

Town of Jay Climate Smart Task Force --- 03/05/2025, Community Center, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Participants: Knut Sauer (Chair), Wally Walters (Recorder), John Culpepper, Tyler Eaton
Olivia Dwyer, Lana Gokie

On-line (Go-To-Meeting): Katie Culpepper, Olivia Dwyer, Nancy Bernstein

Absent: Robin Licari, Lana Gokey, Carlie Leary

Handouts (email): Agenda, Jay Climate TF meeting minutes 02192025, C&I WG Initial Analysis/Focal Topics (5 papers)

1) Call to Order (Knut S): 4:03 pm.

2) Minutes of 02/19/2025 meeting (Knut S): unanimously approved

3) Updates (Knut S):

a. Solar Panels: Highway bid by APEC Solar quote was non-US panels, may not qualify for US credits. APEC Solar looking at alternatives to get 10% domestic content

b. EV Chargers:

- hope to award Jay/Upper Jay contract soon; 3 quotes, each with complexity of brands and costs; one can't do lighting; if we do lighting ourselves, that may not qualify for grant money.
- Au Sable Forks charge grant submitted 26 Feb; applied for fast charger @ TOPP's, Level 2 charger at Community Center

c. Compost Grant: notification likely next week (8 Mar)

d. Bronze Certification: We have 171 points approved and all our priority initiatives. Takes 120 points for bronze certification and we should have 175. We'd be one of few communities in North Country with bronze certification and there are none yet with silver certification; we'd be the first bronze small community in NC. State may hold announcements for Earth Day (April)

4) Comprehensive Plan Discussion (Wally W):

- overview and reference to memos on focal topics

a. Focal Topic Transportation Master Plan:

- issue appears in Streets Policy of CSC Priority Actions; Carlie C may have some expertise
- bicycle accessibility and safety are real difficulties/issues to consider, especially on routes 9N and 86
- there will be tradeoffs; eventually will want to identify costs; will have three opportunities for further study and town board consideration: Summer 25 (town considers visions); 2026 (review of Comp Plan) and when making actual proposals thereafter
- in comp plan, can't detail everything; think about what's necessary for decision making by the public and officials and one-level further down in detail

b. Focal Topic: Climate Action Plan:

- KS: the closer we get to CSC targets the better
- floodmap updates are underway by FEMA
- perhaps we can get insides and distribute something as info for homeowners

c. Focal Topic: Resiliency:

- concerns here include floods (river and tributary streams) and potential for wildfires
 - flooding of culverts is a concern
- wildfire risk is likely rising with climate change but hard to assess:
 - more fires in the east from New York to North Carolina
 - potential for droughts, blowdowns, invasive insects killing trees, forever wild leaves forests with most limited management of combustibles
 - a century ago there were extensive million-acre fires in the Adirondacks and fire towers and crews/plans for many years thereafter

d. Focal Topic: Materials Management:

- still sorting on division among working groups for agriculture, arts and farms; mostly letting working groups explore them on their own as each views them with different aspects
- TE: community vibe can be supportive but has to include businesses to attract public interest and bring in money to the community

e. Focal Topic: Infrastructure Enhancement:

- wide variety of infrastructure (excluding transportation which is addressed separately): water, sewer, communication (fiber/cellular), electricity
 - lots of ongoing work to improve/meet standards for sewer
 - also work on water systems to have appropriate metering
 - possible limits on existing electrical capacities at substation
- JC: ecological waste collection at source may also be possible, e.g., urine collection; although this is a new area not yet done on community scale in US

5) Closing Comments:

- Knut S: We should have a lead for each of the focal topics:
 - Transportation Master Plan: Chris Sorrell
 - Climate Action Plan: Knut S
 - Resiliency: Matt Stanley
 - Materials Management: John C
 - Infrastructure: Paul Mintz
- We'll invite Chris, Matt and Paul to meetings or to separate discussions
- Ideally, each who take a lead will develop an action plan to evaluate the existing condition

6) Next Meeting: Tue 1 April 2025 4-5 pm at Community Center

7) Adjourned at 5:40 pm

Notes taken by Wally Walters without review of any recording of meeting