

Town of Jay Parks Committee Meeting
Friday, March 1, 2024, 12:30 p.m.

Present: Olivia Dwyer, Councilor
Knut Sauer, Councilman
Paul Benway

Absent: Chris Sorrell, Interim Highway Superintendent
Sharron Hewston, Town Historian

Minutes:

- Schedule spring volunteer cleanup days in Town of Jay parks.

Location	Date/Time	Lead	Goals	Followup
Upper Jay	Saturday, 4/27, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Wells Memorial Library board	General cleanup of library and park; plant perennials in both locations	Confirm date with library and ask cafe and Sugar House to provide snacks.
Au Sable Forks	Saturday, 5/4, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Olivia Dwyer	Henry's Trail general cleanup of brush and garbage and additional tasks identified by Paul.	Ask Tops or 20 Main to donate food and beverage.
Jay	Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Knut Sauer	Douglas Memorial Park and Covered Bridge weeding, raking, staining posts, and related tasks.	Confirm Rotary will provide food and beverage. Order mulch if needed.

**** Additional followup for April 3 meeting:**

- 1) Confirm Supervisor Matt Stanley will order t-shirts to give volunteers free of charge.
- 2) Check with Highway Superintendent Chris Sorrell about available support to remove brush and garbage from each site.
- 3) Councilor Dwyer to develop publicity materials for distribution.

- 2024 Town of Jay Parks projects — **confirmed**
 - 1) Basketball and tennis courts to be replaced at Douglas Memorial Park. Supervisor Stanley coordinating with Assemblyman Billy Jones for funding.
 - 2) Bench honoring Don Morrison ready for placement in Village Green. Highway Department needs warmer temperatures to set the bench. Expected to be completed before July 4.
 - 3) Parking lot and EV charger installation in Upper Jay. Waiting on EV charger contract to confirm timeline.

- 2024 Town of Jay Parks projects — **suggested; action needed**
 - 1) Succession planning for Village Green trees.
 - 2) New bandstand needed at Village Green.
 - 3) Hiring a summer laborer to support Paul Benway in daily maintenance and management of Town of Jay parks.

- Planning for 2024 Parks Committee roles & duties
 - Review of progress made in 2022 and 2023 to catch up on parks maintenance and procure necessary tools and equipment for Town employees.
 - Noted that Paul Benway does an excellent job of maintaining and managing Town parks on a day-to-day basis and does not need committee support in planning or executing work.
 - Discussion of additional opportunities to utilize land owned by the Town of Jay, Essex County, and New York State within the Town of Jay to support ecological, physical and mental health of the community and provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.
 - Councilor Dwyer to propose change of committee name and scope to Town Board from Parks Committee to Parks & Open Space committee.
 - 2024 goals for committee to include recruitment of new members with skills and experience in land use planning for town, county, and state municipalities and agencies. Committee members will then work to inventory public land within Town of Jay this year to support Town of Jay's proposed comprehensive planning process (pending grant award from New York State Department of Conservation).

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 12:30 p.m. at Town Hall