

*Town of Jay*

**Climate Smart Community Task Force**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 10, 2025 @ 4:00 pm**

**Community Center Au Sable Forks and via online**

Attendees: Wally Walters, Lucy Ward, John Culpepper, Matt Stanley, Knut Sauer, Greg Zais (Chesterfield Climate Smart Communities Taskforce)

- A. Minutes from October 14, 2025, meeting was approved. Motion by Wally, Second by Lucy, all in favor.
- B. Updates on initiatives.
  - 1. Solar Panels highway garage: Install complete-NYSEG Meter installed and phone line installed, final pending NYSEG connect phone with meter. Need to have connection by end of year to claim the Federal Investment Credit for 2025 rather than wait until following year.
  - 2. EV Chargers (Jay and Upper Jay): DEC Contract extension and MWBE waiver approved and new contracts executed. APEX to install chargers week between Christmas and New Years.
  - 3. EV Chargers Au Sable Forks: Pending contract, budget and workplan development with DEC. They are currently busy working through existing contracts and expect new EV contracts to be uploaded in SFS grant portal in the next 2-3 months.
  - 4. Food Scraps pilot program: Contract, budget, and workplan received from DEC, but modified budget is pending final DEC approval. Due anytime. Food scraps Hauling service and education/outreach portion awarded. Formal quotes were solicited and Rivervalley Regeneratives and Compost for Good were awarded the project based on lowest quotes while also fully meeting the DEC grant requirements. Target date to launch food scraps collection is April, with education and outreach portion to commence about 30 days prior to collection launch.
  - 5. NY State Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant: Audit by L&S nearing completion. We received a preliminary update on the Passive House Audit. Not yet complete and data still being evaluated. In summary, looks like insulating the walls would have by far the largest impact (40-50%) towards Passive House Certification, however, that may not be a feasible project due to potential cost. Windows came in surprisingly low at <10%, but they need to re-evaluate their data used for the model. Perhaps windows are ok, but there may be significant air leakage between window and frame that we need to check on. Surprisingly (to Knut) was the relatively high percentage >15% we could achieve by insulating attic and exterior roof. The attic in the slate roof (peak roof) could need additional insulation, and the flat roof adding exterior 4" rigid insulation over the existing rubber/asphalt roof and then a

new roof laid. It would be specified to accommodate a future potential solar array installation.

This is just an initial draft analysis and will be complemented with cost projections in the final report, in addition to recommendations as to air exchangers in the Gym and electrification of HVAC system.

John, who has had some experience in pursuing passive house certification at the North Country School when he worked there, advised that pursuing initiatives to get passive house certification may not always make sense due to potential costs etc.

Greg, who also has some experience, agreed with John and recommend we develop a score card to achieve best return on investment.

Wally agreed with that. He also had some experience with his own home. Advised we need to make sure they have correct data as it relates to the windows, U factor, Panes, heat loss etc. He also cautioned about “retrofitting” as it could cause other issues like mold and poor air quality if not done properly.

6. Complete Streets Policy grant application - no update yet.

- C. Town of Jay Comprehensive Plan update: Wally reported that they have received a 180 page draft of the initial Community Profile, and are reviewing it. Next step is Stakeholder interviews, and he shared a questionnaire they have developed for the Ausable Freshwater Center. We need to develop a similar questionnaire for this committee. Following those interviews, the next step is to present “options” for the town which is targeted for Q1 2026.

D. Other

1. Planning for 2026; activities etc.: Energy Fair Y/N and date?: Knut advised he has been thinking about why we had low turnout this year? lack of interest, or was it the weather and the change of venue. It was agreed that it probably was the weather and change of venue and to give it another try in 2026. We agreed to September 12<sup>th</sup> as a tentative date. We also agreed the Community Center Gym is a good venue and weather proof, and while perhaps not in the center of Jay, and further from Keene, it is closer in proximity to Chesterfield and other neighboring towns. We invited Chesterfield to join as co-hosts and Greg graciously accepted.
2. Greg gave a brief update on Chesterfields efforts, they have had their first meeting. He also advised the Town of AuSable is considering becoming a Climate Smart Community, and we all look forward to cooperation with them as well. It is great to work together with our neighboring towns like Keene and Chesterfield, and hopefully additional ones in the future.

- E. Next Meeting: we set our next meeting for 5pm on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Agenda will primarily be to review the Community Center Audit and discuss recommendations?