

Minutes from Town of Jay Human Resources Committee, May 1, 2025

Attendance: Robin Licari, Kathy Connelly, Lynn Ladieu, Wally Walters, Sue Pagano, George McCabe

Resources: The committee agrees that the Community Resource Guide for 2025 published by Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Lake Placid News is a good resource for community information and referrals. Committee will distribute this Guide but will develop an insert for missing information for example Pharmacies and Transfer Stations/Recycling Centers. Robin has posted information from the Human Services Committee (HSC) on JCN and TOJ News site. Robin suggests tabling at Jay Day. She will be writing a report regarding our Committee for the Supervisor's Quarterly report and for the Comprehensive Planning Special Board. Robin would like to attend the Essex County Departments monthly meeting to obtain the most recent information.

Affordable Housing: George has made contact with David Gorkey, the director of the North Country Habitat for Humanity. David said that they prefer working in Franklin County and do not work in this area. George states that North Country Habitat for Humanity is accepting applications for a home in Brushton.

George states that the Habitat for Humanity contact, Schell McKinley (out of Westport) is the person who is working in our area. Schell has stated that they will begin working on a home this summer on Orchard Street behind Joshua Fund. Lynn agrees that Schell appears to be the contact for our area according to her resources. Sue says there was a history of water problems in this area and we should make Schell aware of this potential problem.

Robin suggests contacting North Country Rural Development. Wally gives more information about this organization. He states that North Country Rural Development has a contract with the Town to assist the Town with business development and affordable housing in the Town. Wally gives George the contact information for Nicole Justice Green. George will contact Nicole and reconnect with Schell.

Schell from Habitat for Humanity can use our local library for a presentation. Robin will advertise on JCN and Library websites. Robin expresses concern regarding how many people will attend this event. Lynn states we should advertise for all groups who would be interested, families, volunteers and other interested people. Robin states Matt knows of crafts people who will volunteer. Wally states that his wife who is an "amazing woodworker" will volunteer. George is also volunteering.

Blight within the Town: There will be no Junk Amnesty Day in the Town of Jay this year due to the expense. Robin talks about how many hazardous waste products can be

returned to the stores that sold the products. Robin states that consumers have already paid for disposal at the time of sale and should use this service. Ward's accepts paint and oil. Kathy will contact Wards for a complete list of items that Wards will accept and recycle. Also, gas stations will accept used oil. Kathy has compiled a list of TRANSFER STATIONS/RECYCLING CENTERS that can be used by Town residents. Kathy states that she has listed the CENTERS that are the closest to Town of Jay residents first. Kathy states that some of the information was obtained from the Community Resource Guide of 2025. Kathy contacted Essex County Department of Public Works. DPW will have a hazardous waste day, but no date has been determined at this time. DPW publicizes this date on their website. HSC (Human Services Committee) will follow up on date and post on Town website and JCN (Jay Community News). Kathy states there is also a hazardous waste day in Morrisville and she will also follow up on this date. Discussion regarding how one or two days a year for hazardous waste and junk removal is not enough. HSC will discuss more options with the Town Supervisor. It was suggested that people who can pay can augment the cost which will lower cost for the Town. It was also suggested that volunteers pick up junk and bring to a site and then Town bring to County Waste Disposal Day. HSC agreed that junk amnesty day should be at least once per year. Environmental and safety issues discussed. Sliding scale or flat fees were discussed as a possibility to decrease the cost to the Town.

Disposal of batteries and scrap metal was discussed. HSC will pursue whether there are companies or individuals who pick up metal. Volunteer drivers and trucks can collect metal and bring to companies that will pay for the metal which will also decrease the cost to the Town.

