

## Commission Board in West Monroe; Annual Dinner October 9

The Tug Hill Commission met on September 22 in the Oswego County town of West Monroe. After approval of the agenda and minutes as well as introductions around the room, Chair Gerry Ritter made remarks on the August commissioner/staff retreat and reminded everyone of the commission's upcoming annual dinner on October 9 at the Delta Lake Inn, where the highlight of the evening will be a presentation and discussion regarding agricultural economic development in upstate New York. The panel of speakers includes representatives from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Chobani, LLC, Northeast Dairy Producers Association, and Cornell Pro-Dairy. [Registration](#) is required by September 30. Lastly, Commissioner Cheresnoski's resignation at the end of December was announced, along with recognition of her 41 years of dedicated service to the Tug Hill Commission. Leona's contributions to the region will be further recognized at a future event.



*Commissioners Jan Bogdanowicz, Bill Scriber, Fred Munk, Gerry Ritter, Bob Keller, Mike Yerdon, and Leona Cheresnoski in West Monroe.*

Other commission business included administrative updates and regional project overviews from commission executive director Katie Malinowski. Heidi Tompkins, circuit rider for the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments, provided several updates relevant to the North Shore communities of Central Square, Cleveland, Constantia, and West Monroe.

The next business meeting of the Tug Hill Commission will be on Monday, December 8, in Watertown.

## CTHC Fall Meeting Held; New ATV Paper Released

On Thursday, September 18 the Cooperative Tug Hill Council (CTHC) held their annual fall meeting at the Steak and Brew Restaurant in Turin. Sixteen of the 22 CTHC towns and villages were present, along with eight Tug Hill staff and board members, and several guests, for a total of 48 attendees. The business portion of the meeting included approval of minutes and the financial report, as well as a 2026 budget that remained the same as 2025, including holding dues at their current levels.

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The evening's speaker was Taylor McKinney, a project specialist at the Tug Hill Commission. She presented the commission's new issue paper, [ATV Recreation: Considerations for Municipalities](#). She explained the need to update the document that was originally written in 2004, with over two decades of experience with ATV trails since then, turnover of municipal and commission staff, and numerous court cases that shed light on best practices of which municipalities should be aware. She also described the detailed approach she took to create a map of the region's ATV trail system based on trail data, local laws, and pertinent court cases, and highlighted things to be aware of when opening sections of town roads to ATV use.

Commission executive director Katie Malinowski introduced the commission's newest board member, Fred Munk, and spoke about upcoming annual meeting on October 9 and the recently confirmed dates of April 20 and 21 for the 2026 Local Government Conference.

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# CTHC Fall Meeting (continued)

She also updated CTHC members on work with a law firm on minimum maintenance and other road issues, and the latest news on Real Property Tax Law 480a, both of which are of great interest to the council's municipalities. Planning director Matt Johnson updated attendees on several planning projects that commission staff are working on with the CTHC towns and villages, including comp plans, zoning amendments and the first zoning law for Williamstown.

Beth Steria-Rush, long-time CTHC associate circuit rider, was recognized for her many years of service as she decided not to renew her contract for 2025. Beth served CTHC municipalities for more than 12 years and will be missed. Due to the difficulty all five councils of government have in finding and retaining associates, circuit rider Angie Kimball spoke about the possibility of sharing associates between the COGs in areas where they adjoin. The night concluded with supervisor and mayor topics with dog control, the rising cost of EMS coverage and the new NYS Department of Labor contractor registry being raised as hot issues.



Angie Kimball, CTHC Circuit Rider, and Roger Tibbetts, CTHC Chair, presented Beth Steria-Rush with a certificate and gift.

## NOCCOG Executive Committee Meets in Camden

The Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) executive committee met on Thursday, September 18, at the village of Camden offices. The full board was present, along with associate advisor Joe Rowlands, GPS mapper Mike Thompson, and Jennifer Harvill from the Tug Hill Commission.

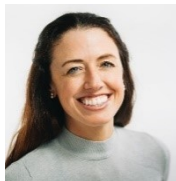


Routine business of the board followed the meeting being called to order by chair, Bob Sauer. Jen Harvill updated the committee on Tug Hill Commission programs, trainings, and events, including the October 9 annual dinner, the 2026 Local Government Conference and new Tug Hill Commissioner, Fred Munk. Also discussed were the recently completed ATV Paper, of which copies were presented, the status of comprehensive plans in many NOCCOG municipalities, and grant opportunities where the commission assisted. Mike Thompson gave the board an update on the intense, but rewarding GPS work that is being completed in Annsville. Some of the other items discussed were the continuing issues regarding abandoned and vacant properties and what NOCCOG can do to assist, the next possible sections for the municipal reference guide, continuing the NOCCOG scholarship program in 2026, the search for a bookkeeper, and the resolution passed by Oneida County regarding National Grid's proposed power line reroute.

