

Commission Retreat in Remsen

Commission board members, staff, and associates gathered in Remsen on Monday, August 18 for the commission's annual retreat. The meeting portion of the day was held in the new Remsen Town Hall on Main Street in the village of Remsen. The new town hall is located in the old Soda Fountain restaurant building and has been completely renovated to better meet the needs of town residents. Supervisor Tom McDonald welcomed the commission and provided a tour of the building.

After lunch, the commission enjoyed a guided tour of the historic [Remsen Depot](#) by John Secor, who has been very involved in the renovations of the old railroad station for the past 25 years. The next stop for the group was the [Stone Meeting House](#), where volunteers with the Remsen Steuben Historical Society provided background on former church's role in local Welsh history. The final stop for the day was the Remsen Village Park located between Main Street and the railroad, which includes a pedestrian bridge over Mud Creek and a newly renovated pavilion.



Top row left to right: Patrick Brady, Chris Barboza, Mickey Dietrich, Matt Johnson, Heidi Tompkins, Christine Healt, Maria Covey, John Healt, Fred Munk, Joe Rowlands, Bob Keller, Bill Scriber, Mike Thompson; Bottom row left to right: Jan Bogdanowicz, Mike Yerdon, Angie Kimball, Jennifer Harvill, Leona Chereshnolski, Katie Malinowski, Gerry Ritter, Felicia Passino, Gwen Decker, Lisa Kaiding, Taylor McKinney, Jillian Lee.

In This Issue

- Commission Retreat
- Woodsmen's Field Days Presentations
- Tug Hill Annual Dinner October 9
- Upcoming COG Meetings
- Commission Meeting September 22
- Planning For Solar Paper Updated
- FAST NY Grant Awards
- Oswego County Comp Plan Meetings
- Non-Profit Boot Camp October 2
- September 4 IUP Webinar
- September 9 Fisheries Meeting
- September 11 Non Profit Marketing
- Public Works School October 6-8



Commission board, staff and associates discussing regionwide issues and priorities for the coming year.

Woodsmen's Field Days Seminars Available

The Tug Hill Commission organized the educational seminars at this year's NYS Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville. Approximately 100 people attended presentations on Friday and Saturday. A big thank you to all the organizations who presented: NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Murphy Forest Management, Empire State Forest Products Association, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, and the Tug Hill Commission. All the presentations can be accessed in pdf format at tughill.org/services/training/.



Nick Siciliano from Murphy Forest Management presenting on treating invasive species.

The NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets provided an overview of the state's [Wood Products Development Council](#), where new board appointments have recently been made. The council plans to refocus and reenergize in the coming year, to make progress on its goals to make recommendations and

advise on public policy, support existing markets and encourage development of new markets, develop focused information for a target audience, conduct public outreach and education, and produce and distribute an annual report.

The [NYS Department of Environmental Conservation](#) presented on a variety of topics, including resources and cost share programs available for forest landowners, new wetlands regulations, and pest and disease threats to NY's forests. The Tug Hill Commission provided an overview of their recently published issue paper on how winter weather is changing on Tug Hill.

[Murphy Forest Management](#) provided an overview of the [American Tree Farm](#) system, as well as the value of a consulting forester and treating invasives in the forest. [Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust](#) gave information on conservation easements, and the [Empire State Forest Products Association](#) presented on the state of the forest products industry in NY.

You Are Invited

NYS Tug Hill Commission Annual Dinner

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Delta Lake Inn, 8524 Fish Hatchery Road,
Rome, NY 13440

Cost: \$35/per person with cash bar.

RSVP's must be received by Tuesday, September 30, 2025.

Please make checks payable to "NYS Tug Hill Commission."

**Credit card payment can be made at
tinyurl.com/2025-THC-Annual-Dinner.**

Please call 315-785-2380 with any questions.

Hope to see you there!

Photo credit: Tony Machia

Fall Councils of Governments Meetings

All five Tug Hill regional councils will be meeting in September and October. Attending these meetings is a great way to learn more about what is going on around the region and meet local officials and regional partners.

Thursday, September 18, Cooperative Tug Hill Council Fall Meeting, Steak and Brew, Turin. Agenda includes business meeting and presentation on ATV recreation. Contact [Angie Kimball](#) for more information.

Thursday, September 25, River Area Council of Governments, Wilna Municipal Building. Agenda includes presentations from Jefferson County Administrator Ryan Piche and Lewis County Manager Tim Hunt. Contact [Mickey Dietrich](#) for more information.

Thursday, October 23, Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, Woods Valley Ski Area, Westernville. Agenda includes presentation by Sarah Foster Calero from Oneida County Tourism. Contact [John Healt](#) for more information.

Thursday, October 30, North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments Combined Annual Meeting, Cleveland. The agenda includes updates from Oswego County Community Development Tourism and Planning and Operation Oswego County, as well as a presentation from the Tug Hill Commission on the Tug Hill Reserve Act and Special Areas. Contact [Heidi Tompkins](#) for more information.

Commission Board Meeting

Monday, September 22 at 10 a.m. at the West Monroe Town Hall, 46 County Rte 11, West Monroe, NY 13167

The public is welcome to attend.

Planning for Solar Energy Issue Paper Updated

The Tug Hill Commission recently completed an update to their “Planning for Solar Energy Projects” issue paper. This is the third version of the paper, which is done in collaboration with several organizations across the four counties.

The paper describes the different scales of solar energy systems, where they are often sited, and land use considerations. Planning tools and financial impacts on municipalities are also discussed. Language and document examples and templates are provided for use in Tug Hill and other rural communities.

