

**Municipal Projects Coordinator**

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[www.noccog.org](http://www.noccog.org)

**Executive Committee**

Robert Sauer, *Chairman*  
John Doiron, *Vice-Chairman*  
Betsy Mack, *Fiscal Officer*  
Thomas McDonald, *Director*  
Lawrence Mierek, *Director*



***Announcements***

**1. Newly Elected or Appointed Justices' Certification Course**

The Office of Court Administration is offering an in-person Fall 2023 Taking the Bench Certification Course for newly elected, or appointed, Town and Village Justices. Taking the Bench is comprised of two separate training sessions, consisting of a five-day training, followed by a subsequent follow-up a few months later. The first session will be held at the Crowne Plaza Albany-The Desmond Hotel, 600 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211, December 11-15, 2023. The second session will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams on June 20 & 21, 2024.

Each newly elected or appointed Town or Village Justice, who is not a member of the New York State Bar, is required pursuant to §17.2 of the Rules of the Chief Judge (22 NYCRR 17.2) to attend the first available Certification Course after his/her appointment or election. A non-lawyer Town or Village Justice may not assume the functions of the office until he or she has filed a certificate of completion of the Certification Course with their municipality (Uniform Justice Court Act §105). Attorney Justices are strongly encouraged to attend, and some Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits may be available for attending attorney judges.

There is no cost to attend the in-person training and the registration deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. For more information, click [here](#).

**2. NYCOM Planning and Zoning Webinar**

The NYS Conference of Mayors Planning and Zoning Webinar series continues Thursday, December 14, with *Pre-Existing Nonconforming Uses: Understanding Vested Rights & What Local Governments Can Do to Regulate Them*, from 11:00 a.m. - Noon.



Pre-existing nonconforming uses are extremely common in New York. However, most local governments have not proactively addressed them. This webinar will provide an overview of what a pre-existing nonconforming use is, why property owners have vested rights in continuing those uses, and how such rights can be abandoned. Additionally, this session will address some of the steps local officials can take to phase out such uses and facilitate enforcement of nonconforming uses that are NOT prior existing to newly adopted land use regulations.

There is a registration fee for this webinar, \$30 for NYCOM members, \$100 for non-members. For more information, or to register, click [here](#).

**3. Tug Hill Commission Meeting Monday, December 11**

The Tug Hill Commission is scheduled to meet Monday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the Village of West Carthage Office, 61 High St., West Carthage, NY 13619. The meeting will include routine business of the commission, and review of major projects and activities in the region. The public is always welcome to attend.

#### 4. Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions Available

The Division of Preservation and Access under the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is now accepting applications for its Preservation Assistance Grants (PAG) for Smaller Institutions program.

The program is intended to help small and mid-sized organizations preserve and manage humanities collections and to secure their integrity and significance to a wide audience. Funded activities under PAG include preservation assessment, consultation with preservation and conservation professionals, source communities, and scholars; development or revision of plans, policies, and manuals; purchase of preservation supplies and equipment; purchase of environmental monitoring equipment; preparatory steps in the description of collections; education and training for staff in small and mid-sized organizations; and disaster planning and preparedness. However, conservation treatment and digitization are not fundable through this grant.

Local and county governments are eligible to apply, as are nonprofits (501©3 IRS status), and public and state-controlled institutions of higher education.

For more information on the grant and the application process, visit the NEH's preservation grant webpage by clicking [here](#). You can also view the 2023 Pre-Application Webinar on [YouTube](#).

For help determining whether this grant program is potentially a good fit for your organization and for assistance with putting together an application, please contact Jennifer Harvill, [jennifer@tughill.org](mailto:jennifer@tughill.org), 315-785-2392 or Taylor McKinney [taylor@tughill.org](mailto:taylor@tughill.org), 315-785-2606, at the commission office.

**Grant Snapshot**  
Maximum award amount: \$10,000  
Funding Opportunity for: Organizations  
Expected output: Format Surveys and Inventories;  
Preservation and Collections Care Policies;  
Preservation Assessment Reports; Preservation  
Supplies/Equipment; Preservation and Collections  
Care Workshops  
Period of performance: Up to eighteen months  
  
Application available: October 17, 2023  
Deadline: January 11, 2024  
Expected notification date: August 31, 2024  
Project start date: September 1, 2024 – December  
1, 2024  
  
Contact the Division of Preservation and Access Team  
202-606-8570  
[preservation@neh.gov](mailto:preservation@neh.gov)  
  
If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please  
dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

#### 5. Companion Animal Projects Grants Due January 29

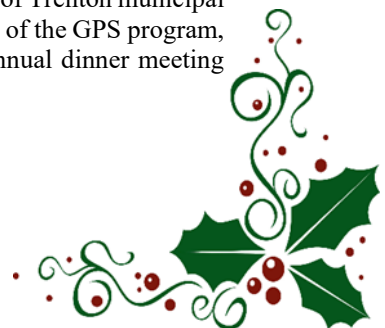
The NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets has two grant funding rounds available now through the Grants Gateway for capital projects necessary for the secure containment, health and adequate care of sheltered dogs and cats. For purposes of this program, a project may be a portion of a larger overall capital project. Eligible expenses include direct costs related to construction, renovation, rehabilitation, installation, acquisition, or expansion of buildings, equipment, or facilities. Applicants will need to provide a minimum of 10% of the total project costs. RFP0311 is for pounds, shelters, humane societies, or rescue facilities that are operated by or under contract with one or more municipalities for the provision of pound or shelter services. RFP0312 is for not-for-profit pounds, shelters, humane societies, or rescue facilities that are NOT under contract with one or more municipalities for the provision of pound or shelter services.

