

# Save the Pine Bush

## March Activities

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03/19 • 33 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12210 • email [pinebush@mac.com](mailto:pinebush@mac.com) • phone 518-462-0891 • [www.savethepinebush.org](http://www.savethepinebush.org)

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## **Vegetarian/Vegan Dinner** **Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6:00 p.m.** **Bruce Campbell**

Canadian author  
will speak about

## **Public Betrayal, Justice Denied** **Lac-Mégantic Oil Train Explosion**

Bruce Campbell is a Canadian author who wrote a recently-published book about the 2013 oil train explosion in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. The book is titled “The Lac-Mégantic Rail Disaster: Public Betrayal, Justice Denied.” It outlines the regulatory and policy failures that led up to the disaster and the unjust aftermath in which three front-line railroad employees were blamed. Bruce Campbell will discuss the Canadian events and former Albany Common Council member Dominick Calsolaro will provide an Albany-area perspective on oil train hazards. PAUSE and Solidarity Committee of the Capital District are co-sponsors of this event.

**At the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut Street** (people with cars can park in the lot near the door). All-you-can-eat lasagna dinner, with vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options, salad, garlic bread and delicious desserts. Only \$12 for adults, \$6 for students, and \$2 for children. People who make reservations are served first. For reservations, please leave a message for Rezsine Adams at 518-462-0891 or email [pinebush@mac.com](mailto:pinebush@mac.com).

Interested people are welcome to attend the program beginning at 7:00 for no charge.

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## **Early Spring Hike with Hugh Johnson** **at the Madison Highland Portion of the Pine Bush** **Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 9:30 AM**

**Meet at:** End of Route 155 • **For GPS:** 98 Madison Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12203 (Lat/Long - 42.716563, -73.878508)

**Leader: Hugh Johnson • For More Information: (518) 588-6708**

Hugh Johnson will lead this Pine Bush Hike starting at the Madison Highlands (end of Rte. 155). While we likely not see any Blue Karner Butterflies, we should see some signs of spring throughout our hike of the Yellow and Red Trails. We will then head to Yonder Farms for lunch and some fresh cider donuts!

**The hike is free and open to the public! Bring your friends!**

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**[www.savethepinebush.org](http://www.savethepinebush.org)**

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**Mark Your 2019 Calendars Now!**

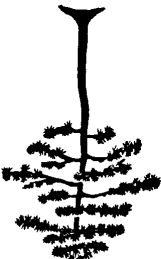
**Dinners will be the third Wednesday of every month in 2019 (no dinner in July)  
at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut Street, Albany, NY**

<b>Wednesday, March 20, 2019</b>	<b>Wednesday, August 21, 2019</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 17, 2019</b>	<b>Wednesday, September 18, 2019</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 15, 2019</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 16, 2019</b>
<b>Wednesday, June 19, 2019</b>	<b>Wednesday, November 20, 2019</b>
<b>No dinner in July</b>	<b>Wednesday, December 18, 2019</b>

**We need volunteers to drive people to the dinners! We need people willing to pick up people in Clifton Park and Guilderland. Please email Lynne Jackson if you are able to volunteer at [pinebush@mac.com](mailto:pinebush@mac.com).**

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**Save the Pine Bush**  
A Project of the Social Justice Center  
33 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210

*Published in the Times Union*

**Reactions to Sheridan Hollow energy plan weighed**  
**‘Listening sessions’ will help frame next steps for project to power state plaza**

*By Amanda Fries, Published 2:12 pm EST, Friday, March 1, 2019*

ALBANY - The New York Power Authority is reviewing comments collected at “listening sessions” it held last year on a proposed microgrid fueled by natural gas turbines to power Empire State Plaza.

Since the power authority and the state Office of General Services announced they’d update the Sheridan Avenue site to include natural gas-fired turbines and a microgrid to heat and cool the nearby Empire State Plaza, officials and activists have been demanding the project use renewable energy.00:35

The project has been at a standstill as the power authority gathered input from the sessions following persistent calls that it issue a new request-for-proposal that considers renewable energy for the microgrid.

Authority officials Friday said they’re wrapping up a review of those sessions held with wind, solar, geothermal and energy storage experts, and, once complete, the recommendations will be shared.

The sessions were expected to help set a new timeline for more studies needed for the project, which currently consists of two natural-gas fired turbines totaling 16 megawatts to help power and heat the 96-acre plaza complex.

Poised to be built within a decommissioned state-run trash incinerator, the system is expected to save more than \$2.7 million annually in energy costs and remove more than 25,600 tons of greenhouse gases each year, state officials have said.

Shortly after the power authority announced the efforts, organizers of SHARE, the Sheridan Hollow Alliance for Renewable Energy, filed a Freedom of Information Law, asked to find out what, if any, analysis had been done to see if renewable energy sources were considered.

When the power authority first announced the project, officials had said other forms weren’t viable for the site.

The authority’s response?

No such records exist, nor is the power authority obligated to create such records to respond to the request, the FOIL response to SHARE member Susan DuBois stated.

“It doesn’t seem like they seriously looked at this,” DuBois said. “It’s been difficult to get information, and it’s been difficult to get responses.”

The group has led push to use renewables at the Sheridan Hollow facility to power the plaza rather than natural gas, considering the long history the neighborhood has with less than environmentally friendly systems being dumped into the low-income, predominantly minority community.

“We’re really upset and shocked,” SHARE co-chair Ruth Foster said. “We felt like we’ve been misled. We’re very surprised that Gov. (Andrew) Cuomo has claimed to be a climate leader, yet when he’s thinking about powering the state capital, he can’t seem to find a way to do it with renewables.”