

## Member Communities

### Towns of

Boylston	Rodman
Florence	Turin
Harrisburg	West Turin
Lewis	Worth
Leyden	
Lorraine	
Martinsburg	<u>Villages of</u>
Montague	Constableville
Osceola	Lyons Falls
Pinckney	Port Leyden
Redfield	Turin

Website: [tughillcouncil.com](http://tughillcouncil.com)



## Executive Committee

ROGER TIBBETTS, *Chairman*  
BERNARD METOTT, *Vice Chairman*  
HOWARD LEITNER, *Secretary*  
DOUGLAS DIETRICH, *Director*  
GENE NORRS, *Director*  
J. HUGH QUINN, *Director*  
BRUCE J. SNYDER, *Director*

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## Council NEWS *Newsletter of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council* Spring 2004

### COUNCIL HOLDS SPRING MEETING IN TURIN

The Steak 'n Brew in Turin was the setting for the council's spring dinner-meeting. Approximately 50 representatives and guests enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner that was prepared for us. Our 'special' guests that evening included retiring Tug Hill Commission executive director, Bob Quinn, and local Tug Hill artist, Jerry Merrill. Mr. Merrill gave a brief presentation on his art and how the Tug Hill region has influenced him. Council chairman, Roger Tibbetts, joined Mr. Merrill at the end of his presentation in order to present a gift from the council of Jerry's artwork to Mr. Quinn. The next full council meeting will be our annual meeting at the end of September. Watch your mailbox for details.

### NEW TUG HILL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 'ON BOARD'

John Bartow, newly selected executive director, has begun work at the Watertown Tug Hill Commission office. Mr. Bartow was selected after an exhaustive search conducted by Commissioners and representatives from the councils of government throughout the region. He comes to Tug Hill from the NYS Department of State, Local Government Serv-

ices office. John is interested in meeting all our local officials and will be making a stop in your town soon, if he has not already done so. Please do not hesitate to call his attention to issues that are of importance in your community. You can reach him via telephone at the Commission's 1-888-785-2380 toll-free number or through your circuit rider.

### EAST BRANCH OF FISH CREEK PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD

About 45 interested folks gathered at the Lowville Fire Hall on April 28<sup>th</sup> to take part in the informational session facilitated by the Tug Hill Commission. Representatives were present from all the agencies involved in the project that will transfer former Hancock Timber lands to the Nature Conservancy, GMO Renewable Resources and NYSDEC. Informational stations were set up around the room with maps and information allowing for attendees to chat with representatives about specific issues. A brief overview of the history of the project was given by Linda Gibbs, natural resources specialist from Tug Hill Commission staff. Her presentation was followed by Brendan Kelly, NYSDEC. Brendan talked of the potential access that might be provided to the property by the proposed conservation easements and the potential state forest regulations that may be

in effect on the property. Public comments were solicited from those present and recorded. A second session was held in Camden at the Oneida Savings Bank that evening.

### **LOCAL LEADERS INSTITUTE GRADUATES NINE**

At its April meeting in Boonville, the Tug Hill Commission's Local Leaders Institute recognized nine graduates.

Chairman Arnie Talgo presented each participant with a certificate of completion and a copy of 'The Heart of a Leader' by Ken Blanchard. Those completing the Institute from the Cooperative Council were: Doug Dietrich, Keith Munz, Norm Roof and Jeanne Wooding. Congratulations to all! Applications for the 2004-2005 Institute will be available by summer. Tuition is \$50. Contact your circuit rider or the Tug Hill Commission at 888-785-2380 for more info.

### **COOPERATIVE COUNCIL TO EMBARK ON RESOURCE INVENTORY PROJECT**

The council voted at its spring meeting to initiate work on updating its resource inventory. The scope of this inventory has not yet been determined, but it is expected that it will include background materials that are normally prepared for individual town comprehensive plans as well as the items addressed as potential special areas in the Tug Hill Reserve Act.

The last multi-town planning effort in the CTHC area was back in 1976 when nine Council towns jointly prepared the "Resource Management Plan" as a basis for their local zoning laws. An inventory could make the updating and preparation of plans by member communities much easier by providing large portions of the necessary background materials, should they wish to pursue this option.

An updated inventory would make it much easier for our towns to initiate the necessary changes in their zoning law to comply with the Tug Hill Reserve Act. Many of our towns have yet to do this. An updated inventory would also enable local officials and the public to have greater information about the assets of the region and why they need protection.

Work is in a very preliminary stage. The types of data needing mapping and inventorying has not yet been determined, but will most likely include all materials necessary to local comprehensive plans and special area inventories. Work will continue throughout the summer under executive board direction and draft materials will be presented to the full Council at its September meeting.

### **DATE SET FOR 2005 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE**

Watch your mailbox late this fall and January for tentative schedule and offerings for next year's conference. The date is March 31, 2005. Be sure to get your registrations in early.

### **ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS IN SEPTEMBER**

The Council will hold its annual meeting and election of officers on a date yet to be determined in September. IF you are interested in sitting on our executive board, please do not hesitate to place your name with one of our circuit riders. We are always looking for committed, interested folks to help us 'keep Tug Hill the way it is'.

**Have a great summer!**