The paper is available to read on our [website](#). If you have any questions, please contact Maria Covey at maria@tughill.org or 315-785-2384.



FAST NY Grants Announced for Oneida and Oswego Counties

Governor Hochul announced several Focused Attraction of Shovel Ready Tracts New York (FAST NY) earlier this month, two of which were for projects near Tug Hill. Oneida County's FAST NY grant for 32.36 million will allow for utility infrastructure work including roadway improvements, water, sewer, and gas capacity improvements, and general site work at the Triangle Site, located at Griffiss International Airport on the Griffiss Business & Technology Park Steven J. DiMeo Campus in Rome. The grant will support utility extensions to the site perimeter for future connections, building on a previous FAST NY grant award with enhanced capacity and redundancy at both the original Triangle Site as well as the adjacent 160-acre Mohawk Glen parcel. These upgrades will allow the site to accommodate Chobani, as well as future development for another 160 shovel ready acres for further development.

The Oswego County Industrial Development Agency's \$8.1 million FAST NY grant will allow for utility infrastructure work – including roadway improvements, water and sewer capacity improvements, power and gas capacity improvements, and telecommunications service extensions — at the L. Michael Treadwell Oswego County Industrial Park in the town of Schroepfel. The grant will support road extensions, construction of a new electrical substation and extension of associated power, and extension of all other utilities to the site. These improvements will provide 25 acres over four available sites, as well as 135 additional acres for development. Located eight miles from Micron, this will be a premier location for semiconductor supply chain businesses.

FAST NY is designed to prepare and develop sites across the state to jumpstart NY's shovel-readiness and increase its attractiveness to large employers and high-tech manufacturing companies.



Oswego County

Comprehensive Plan

STOP BY ONE OF TWO

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TO SHARE YOUR VISION FOR OSWEGO COUNTY!



5:30 – 7:30 pm
Thursday
September 11
Citi BOCES
179 County Rte 64
Mexico, NY 13114

5:30 – 7:30 pm
Thursday, September 25
Hastings Fire Department
1994 US-11, Hastings, NY 13076

*Light refreshments
will be provided.*

The Oswego County Comprehensive Plan will shape future growth and development. You will be able to learn about the plan and talk to county staff about your vision for the future of Oswego County.

TO LEARN MORE, SCAN THE QR CODE*



***A community
survey is available
on the website.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/oswegoplan>

NON-PROFIT BOOTCAMP



Session #1

GETTING STARTED & GROWING YOUR NON-PROFIT

Learn the essential steps to start and grow a successful nonprofit. This session will walk you through the legal and organizational foundations, including incorporation, bylaws, board development, compliance, and fundraising basics. Whether you're just starting out or strengthening an existing nonprofit, you'll gain practical tools and guidance to set your organization on the right path.

OCTOBER 2, 2025

Thursday | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Lewis - JCC Education Center | 7395 E Rd, Lowville, NY 13367





TOPIC HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Legal Steps
- ✓ Mission, Vision, & Bylaws
- ✓ Building Your Board
- ✓ Fundraising & Grants

REGISTER



PANEL

-  **Deanna Nelson**
Watertown Attorney General's Office
-  **Joe Foy**
Harmonny Performing Arts Community
-  **Kylie Schell**
Encompass Recreation
-  **Kaylee Tabolt**
Naturally Lewis & Panel Moderator



Northern New York
Community Foundation



September 4 Webinar on Draft Intended Use Plans

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and the Department of Health will host a webinar from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 4 to review the Draft 2026 Intended Use Plans (IUPs) for the [Clean Water](#) and [Drinking Water State Revolving Funds](#). The webinar will include an overview of the draft plans and provide an opportunity to answer participant questions. [Registration](#) is required.

Eastern Lake Ontario Tributaries Fisheries Meeting September 9

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Bureau of Fisheries biologists and managers will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery (2133 County Route 22, Altmar, NY 13302). The meeting will be hosted by the Tug Hill Black River Trout Unlimited Chapter to highlight Lake Ontario sport fisheries and discuss management actions and research taking place on the Lake Ontario eastern end tributaries, including the Salmon River. NYSDEC encourages interested anglers and outdoor enthusiasts to attend. Registration is not required.

For more information, contact Chris Legard, Lake Ontario Unit Leader, at christopher.legard@dec.ny.gov or 315-654-2147. Click here to [learn more about Lake Ontario fisheries management](#).



September 11 Nonprofit Marketing Webinar

The United Way of Northern New York is offering an online session, “Small Budget, Big Impact: A Nonprofit Marketing Playbook” on Thursday, September 11 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. via Zoom. This session will explore innovative, cost-effective marketing strategies that help nonprofits maximize their impact without breaking the bank, including digital marketing, social media, branding, content marketing, partnerships, leveraging your board and advocates, and media planning. More information and registration [here](#).

Public Works Training School, October 6-8

Join the New York Conference of Mayors and the New York Water Environment Association as they present their Public Works Training School, October 6-8, at the Fort William Henry Hotel, 48 Canada Street, in Lake George.

This year’s conference includes numerous relevant and important sessions, such as disaster preparedness, solid waste diversion programs, planning a wastewater upgrade, reasonable suspicion drug testing, stormwater permitting, CHIPS funding, and more.

Registration rates increase after September 15, and online registration ends October 3. Click [here](#) for more information, to register, or to view the full agenda.

Contact Us

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

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