

MINUTES FROM TOWN OF JAY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, APRIL 3, 2025

REFERRALS:

Committee would like to eventually provide a Community Resource Directory.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

Members discuss “The Power of the Arts to Revitalize New York” which mentions how increasing housing and rental space costs have had a negative impact on this continuing revitalization in the North Country. The article explains how affordable housing is also an economic issue.

George talks about his contact with Shelly McKinley from Habitat for Humanity located in Malone. Habitat for Humanity is building a home in the Town of Jay near Cedar Lane Circle on Route 9N between Jay and Au Sable Forks. Town of Jay residents have preference. The home is for a family who cannot afford a home in the Town of Jay. They prefer families with extended families and friends and prefer a family that would be involved in the construction of the home. A group of craftsmen are ready to start building this summer. George has offered to volunteer. Families interested can fill out the application form. There are application forms at Ward Lumbar. The land was donated by the Ward family. The Adirondack Community Housing Trust and Adirondack Roots are a good resource for people looking for housing.

Actions and recommendations:

Create page for Affordable Housing Options and post on TOJ website

Direct interested residents to existing resources

The committee will continue to look at affordable housing options and resources and determine what these organizations are doing in the Town of Jay and how available they are to the residents.

Suggestion made to have an Open House at JEMS or local library to host various housing organizations. Shell from Habitat for Humanity is interested in attending.

Suggestion that Habitat for Humanity posts application in the Jay Community News and that residents can apply through email.

BLIGHT WITHIN THE TOWN:

Kathy reminds Committee that Rotary Club does a cleanup on April 19th and the Rotary Club has taken on the task to clean up along the highway.

Kathy states that the Essex County Public Works Department has Hazardous Waste Collections in Lake Placid and Elizabethtown. She suggests we post the dates for the collections. She states that the Town of Jay has previously had a Hazardous Waste Collection. George states that last September the Town of Jay had a Junk Amnesty Day and the Town of Jay collected household junk for free including tires and appliances.

Actions and recommendations.

Announcements for the Hazardous Waste Collections and Junk Amnesty Day

Recruit volunteers to help move household junk if needed

Collect a full list of local transfer stations and trash collection including commercial services.

CHILD CARE AND DAY CARE:

Robin has tried to contact the Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, specifically Sarah Allen Taylor. Calls have not been returned. The Child Care Coordinating Council (according to the website) does Child Care Referrals for parents and provides information about becoming a Child Care Provider including Child Care Regulations and Professional Development Programs. Robin will attempt to contact the Adirondack Community Action Program, which provides Child Care Resources and Referrals and information about financial assistance programs. Robin states probably the best course of action from the Human Services Committee will be to give referrals to these two agencies; however, Robin will continue to try to contact these agencies.

EXPANDING HEALTH CARE IN THE TOWN

Robin has an appointment tomorrow to meet with the Treatment Team at Au Sable Forks Health Center and states she wants to talk with them about referrals to the Mercy Care Program and RSVP, medication assisted treatment for substance abuse and Telehealth services. Robin states that she met with the Director of Public Health Nursing, Jennifer Newberry who states she has been making referrals to Mercy Care and RSVP especially when a public health nurse is no longer needed. Transportation of homebound residents remains a focus of the Committee. Two Town of Jay residents have signed up for May 15th all day training at Mercy Care and will be available to volunteer services (including transporting residents to medical appointments) after training. The committee will continue to study whether transportation to Senior Center

is warranted or not due to the number of Seniors who would utilize this transportation. Robin suggests contacting Meals on Wheels.

Information regarding the 3 pharmacies that deliver to Town of Jay residents has been obtained and will be posted in the Jay Community News.

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

Kathy will contact the Aging Wisely Program to see if they are interested in providing their program to our Senior Center. Senior Center attendees had stated they would like to have this program at the Senior Center.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH

Maddie talks about the Sweethearts and Heros program at the Au Sable Valley Central School. Sue Ann Walton, Au Sable Free Library Librarian recommends Brian Heinz, a local author, to teach a Writing Class for teenagers at the library. Maddie states she will check with other students to see if they are interested in taking a summer Writing class. She says most of her classmates are interested in work during the summer and suggests class should start at 5:00. Outdoor music venue was discussed as a possibility and Kevin Bird was suggested to provide the music.

FOOD BANK

Lynn has spoken with the Wilmington Food Bank Director who stated that many Town of Jay residents utilize their food bank. The Wilmington Food Bank is a Certified Food Bank. Lynn states that the official response from Black Brook is that their Food Bank does not include Town of Jay residents but unofficially, they have provided food to Town of Jay residents. Other Food Banks include ACAP Food Shelf in Elizabethtown and Keeseville Food Shelf. Lynn believes expanding Food Bank in Town of Jay would benefit residents who do not have transportation to Wilmington. Wilmington Food Bank is where Town of Jay residents go. Lynn will investigate what is involved regarding Town of Jay Food Bank becoming certified. Lynn talks about the School Districts food backpack program and how it provides food to go home with children who have been identified at risk.

NEXT MEETING: May 1st at 4:00 PM