

**Town of Jay Human Services Committee --- 02/06/2025, Community Center, 4:00 – 5:30 pm**

**Participants:** Robin Licari (Chair), Wally Walters (Recorder), Lynn Ladieu, Lynn Edmunds, Kathy Connelly, Supervisor Matt Stanley

**Handouts** (email): Agenda

1) Call to Order (Robin) 4:05 pm. First meeting of HS Committee

2) Introductions

3) Role of the HS Committee (Discussion led by Robin L):

- mirror the responsibilities of Essex County Human Service Sub-Committee (children's issues; foster care; public assistance and income support; services for senior and people with disabilities; immigration policy; social services) (Office for the Aging; Community Services Board and County Mental Health; Public Health)
- participate as working group on the Jay Comprehensive Plan Update (services across the generations)
- issues of the Adirondack Community Action Program (ACAP) Human Services Coalition (over two dozen service organizations, public, non-profit and private)

4) Jay Comprehensive Plan Update (Led by Wally W and Robin L):

- description of plan update intent, timeline and role of HS committee as a working group
  - joining four other working groups; plan will allow for public involvement in town's future across 10-15 year timeline, basis for future town board decisions
  - initial task: use judgement and results of public engagements (Open House [Oct 2024], Community Survey [Oct-Dec 2024], others) to identify 'focal topics,' issues and opportunities
  - each working group should identify 3-5 focal topics for study based on criteria: public concern, impact of subject, extent of alternatives & town authorities, relative complexity (requiring research, debate and significant treatment in the comprehensive plan update)
- Robin L examined the inputs and proposed the following as possible focal topics:
  - 1) Affordable Housing options for all populations and ages, including housing rehabilitation and housing of Seniors on Main St. near services, Services to keep Seniors in their homes.
  - 2) Child Care and Day Care
  - 3) Expanding Health Services in the Town to include doctors and pharmacy.
  - 4) Blight within the Town
  - 5) Dependable low-cost transportation
  - 6) Substance Abuse issues
  - 7) Recreational Activities for Youth

5) Town Supervisor Matt Stanley Remarks and Discussion (Led by Matt S and Robin L):

- important new committee for town and comprehensive plan
- thank you to Robin L for volunteering to champion the committee
- many opportunities to work on, including examples: senior transportation, toys for tots, food bank, office of the aging programs, senior lunches, meals on wheels
- useful to interview seniors; perhaps at a senior lunch (some attract up to 60 persons)

- useful to learn what other towns do
- identification of town intent within the comprehensive plan important to acquiring NYS grants

6) Topical Discussions (Led by Robin L):

- *Affordable Housing:*

- Robin L discussed NYS Housing Renewal Program with Teresa Cheatam-Palin (Chair of Keene Housing Task Force)
  - difficult to access and get donated properties
  - money comes from NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; enables housing based on a percentage of income
- Matt S described the Land Bank program
  - properties from tax foreclosures
  - a property in Upper Jay recently had \$350K invested; sold for \$150K to new owners with restrictions as affordable housing, including on resales and having to pay taxes based on fair market value
  - has potential for some, but legal and other complexities, e.g., tax delinquent party right to all money in sale above amount of delinquency according to recent US Supreme Court decision
- Senior Housing funding grant program exists for housing near groceries/post office etc.

- *Childcare & Daycare:*

- need to learn about the needs and rules

- *Substance Abuse:*

- currently have an Alcoholics Anonymous which meets twice weekly
- need to learn more about county programs
- no Narcotics Anonymous program locally

- *Youth Recreation:*

- Library Children's Summer Program (8-12 yo ?) has low attendance
- MS: it would be good to pull together what's out there and spread the word (e.g., the High School has many good programs; HS student member can help with this)
- Youth Commission: works with Black Brook for sports and some school programs
- JEMS has varied programs too

7) Closing Discussion (Led by Robin L):

- what to do in the next month?
  - meet with groups; especially senior lunch (March 3<sup>rd</sup>); get their insights
  - meet with Essex County Offices of the Aging, Public Health (Matt S will assist to setup)

8) Next Meeting: Thu 6 March 2025 4-5 pm at Community Center

9) Adjourned at 5:24 pm

Notes taken by Wally Walters without opportunity to review a recording of meeting