The next NOCCOG Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2:00 p.m., in Western.

## NOCCOG Annual Fall Dinner Meeting October 23

Invitations have been emailed for the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) annual dinner, which will be held Thursday, October 23, at the Woods Valley Ski Area, in Westernville. A cash bar and social hour will start at 5:30 p.m., with a buffet dinner and meeting to follow. Sarah Foster Calero, president of Oneida County Tourism, is the scheduled speaker.



The cost is \$35 per person, and reservations are requested by October 17. To reserve your spot, or for more information, see the NOCCOG [website](#), or contact John Healt, (315) 941-2818, [jhealt@tughill.org](mailto:jhealt@tughill.org).



## North Shore and Salmon Rivers Dinner October 30

The North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments will host a joint annual dinner meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the North Riding Venue, 185 Martin Road, Cleveland. Themed "Working Together for Local Success: An Evening of Connection & Collaboration," this event will bring together local leaders and community members from two of the five councils of governments in the Tug Hill region for networking, regional updates, and shared discussion. For details, visit [salmonrivers.org](http://salmonrivers.org) or [norcOG.org](http://norcOG.org), or contact Heidi at (315) 761-7987, [heidi@tughill.org](mailto:heidi@tughill.org).



# 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

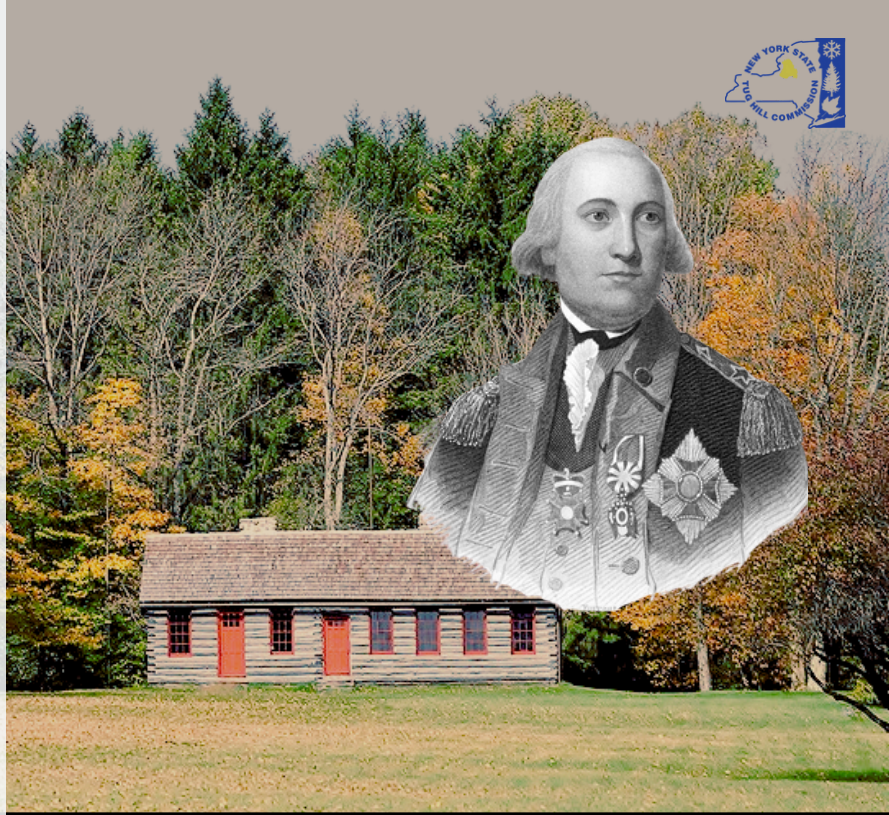




# WELSH RAMBLE

*Hosted by the Remsen-Steuben  
Historical Society and the NYS Tug  
Hill Commission.*

**Saturday, October 4, 2025  
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.**



## Location

The event will begin at the Steuben Memorial State Historic Site.

**9957 Starr Hill Road,  
Remsen, NY 13438**

## Speakers

The tour will be hosted by members of the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society, with guest speakers from the Remsen Performing and Visual Arts Center and the Remsen Depot.

## Event Details

This event is free to attend, but pre-registration is required.