HSC discusses Zombie homes and deteriorating homes in the Community. Members agree that residents who own these homes may be under financial pressure, or this is a way that they choose to live. George states that there is a Junkyard Law that is "straightforward". Apparently, residents can call the Town if they find the trash in a person's yard offensive. George points out that this can lead to problems with neighbors. George advises less punitive ways to dispose of the trash and junk. If the Town sees visible trash, the Town can apply fines and there are hearings associated with the violations. Wally states that there is a reluctance to pursue action against Zombie homes due to the culture of the Town and the lack of code enforcement. There is only a part time code enforcer. Whether the Town has enough laws and whether they can enforce these laws are anticipated issues that will be addressed by the Comprehensive Planning Special Board (CPSB). If residents do not pay their taxes, the Town and County can take the property and redevelop the property after much legal action. There is a new NYS law that dictates that when the Town or County sells the

property, the proceeds must go to the owner, which affects the Town or County's ability to redevelop the property.

George states that a description of what is meant by Blight within the Town needs to be identified. HSC decides that all items discussed under Blight within the Town should be included. Kathy worries about overlapping HSC with other working groups of the CPSB. Wally states that some overlapping is acceptable. HSC is different due to their focus on affordable housing.

Robin talks about her meeting with the UVM Au Sable Health Clinic with Lynn Miller, Care Coordinator, Brianna Holland, Social Worker, Amy Cross Director and Ali Strong, Resource Coordinator. Robin describes the population that is served at the Health Clinic. She states that the two major concerns of the Health Clinic are Medicaid transportation not showing for necessary appointments and the inability for patients to use food cards from various agencies. Telehealth services are available at the Clinic. Medication management of opiate abuse is available at the High Peaks Health Clinic Center in Wilmington.

Discussion on how to make Mercy Care work for the people of the Town of Jay. Robin talks about her attempts to streamline the services so that residents can get transportation to their medical appointments. John Licari and Sue Pagano will be taking the Volunteer training on May 15th. After this, Robin will reach out to Au Sable Clinic to inform them of the availability of volunteers to transport. Kathy Rhodes from Mercy Care has already agreed that she will be the contact person for referrals. Robin is the Intake person for this area and will do an intake within 3 days. HSC agrees that the timeliness of this intake process is important since patients have scheduled medical appointments.

Seniors: Kathy contacted the Prevention Team Community Educators regarding the Aging Wisely Program. Seniors at Senior Center liked this program but wanted new information. Prevention Team suggested the 6 week program of Living Healthy with Chronic Diseases as appropriate. Kathy has contacted Tiffany Thomas, Site Manager of the Senior Center about the program. Tiffany is positive about the program but is looking for a time period for the program.

Robin talks about her conversations with Alex Thomas, Meals on Wheels and Tiffany Thomas, Site Manager of Senior Center. Alex delivers the Meals on Wheels to the Seniors. She states that only 7 Seniors in the Town of Jay receive meals. She states many of the Seniors refuse services after a while because of the following reasons: Too intrusive – Complaints that Office of the Aging will make calls and have police make wellness checks if Seniors do not respond at the door. Some people complain that

there is too much food, and a few complain they do not like the food or get tired of the meals. Tiffany states that some Seniors might need transport to the Senior Center. She states Seniors at the Black Brook Senior Living Center sometimes are in need of rides. Kathy reports knowing only one person from the Black Brook Senior Living Center who attends Senior Center.

Substance Abuse: Robin and Matt will be visiting with Essex County Behavioral Health and DSS and will have more to report at the next meeting.

Youth and Recreation: Robin talks about the Summer Concert Series in Jay. Robin listened to many of the musical groups and states Mallery's Bush may be more for younger crowds. Kathy recommends the A Capella Plattsburgh High School award winning group for the younger crowds.

Food Bank: Lynn lists the food banks currently assisting Town of Jay residents. Location for food bank discussed. Although a certified food bank needs to be a 501c3, it was the belief that the Town of Jay as a government organization would be the equivalent of the 501c3 and could obtain the benefits of a certified food bank. Questions remain as to whether the Town of Jay needs a food bank. Robin states she will contact Carol Hackel, Town Clerk for her opinion as to whether there is a need for a larger food bank. Lynn will find out if the Town can apply for certification.

Wally Walters invites HSC to Visionary Workshop to be held on May 31st, Saturday from 9:00 to 1:00 at the Amos and Julia Ward Theatre in Jay. Wally talks about the goals of the Visionary Workshop.

Next Meeting: June 5th at 4:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned