

Minutes for Town of Jay Human Services Committee – June 5, 2025

Attendance: Wally Walter, Lynn Ladieu, Maddi Savage, Kathy Connolly, Matt Stanley, Robin Licari, Sue Pagano

Presentation at the Au Sable Free Library by Habitat for Humanity on June 19th, Thursday at 6:00 PM.

BLIGHT WITHIN THE TOWN: Transfer Stations and Recycling Center information is extensive and complete. Members discussed a place in Black Brook that appears to be collecting metal. List of Transfer Stations and Recycling Centers will be promoted through JCN and Town of Jay website and at Jay Day. Residents of this community can use this list to find a way of disposing most items.

Composting grant has been obtained by the Town. Climate Smart Communities hopes to apply for a grant for a Transfer Station in Town. There are two collection days for tires this summer and two hazardous waste collection days also this summer. HSC will promote by posting on JCN, Town website and posters throughout the Town. Robin states that she will call DEC about a grant regarding DEC paying a contractor to dispose of hazardous waste within the Town of Jay. Wally suggests that HSC might want to address trash along the major roads an issue for Blight Within the Town.

SERVICES FOR SENIORS: Robin and Sue discussed Mercy Care of the Adirondacks. Robin states that there is a need since we have had 4 referrals. Volunteers have not completed their training and continue to wait for One to One Interviews with the Volunteer Director. It has been 3 weeks since the May 15 Volunteer Training. Sue states that the 6 ½ hour training was too long and would discourage people from volunteering for Mercy Care. Services will be provided now but promoting Mercy Care Volunteers with Au Sable Health Clinic and Senior Center will wait until volunteers have officially finished their training.

Kathy states that Tiffany Thomas is doing a good job at the Senior Center and has interesting activities for the Seniors.

Robin talks about the high cost of Child Care and Day Care in the Town. Full time day care at Little Peaks in Keene Valley is 1,650 per month. Robin talks about her conversation with Michael Francia, Superintendent of the Au Sable Valley School District at the Town of Jay Comprehensive Planning Special Board Visionary Workshop. The Superintendent stated that the school district has a free lunch program for all students, a Pre-K program, after school and before school childcare program and a 5 week summer program. All these services are free.

Robin and Matt will be going to Essex County DSS and Behavioral Health Services on June 12th.

YOUTH AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Creative Writing Class with Author Brian Heinz will take place this summer for Teens and Adults.

Maddie talks about the student survey that she has done. Most of the students were in the 9th grade. Students expressed an interest in outdoor activities and more activities at the 4th of July, Craft Fairs and Art Shows. Members discuss difficulties of having outdoor movies during the summer because it does not get dark until 9:00 PM. Matt suggests the Community Center Gym for movies. Maddie talks about the limited participation of the Middle School students that she approached to complete the survey and how this has made it difficult to know how to cater to the Middle School age students. She states many refused to do the survey. She believes the High Schoolers would be interested in Creative Writing Workshop. Robin talks about the Sweethearts and Heros program at the Schools. Older students mentor elementary age students. Group members discuss involving existing entertainment organizations to include more activities for youth. Group members discuss the multitude of talent in this area and suggests reaching out to this talent to do programs for youth. Robin talks about the need of these organizations to promote the activities that they think teens would enjoy by stating this on promotional advertisements.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Town Supervisor Matt Stanley talks about the programs encouraging affordable housing in the Town of Jay. \$300,000 grant through CDBG to revitalize 2 or 3 houses in the Town of Jay for Low-income residents to repair such things as windows, wells, furnaces, etc. North Country Rural Development Coalition (NRDC) is finishing this grant and this organization will be administering this grant.

Essex County Lank Bank. Completed the first land bank home in Upper Jay and then sold this home to a young local family.

At the next Town Board meeting, Supervisor will be proposing that a property donated to the Town of Jay donate their land to the Town in exchange for the Town to pay the taxes on the property. The Town will pay half of the taxes on this property and then donate the land to the Land Bank because the Land Bank has been able to secure a grant to demolish the house and build another home on this property. When the home is sold the Town will have that property back on the tax rolls.

Also, there are two recipients of the vacant rental property grant through North Country Rural Development which will rehabilitate 2 to 4 apartments in Au Sable Forks, (two on Main Street and 3 on Forge Street).

Essex County Housing Task Force meets monthly

Matt is working with the Lake Champlain Planning Board regarding infill program for Hamlets. This infill program encourages ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) on private property. He states there is a lot of room to create housing in Au Sable Forks and they are not close to capacity regarding the needed infrastructure.

Matt states all this is small in numbers and what is really needed is developers creating new housing. The hurdles to development include:

No site control in the hamlet

There has to be 7 acres per home built if outside the hamlet.

Most multidwelling grants are for low-income households

Developers are interested in larger projects that are more profitable

Taking care of Zombie homes is a slow process involving courts. Matt wants to ask property owner of Zombie homes to give the home to the Town and the Town will make the taxes go away. There is a high cost to remove remaining properties. Plan is to get the property owner to donate the property to the town, the Land Bank demolishes the home and the Town and County split the cost of paying for the property owners taxes.

Food bank:

Jay/Wilmington Food Pantry is in a small white building next to the Methodist Church in Wilmington. About 43 people come to the Food Bank in the 2 hours that they are opened on Thursdays. This is about 15 different visits with parents and their children. Lynn believes that we will need 501c3 in order to buy food at a reasonable price. Wally suggests asking Jay/Wilmington Food Pantry if we could fall under their 501c3 status. Lynn states she will find out if this is possible. Robin states that she believes an administrative staff and volunteers for the food bank can be arranged. Carol Hackel Town Clerk will be asked if she wants to be involved.

NEXT MEETING: July 3, 2025 at 4:00 PM **ADJOURNMENT**