Attendees will need their own vehicle. Carpooling is highly recommended!

A GPS-friendly map will be provided upon registration.

This fall, the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society will be lending its expertise for an exploration and appreciation of its local history. The “Welsh Ramble” will feature a driving tour of the community’s hidden historical gems, explore its strong Welsh ties, and directly connect its local heritage to Baron Von Steuben, a former Prussian military captain and key figure in the American Revolutionary War.

The tour will begin at the Steuben Memorial State Historic Site and end at the Stone Meeting House, formerly known as Capel Cerrig, or the “Stone Church,” where the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society maintains one of the largest archives of Welsh and Welsh-American records in the nation. In between these two locations, the driving tour will include several stops of sites of local historical and cultural significance: the grounds of the former Capel Isaf and Capel Ucha, the Remsen Performing and Visual Arts Center, the Remsen Depot, and Capel Enlli.

REGISTER BY CLICKING [HERE!](#)

OR

[tinyurl.com/welshramble](https://tinyurl.com/welshramble)

# SNOW PLACE LIKE TUG HILL: EXPLORING WINTER'S IMPACT IN A MULTI-USE LANDSCAPE

## WORKSHOP SERIES



Join the Northeast Regional Climate Center and NYS Tug Hill Commission for a two-part workshop series focused on **weather- and climate-related challenges of winter activities** in the Tug Hill region. Explore recent winters in the Tug Hill region and the **tools that are available to help monitor weather and climate conditions**. Those working in the areas of winter recreation, transportation, and forestry may be especially interested in attending. No cost to attend.

### Virtual Session

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
Zoom

### In-person Session

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Howard G. Sackett Technical Center, Glenfield, NY

Lunch will be provided.



***Register by October 20!***

<https://tinyurl.com/winterwxtools>

If you have any questions, please contact Jillian Lee at [jillian@tughill.org](mailto:jillian@tughill.org) or 315-785-2406.





## Meet Our New Intern

Connor Moulton is from Lake Luzerne, NY, a small town located in the southeastern portion of the Adirondacks. As a college senior at Syracuse University, he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering and Policy Studies.

Connor has prior experience in land surveying, construction management, water resource engineering consulting, climate market research, along with actively serving as vice president of Engineers Without Borders at Syracuse University, where the organization is coordinating with various entities, one being the Tug Hill Commission, to look into potential dam reclamation design projects in the region. He is joining the Tug Hill Commission as an intern under the direction of Heidi Tompkins and Jillian Lee.

In his free time, Connor enjoys playing soccer and gymnastics, strumming his guitar, line dancing, and is on his second round of completing the Adirondack 46 High Peaks.

## Local Law Webinar October 2

Join the NYS Town Clerks Association and the NYS Association of Towns on Thursday, October 2 at 10:30 a.m. as they present a no cost webinar designed to help understand the local law process. Designed to benefit everyone, this session is designed to gain a better understanding of local law procedures and to help clarify legal responsibilities and authorities.



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

## Local Bridges Conference October 22 and 23



The largest conference in NYS dedicated to bridge issues for local governments will be held October 22 and 23, with the training day on October 21, at the Holiday Inn, Saratoga, in Saratoga Springs, NY. Registration rates increase after October 3.

Anticipated training sessions are worth 4 PDHs and include *Engineering the Federal Process* and *Bridges over Water: Navigating Wetlands and Scour Planning*. The conference is worth 7.5 PDHs and covers topics such as Emergency Response, Reconstruction & Rehabilitation, and Hydraulics.

Full details are available on the NYSLTAP-CAP conference [webpage](#). To register, click [here](#).

## Plant Trees with SLELO PRISM

The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) is hosting two restoration planting events. These tree-planting events provide an opportunity to help restore two natural areas in the region. Registration is required. [Sign up here](#). Please reach out to [megan.pistolese@tnc.org](mailto:megan.pistolese@tnc.org) with any questions.



**Thursday, October 24, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, Deer Creek Wildlife Management Area, South Rainbow Shores Road, Pulaski, NY ([Google Map](#)). This site requires a one mile walk through sandy conditions, which will take approximately 30 minutes in each direction. Plantings will occur within the dunes and riparian areas of Deer Creek.

**Friday, October 25, 10 :00 a.m. to 3 :00 p.m.**, El Dorado Preserve, Grand Jean Road, Henderson, NY ([Google Map](#)). This site requires a 10-15 minute walk on flat terrain. Plantings will occur in an open field with tall grass and in forested gaps.

### Contact Us

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