

## **Parks & Open Space Committee**

Town of Jay

### **MINUTES**

**Meeting:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center.

**Present:** Olivia Dwyer, Tim Rowland, Grace Potthast, Knut Sauer

#### **New Member Recruitment Update**

Chair Dwyer has spoken by phone with prospective new members, who all plan to attend the May committee meeting. Info on each interested person:

- a) Andrew Hamlin: Trail builder with Tahawus Trails; previous experience coordinating volunteers and projects for the Adirondack Mountain Club.
- b) Taylor Staight: Manager of NewVida Preserve in Jay; experience in hospitality, outdoor recreation, and tourism industries.
- c) Norm Ward: Landscape architect with 20+ years of experience in the private sector; now working for NYS Department of Transportation.

Discussion of group size and composition. Committee members recommend 6-10 members with varied experience and knowledge to strengthen a holistic approach to parks and open space in the Town of Jay. Chair Dwyer to check with Supervisor Stanley about committee by-laws.

*Update:* Town committees do not need by-laws. Robert's Rules of Orders apply. No set limit on number of committee members. Limit of two Town Board members per committee.

#### **Volunteer Parks Cleanup Day**

Committee members divided up posters (Thank you to Grace for making them!) to post around town.

Rotary will provide refreshments at Jay volunteer site. Sugar House Creamery and Adirondack Mountain Coffee Cafe will provide refreshments for Upper Jay site. Chair Dwyer to ask an Au Sable Forks business for donations for Au Sable Forks site.

Highway Department will order mulch and provide tractor for Douglas Memorial Park, as well as some hand tools and bags to remove brush and trash for all sites.

Suggestions for targeted recruiting:

- AuSable Valley schools, especially high school students with community service requirements such as National Honor Society, Key Society, and sports teams (track).
- Scouts or Girl Scouts, Youth Commission, other children's programs.

For publicity, hang posters at these places:

Upper Jay	Jay	Au Sable Forks
Adirondack Mountain Coffee Cafe Wells Memorial Library Sugar House Creamery farm store (Post Office does not allow posters)	Ausable Acres Pavilion Post Office Ward Lumber Devin's Deli Little Supermarket Sue Young's Jay Volunteer Fire Department - sign	Black Brook General Store Post Office Community Center Community Bank Tahawus Cultural Center Blend & Brew Au Sable Forks Free Library Laundromat TOPS Peru Federal Credit Union River Goose Cafe - sign Bowling Alley - sign Ausable Theater - marquee

**Plus:** Press release to local news outlets; post in Jay Community News; add to community calendar on Town of Jay website; poster on town website.

### **Communication with Town Parks Department**

Reviewed [Google Sheet doc](#) to share what we see in parks with town staff to support maintenance of parks. Next step: share with Town Parks staff for feedback. Noted that as outdoor recreation infrastructure expands in the Town of Jay, this communication tool could be used for trail crews and other volunteers.

### **Comprehensive Plan**

Discussed reframing "focal topics" as "goals" and "recommendations" for the Comprehensive Plan. Identified the following **goals**:

- 1) Focus on river use, access, recreation, and care.
- 2) Assess town parks and sports facilities.
- 3) Develop multiuse trails as outdoor recreation infrastructure.
- 4) Support outdoor recreation experiences — Road biking

And **recommendations**:

- 1) Develop a recreation master plan.
- 2) Develop an open space plan.
- 3) Increase awareness and use of existing parks.
- 4) Assess FEMA properties for feasibility of trails and other recreation infrastructure.
- 5) Paint the covered bridge.
- 6) Create signage and maps for wayfinding and interpretation.

**Maps** the committee would like to get from AES (comprehensive plan consultants):

- FEMA properties
- County-owned lands in Town of Jay
- Town parks
- Town-owned lands in Town of Jay
- State-owned land in Town of Jay
- Existing trails on private lands (NewVida, Ausable Acres) and public lands
- ROOST map for the Upper Jay kiosk
- ROOST Whiteface Region map
- DEC public access points for fishing
- Maps that show any public restrooms or trash cans or parking.
- Ironman course website

**SmartGrowth Grants**

Anticipated call for applications in fall 2025.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 7 p.m.**