

**Parks & Open Space Committee**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**Town of Jay Community Center**  
**Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 7 p.m.**

**GoTo Meeting Link: <https://meet.goto.com/628356765>**

Present: Olivia Dwyer, Glenn Glover, Andrew Hamlin, Brooke Paries, Tim Rowlands, Knut Sauer

Absent: Grace Potthast, Norman Ward

1) New member introductions:

- a) Andrew Hamlin lives in Jay and is a professional trailbuilder who works for Tahawus Trails and previously spent 12 years with the Adirondack Mountain Club.

1) Debrief spring volunteer day

- a) Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay had 20+ volunteers.
- b) Douglas Memorial Park in Jay had 10+ volunteers.
- c) The Grove in Au Sable Forks had 1 volunteer.
- d) Great support from Brooke in setting up for the volunteer event and from the Town of Jay Highway Department on the day to move mulch and remove cleared debris and trash from sites.
- e) Challenged by rainy weather the morning of the event and conflicting events at Wilmington and Au Sable Forks fire departments—avoid this schedule conflict in 2026.
- f) Discussion of how to improve the event next year.
  - i) Andrew used to organize a National Trails Day Event for ADK with 100+ volunteers. He'll share an outline of what went into that event and what made it successful for us to use in 2026 planning.
  - ii) Recommends organizing a community gathering at restaurant or outdoor space after the volunteer work is done to hand out t-shirts, door prizes, raffles, and food. Live music also a plus. This makes the volunteer outing more of a community event and people feel recognized for their hard work throughout the day.

2) Recreation Economy for Rural Communities grant update

- a) Semi-finalist interview on April 24. Glenn, Olivia, and Tim summarized key takeaways from that interview:
  - i) Coordinating the comprehensive plan effort with RERC activities is key as there are a lot of similarities in each initiative's goal. The comprehensive plan opens the door to possibilities generated by the community and the

RERC grant would develop concrete ways to address questions raised by the comprehensive plan.

- ii) RERC interviewers were interested in our past experiences or relationships with other agencies and organizations that provide planning resources.
- iii) A RERC grant does not guarantee funding down the line, but it does complete a process that results in a list of things that can be prioritized and achieved.
- b) Discussion of the committee now wearing three “hats” and how these roles overlap and complement each other:
  - i) Steering Committee for RERC Grant
  - ii) Working Group for Comprehensive Plan
  - iii) Town Committee
- c) Next steps: RERC finalist announcement coming “early summer” although no specific date provided.

### 3) Comprehensive Plan

- a) Community Vision Workshop on May 31—all committee members invited to attend.
  - i) Will build on October 2024 Open House and 2024 online community survey that generated 400+ responses.
  - ii) Precedes more grassroots outreach in summer 2025.
  - iii) Purpose is to look at future and develop alternatives to a “do nothing” approach to growth.
- b) Possible questions for a Parks & Open Space discussion:
  - i) What
  - ii) POS develop prompt sheets:
    - (1) What would come of state lands — cumbersome process to build trails, can we encourage private landowners to have public access easements to develop hiking trails?
    - (2) Funding — occupancy tax, small percentage of that to be dedicated to recreation. Not restricted but as a resources for POS.
    - (3) What does Brooke need? Help after storm with blowdown?
    - (4) Four Peaks — entrance will dictate what happens for Jay. Our side of the ridge.
    - (5) Resources — volunteer and workforce capacity
    - (6) How do we fill out the committee, people that come in with different levels of expertise and passion to work on community garden, grant writing, build up to self-sustaining
- c) Review [Parks & Opens Spaces Goals and Recommendations](#).
  - i) Discussion:
    - (1) Make goals more aspirational; something people can get excited

about. Tell them how Jay will be different than other places so people get excited about opportunities and potential.

- (2) Include potential impact of solar arrays (solar farms) on viewsheds. Learn more about solar array remediation.
- (3) Can we get cables out of view on the Covered Bridge? Look into contacting NYSEG engineer.
- (4) For the recommended action to realize engagement, success would be volunteers taking on projects and helping out.
- (5) Henry's Trail is used a lot—can we add trails to build on what people already like in town parks?

4) Town parks updates:

- a) Discussed procurement of trash bins for Town Parks this summer.
  - i) Brooke made the following recommendations for locations and number of trash bins:
    - (1) Village Green (2)
    - (2) Covered Bridge / Douglas Memorial Park (3)
    - (3) Children's Playground (1)
    - (4) The Grove (4)
    - (5) Riverside Park by TOPS (1)
    - (6) Upper Jay (1)
- b) Discussion on the state of the Community Garden.
  - i) Rototilling needed in most beds, which are overgrown. Olivia to reach out to Cornell Cooperative Extension to see if they can help.
  - ii) More advertising needed to make people aware of the Community Garden and get them involved.
  - iii) Suggestion to reach out to schools.

5) NYS DOT Safe Streets for All grant opportunity

- a) Tabled discussion from when Knut is able to attend in person.

6) Smart Growth grants

- a) Olivia will send out link to this program so people can learn more.

**7) Next meeting: Tuesday, June 3, 7 p.m. at the Community Center**