipal Management Consultant
- ▶ Planner/Local Government Specialist

Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill Region
Detailed information at www.tughill.org

Tug Hill Commission Job Openings

The Tug Hill Commission has three open job postings: **Municipal Management Consultant, Planner, and Planner/Local Government Specialist**. The municipal management consultant (i.e. circuit rider) position is for the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments, where circuit rider Paul Baxter plans to retire in early 2025 after 46 years of serving the region and the two councils! The planner position fills a vacancy with Matthew Smith's departure to Warren County Planning, and the planner/local government specialist will fill a long vacant position to meet the increasing demands on both our planning department and our councils of governments. Full job descriptions are on our website at www.tughill.org/job-openings.

Each position is a Management Confidential (M/C) NYS Grade Equivalent 14 with an expected beginning salary of \$55,005 and a job rate of \$68,805. Each position also includes M/C benefits of health insurance and NYS retirement, as well as other benefits. For more information regarding M/C positions and benefits, see per.ny.gov/management-confidential-mc.

All applicants must **submit a letter of interest and resume** to Katie Malinowski, Executive Director, NYS Tug Hill Commission, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601, katie@tughill.org **no later than July 31, 2024**. Resumes will be reviewed as received, and interviews may occur before the July 31 deadline.

Adams Community Park Unveils New Playground

After several years of hard work, planning, and community outreach, the Adams Community Park and Revitalization Committees welcomed the public to the grand opening of the "Adams Community Park" at Wardwell Street on Thursday, July 28. Lori Cobb, chair of the Adams Community Park Committee, thanked the various donor organizations that helped bring the project to fruition and offered free ice cream to attendees.

In lieu of a traditional ribbon-cutting, the excited children were encouraged to sprint through the playground entrance and break the ribbon barrier.

The park project was recently funded through the state's Consolidated Funding Application, of which the playground is only Phase I. Based on the master plan produced by Barton & Loguidice, the park at Wardwell Street has all the potential to further grow as a place to recreate and gather as a community.

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Town Budget Workshops

with Laird Petrie

These workshops are designed to assist town officials in preparing their annual budgets. The same material will be presented at each workshop. Topics will include:

- An overview of the budgetary responsibilities of town officials
- How to develop a structurally balanced budget
- Key elements of the annual budget
- Tools available for assisting town officials in the budget process
- Monitoring and amending the annual budget
- Operating within the tax levy cap
- Question and answer period

Wednesday, August 5, 2024

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Albion Municipal Building, 15 Bridge Street, Altmar, NY 13302

OR

Thursday, August 29, 2024

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Boonville Municipal Building, 13149 NYS-12, Boonville, NY 13309

Sponsored by the NYS Tug Hill Commission

In cooperation with the Cooperative Tug Hill Council

North Shore Council of Governments

Northern Oneida County Council of Governments

Salmon Rivers Council of Governments

River Area Council of Governments

Call 315-785-2380 or email tughill@tughill.org to register for these free workshops.

Community Revitalization Conference, July 10 & 11

The New York State Conference of Mayors, along with the city of Oswego, the New York Land Bank Association and the New York Business Improvement District Manager's Association are presenting the Community Revitalization Conference, on July 10 & 11 at the Lake Ontario Event and Conference Center in Oswego.



The day and a half conference features two tracks, Main Streets and Vacant & Abandoned Properties with topics such as *New York's Main Street Program: What it Can Do For Your Downtown*, *Code Enforcement: The Foundation to Any Effort to Stem Blight and Decay*, *Making the Most of Adult-Use Cannabis as an Economic Driver*, *Getting the Money: Tips and Tricks for Successful Grant Writing*, *Land Banks 101*, and *Reframing Brownfields: Unlocking Funding and Removing Development Barriers to Advance Revitalization*. For a full description of the sessions, as well as the agenda, visit the conference page [here](#).

Thursday evening's keynote speaker is renowned city planner, Jeff Speck, author of *Walkable City*, *The Smart Growth Manual*, and *Walkable City Rules*, and co-author of *Suburban Nation*.

Early attendees can join a walking tour of downtown Oswego and visit an Oswego neighborhood recently benefited from the Oswego County Land Bank's hard work. Attendees will get a short walking tour of a block where the city has been actively dealing with myriad problem properties. Representatives from the land bank will highlight what they have done to revitalize the neighborhood.

For more information, or to register, visit NYCOM's conference webpage [here](#).

Wastewater Collection Systems Operations, Maintenance, and Inspection Webinar, July 16

Join the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center and the Great Lakes Environmental Infrastructure Center on Tuesday, July 16, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., as they present a no cost webinar covering the basic overview of wastewater collection operations and maintenance (O&M). The hourlong webinar will explore essential routine maintenance, repair, and inspection tasks for wastewater collection systems.

Attendees should gain a greater understanding of the O&M tasks necessary to keep wastewater collection systems operating effectively and will be able to perform the following:

- List methods used to clean sewer collection mains.
- Explain how smoke testing is conducted and interpreted.
- Describe flow testing procedures for collection system mains.
- List methods used to conduct condition assessment of collection system mains.
- Define inflow and filtration in collection systems.



Click [here](#) for more information, or [here](#) to register.

July 18 NYS Archives Microfilm Webinar

New York State Archives is holding a webinar entitled "Maintaining your Microfilm" on **Thursday, July 18** from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Microfilm was once the top records technology for reformatting records. It had, and still does have, many great advantages. The State Archives recently did a study on the current state of the microfilm industry to prepare relevant advice for organizations storing records on this medium. This webinar will:

- review the results of that study,
- discuss considerations for managing records on microfilm, and
- advise on its use, care, and maintenance.

The training is free and registration information can be found on the [workshop registration](#) page. NYS Archives also has many recorded webinars available on their [webinar](#) page.

Commission Board Meeting

The Tug Hill Commission will meet on Monday, July 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Denmark, 3707 Roberts Rd., Carthage, New York 13619. The public is welcome to attend.

On the Horizon

Plans for a makeover to our Tug Hill Times are well underway and will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Watch your inbox for the upcoming changes.



Black River, Beaver River, and Beebee Island Hydro Licensing Update

Erie Boulevard Hydropower, L.P. (Erie) held an updated study report meeting about the Beaver River, Black River, and Beebee Island hydroelectric projects on Thursday, June 20, at the Croghan Fire Hall. Erie is a Brookfield Renewable company and is the licensee, owner, and operator of all three projects. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensed all three projects in 1996, with the licenses now expiring in 2026. Erie is currently working on a new license for each project. The purpose of the meeting was to summarize various study reports completed for the three projects, which are required for the licensing process. Thirteen studies were summarized, including fisheries surveys, macroinvertebrate surveys, water quality, recreation, and cultural resources studies, and more. Each presentation included the timing of the study, where it was conducted, results, and any other necessary essential information. The licensing process is anticipated to be completed in July.

FERC's eLibrary contains documents and reports submitted by Erie for the three projects and is available online at [eli-brary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search). The docket numbers for each project are P-2569 – Black River Hydroelectric Project, P-2645 – Beaver River Hydroelectric Project, and P-2538 – Beebee Island Hydroelectric Project. Anyone can sign up for an [esubscription](#) to get updates about the projects as well. Stakeholders are also welcome to contact Erie directly with questions. The contact person is Steven P. Murphy, Brookfield Renewable, 315-598-6130, steven.murphy@brookfieldrenewable.com.

Watershed Conference Presentations Available

The 14th annual Black River Watershed Conference took place on June 13, with over 80 attendees at the View Arts Center in Old Forge. Representatives from a variety of agencies, levels of government, and nonprofit organizations were in attendance, as well as concerned citizens. Seventeen different presenters packed the day full of informative presentations, focused on the array of projects happening in the watershed. Attendees were also able to enjoy the grounds, art installations, and food at the View Arts Center. The planning committee hopes that attendees were able to expand their knowledge of watershed topics and renew their commitment to continue to improve water quality, ecological conditions, research opportunities, and public access in the Black River watershed. All presentations from the day are available [here](#).





2024 NYSACC CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT



SEPTEMBER 18-20

REGISTER HERE

[TINYURL.COM/NYSACC-CONFERENCE-REGISTRATION](https://tinyurl.com/NYSACC-CONFERENCE-REGISTRATION)



Check out [our website](https://www.nysacc.net/2024-coe) for information about our speakers, field trips, and more:
www.nysacc.net/2024-coe

Virtual day registration is free for all students!

Glimpse of Our Renewable Energy Presentations

- Solar development and agriculture
- NYS Energy Research and Development Authority's Build-Ready Program
- Solar development mapping
- New York's Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group
- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Relicensing Process
- New York's Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment

Questions? Contact Jillian, jillian@tughill.org or 315-785-2406

Zoo New York Welcomes New Wolverine

On June 20, Zoo New York in Watertown introduced its newest conservation animal to a crowd of onlookers: a male wolverine named “Abisko,” whose name was inspired by a national park in Sweden. Fully acclimated to this new exhibit and care team, Abisko’s welcoming event was attended by a crowd of city, county, and state representatives, news outlets, zoo members and other attendees, and a school field trip.

The welcome party was kicked off by a speech from Interim Executive Director Mark Irwin. While all zoos are focused on conservation and education, Director Irwin underscored the importance of Zoo New York, which uniquely dedicates itself to the natural history of New York State. Zoo New York’s collection focuses on species native to the state, including endangered and extirpated species, to better preserve and educate others about the natural environment around them. Wolverines, like Abisko, are an example of an extirpated species, or a species that used to call a particular region their natural range, but can no longer be found in the wild due to a variety of factors, including human encroachment.

Abisko was born in Sweden and participated in the European Zoos and Aquarian Breeding Program. This facility would later partner with the Minnesota Zoo, where Abisko lived for many years and fathered many children before retiring as part of an international breeding program to help with his species’ protection and restoration. Impressed by Zoo New York’s wolverine exhibit – which had been empty following the passing of the beloved female wolverine, Valentine – the Minnesota Zoo chose Zoo New York as Abisko’s “forever home”.

Abisko’s presence at Zoo New York is quite special. According to the National Wildlife Federation, wolverines are under consideration for protection under the Endangered Species Act, although they are not yet listed. Furthermore, in the whole of North America, only ten zoos are lucky enough to have a wolverine in their care; now, one calls New York State – its previous native habitat – its home.



Zoo New York’s Steve Chorma, Abisko’s primary zookeeper, introducing Abisko and performing a “Keeper Chat” to educate about wolverines.

Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust July Events

Tug Hill Traverse Trail Workdays

- ◆ July 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and July 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Twice a month, from June to September, volunteers will meet in the heart of Tug Hill and work together to maintain current sections as well as clear and mark the remaining sections of the historic Tug Hill Traverse Trail.

Dutch Oven Cooking Demo

- ◆ July 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Come learn how to make a delicious ‘dump’ cake using a Dutch Oven over a campfire at the Stone House Preserve in the town of Vienna.

Evening Birding at Lowville Demonstration Forestry Area

- ◆ July 24, 2024, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Come along for a relaxing evening bird walk at the Lowville Demonstration Forestry Area, Route 812, Dadville. The Lowville Forestry Demonstration Area is located on 98 acres at the former NYS Lowville Tree Nursery. The nursery was in operation from approximately 1923 to 1971 and during that time, a total of 530 million seedlings were produced. A demonstration forest was created here by planting trees together in blocks based on species. The property also contains an arboretum with more than 400 species of native and non-native trees, shrubs, perennials and fruit trees. This area highlights hardy species that can grow in the northern New York climate.

For more information visit: tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/events/.

Contact Us

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Toll Free within the region:
1-888-785-2380
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Visit us at:

Web: www.tughill.org

Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
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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](#).