

Town of Jay

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Meeting Minutes, August 6, 2025 @ 4:00 pm

Community Center Au Sable Forks and via online

Attendees: Robin Licari, John Culpepper, Wally Walters, Norman Ward, and guest presenter Phil Lawrence.

- A. Minutes from June 25, 2025, meeting approved. Motion by Wally, second by John, all approve.
- B. Guest: Phil Lawrence, Standard 55 Solutions, introduced his business and presented information on the NY Stretch Energy Code. See attached document “Navigating the NYStretch Energy Code....” For supplementary information. The NY Stretch Energy Code is a voluntary more stringent supplement to the Energy Conservation Construction Code, adopted by municipal board resolution, building code. It was an interactive presentation with discussions about various topics. While complying with the Stretch Energy Code will increase constructions cost (how much one study showed 3%), benefits outweigh the added costs such as healthy living environment, energy cost savings, higher quality built homes etc. There are no municipalities as far as Phil knows in Essex, Clinton, and Franklin counties that have adopted the code. Public outreach and education are very important to overcome possible negative public perception. Training of contractors and home builders is also very important, possibly consider a certification course. Phil’s contact information info@s55slc.com, 518-637 2319.
- C. Lana Gokey has stepped down from the taskforce. We have a good group of members but could need new members. We have a lot of initiatives and actions in process, and hopefully more coming in 2026, and could need a few more taskforce members. It was suggested everyone tries to identify some candidates.
- D. Updates on initiatives.
 - 1. Solar Panels highway garage; Installation to start week of September 8th.
 - 2. EV Chargers (Jay and Upper Jay); All engineering/drawings done. Contracts expected to be signed in the next week.
 - 3. Compost pilot program; No news from DEC on the grant and contract. Compost for Good will table at Jay Day and at the Sustainability and Energy Fair with a flier about “Food Scrap Composting Coming Soon”.
 - 4. Sustainability and Energy Fair: Need help reaching out to potential vendors. John to reach out to Heat Keepers, North Country Tree Tops, Casella, and DEC. Knut to ask Olivia to reach out to the Nature Conservancy and also Adirondack Land Trust. Everyone, please consider ideas for vendors and reach out to them. Call for Vendors flier attached, and online registration is available on Town of Jay Website https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnCMDK7ZgpJYJ5SKoZNjYgoLIYJCovqU_UooCtMb3X8ZATBw/viewform . Barbara presented a flier explaining what Sustainability is

(see attached), and we will have available at Jay Day and for other opportunities (social media). The Keene taskforce also has developed (with the help of a student) a couple of fliers about recycling which the Jay taskforce can use as well. Thank you, Keene.

E. Town of Jay Comprehensive Plan update; Wally gave a very brief update on next steps. Attached is a documents about next steps. Meeting ran long today and unfortunately; we did not have time to elaborate much on this agenda item.

F. Other.

1. We applied for a \$600,000 NY State Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant through NYSERDA, which would fund a extensive audit of the Community Center and subsequent energy efficiency improvements. The grant as no matching requirements, but the timeline will be very tight, energy audit by end of year and all projects (funds used) complete by end of 2026. The Town of Jay was one of five municipalities awarded the grant by NYSERDA; however, it also requires approval of the Department of Energy (DOE), which is not guaranteed. Looks promising and would be a great project and benefit for the Town of Jay if approved.
2. Complete Streets Policy and Planning for Biking & Walking certification grant application was submitted. There will be a 50% cost match if grant is awarded, and total cost is estimated at about \$60,000. Volunteer in-kind at \$15.50 could provide a good offset for the match requirement, especially during the current conditions assessment. We will need volunteers to help with this initiative. However, it should be a good investment as having these plans will earn points and make a grant application much stronger for future projects like sidewalks. As an example, the town spent \$70,000 on sideways last year in Au Sable Forks and there is much more to go. One grant for sidewalks could more than offset the in-kind required for this grant.
3. Jay Day August 9th.

G. Next Meeting- What about August 25th at 7pm or August 29 at 4 pm?