



## September 21, 2021 - RACOG Report

**Presenters:** Friends of the Black River – Ethan Pease (Fort Drum Intern)

**Black River Trail/Railroad Bed** – Have not heard much more on this front, other than the continued efforts to extend the trail to Fort Drum.

**Black River Community Action Group** – The Fort Drum intern has been working with historians and others to compile a list of historic sites along the Black River. The hope is to get out onto the river the first week in October to do the mapping work. GYMO has volunteered to do the mapping work. There have also been talks of having the historical information hosted on the blackriverny.com website.

**Clean Energy Communities** – ANCA has been working with communities on this initiative. Champion and West Carthage are going through Good Energy for their community choice aggregation and solar opt-in program. Lewis County has selected Joules Assets for their administrator for the program.

**Walkable Communities (Complete Streets)** – An extension was given to Jefferson Lewis BOCES until July 2022 to finish the complete street projects. A meeting will be setup soon with BOCES. Lewis County continues to work with communities on administering grant funds for projects that were selected as part of their Lewis County Walkability Institute. We also did have a meeting with the NYSDOT to discuss what types of things could be implemented along state highways in the future.

**LED Lighting** – Communities going through NYPA are closing right now with National Grid. Construction should be started by the end of September. It has been brought up whether the group wants to for an association or committee that will meet periodically about the LED lighting. The town of Champion and village of Castorland switched over with National Grid.

**Fort Drum Internships** – We currently have Ethan Pease working with us. He has been doing a great job and working hard on the Black River historical information.

**Websites** – Working on the town of Wilna website. Currently, the towns of Champion, Lowville, and villages of Castorland, Copenhagen, and Deferiet currently utilize the RACOG website service. The town of Denmark is looking into possibly switching over to the RACOG website service. Also, a comprehensive plan web page was setup for the Lowville comp plan. [www.lowville.racog.org/compplan2021](http://www.lowville.racog.org/compplan2021)

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**RACOG IMA** – Wanted to check and see if we have gotten all the signatures needed for the RACOG IMA to include Lowville.

**Action Needed:** *Verification*

**Future Meetings** – Are there any topics or presenters that any RACOG members would like to see moving forward?

Here is a list of some potential presenters/speakers:

- Jefferson & Lewis County IDAs
- Jefferson & Lewis County Planning Departments
- Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce & Lewis County Chamber of Commerce
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- Bridges Out of Poverty
- Black River Watershed
- NYS DOT

**Action Needed:** *Feedback from the board*

**Associate Circuit Rider** – Is this something that the board is interested in?

**Action Needed:** *Feedback from the board or approval to move forward*

**Printer Cartridges** – The Tug Hill Commission has purchased a printer for me to be used for RACOG. Would RACOG be willing to purchase the ink cartridges for it? Other COGS do cover this for their circuit riders.

**Action Needed:** *Feedback from the board or approval to move forward*

**Zoom** – The Tug Hill Commission can continue to do board meeting zoom sessions. However, extra meetings we will not be able to run. We could start a meeting for someone, if there was someone to take it over as the host once we have it started.

**Action Needed:** *Discussion*

**Forming an LED Lighting Committee** – Is there interest in forming a LED lighting committee, especially for those who went through NYPA? The group could look at putting out future RFPs on their own to see what kind of pricing they could get.

**Action Needed:** *Feedback from the board or participant communities in the NYPA LED lighting project.*