The deadline for both grant applications is January 29, 2024.

#### 6. NOCCOG Executive Committee to Meet December 15

The NOCCOG directors are scheduled to meet on Thursday, December 14th, at 2pm at the Town of Trenton municipal offices. Along with routine business, other items on the proposed agenda include the next season of the GPS program, sponsorship of the Local Government Conference, the updated NOCCOG brochure and the annual dinner meeting follow-up. The executive committee meetings are always open to the public.

For more information, contact John Healt at 315-941-2818 or [jhealt@tughill.org](mailto:jhealt@tughill.org).



## 7. Newly Elected Town Officials Training School

The Office of the NYS Comptroller and the Association of Towns of New York State have scheduled two Newly Elected Town Officials Training Schools, January 10-12, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623 and again January 17-19, 2024, at the Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205.

These schools cover a broad range of topics and all first and second-term supervisors, town board members, fiscal personnel and town clerks are encouraged to attend.

There is a cost of \$200 per member, \$250 per non-member, which is payable in advance of the program. The fee covers the cost of tuition, course materials, breakfasts, lunches, and coffee breaks. As an added incentive, attendees of either newly elected training school can register for the Association of Town's [2024 Annual Meeting & Training School](#), February 18-21, for the reduced price of \$50.



For more information, or to register, click [here](#), or contact Patty Kebea, Executive Meeting Coordinator, Association of Towns, at (518) 465-7933 or [pkebea@nytowns.org](mailto:pkebea@nytowns.org).

## 8. NYS Tug Hill Commission 2024 Local Government Conference, May 1 & 2, 2024



Save the date! The 2024 Local Government Conference will return to the Turning Stone Resort and Conference Center on Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday May 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2024.

Similar to this past year's conference, there is a special afternoon session and evening reception scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>, with the full day of concurrent workshops and sessions following on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. While the schedule has yet to be finalized, you can get more details about the Local

Government Conference as they become available by visiting the Commission's LCG webpage: <https://tughill.org/localgovernmentconference/>

## 9. State Department of Transportation Launches First-of-its-Kind Podcast

The New York State Department of Transportation just launched its first-ever podcast, "The D.O.T. P.O.D." which aims to share the human story of the DOT, its people and the work that is done to help keep New Yorkers safe, according to a news release.

The innovative new podcast will tell first-hand stories of the people who help design, build, and maintain New York's vast transportation network. From building bridges and paving roads in the summertime to clearing snow in the winter, 'The D.O.T. P.O.D.' will explore how it all gets done. About every two weeks co-hosts Josh Heller and Anya Kardos will explore the inner workings of the department, the infrastructure it oversees, as well as the people behind New York's extensive transportation networks.



During each episode, listeners will hear conversations with New York State Department of Transportation leaders, engineers, project, program, and maintenance staff, and other NYSDOT employees.

Episode 1 of "The D.O.T. P.O.D." features Harry White, a NYSDOT bridge engineer with decades of experience who combines wit and humorous anecdotes to break down the cutting-edge concepts behind some of the department's bridge designs.

People can listen in or subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeartRadio, and Amazon Music or on NYSDOT's podcast [website](#).

*Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season  
from all of us at the Northern Oneida County  
Council of Governments!*



# Forest Carbon Workshop for Small Landowners

THE FAMILY FOREST CARBON PROGRAM

Monday December 4, 2023  
6:00PM

Boonville Town Hall: 13149 NY-12, Boonville, NY 13309

Register for online or in-person attendance here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ForestCarbonCredit>

Learn how forest owners get paid to practice sustainable forest management!

Benefits of the Family Forest Carbon Program include:

- Guaranteed annual payments to help you reach your goals
- Guidance to improve the health and value of your forest, create habitat for wildlife, and treat invasive species
- A customized forest management plan
- Access to team of professional foresters, or the ability to work with your own trusted forester

## Speakers From

The Nature Conservancy New York  
The American Forestry Foundation  
Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District



American Forest Foundation

Questions? Contact Gabriel Yerdon  
Email: [gabriel@tughill.org](mailto:gabriel@tughill.org) Phone: 315-785-2387



THE NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION,  
THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,  
& THE NORTHERN ONEIDA COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
PRESENT

# NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING

Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
6:00-8:00 pm

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-ONLINE ONLY-  
-NO COST-

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*Presentations will be made by  
Sarah Brancatella and Lori Mithen-Demasi from the  
Association of Towns of the State of New York*

Click **HERE** to Register or visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/officialaot>

Topics to be covered include: conflicts of interest, codes of ethics and boards of ethics, financial disclosure requirements, typical town offices and their roles, oaths of office, and preparing for your first meeting. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers!



Councils of Governments:  
Cooperative Tug Hill Council  
North Shore  
Northern Oneida County  
River Area  
Salmon Rivers

