

Parks & Open Space Committee
Meeting MINUTES
Town of Jay Community Center
Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Olivia Dwyer, Tim Rowland, Andrew Hamlin, Sarah Duhaime, Larry Hartson, Brooke Paries, Knut Sauer, Frank Kreuger

Town Parks Update

Brooke attended virtually but was unable to speak due to connectivity issues.

- 1) Town Parks Update — Check with Supervisor’s office to see if the ice skating rink liner that was in use a few years ago by volunteers is still available for Town use.

Dog Park Update

Leads on **fiscal sponsor** for dog park fundraising:

- 1) Lake Placid Rotary Foundation — Sarah will attend their February 4, 2026, meeting via Zoom. Will ask if they charge a management fee for collecting donations under their 501(c)3 designation for a Town of Jay dog park.
- 2) Rebecca Kelly and Craig Brasher of the Tahawus Cultural Center have offered to be a fiscal sponsor through their Appleby Foundation (applebyfoundation.org), which is a 501(c)3. Rebecca and Craig will host the January 2026 meeting of the ADK Civics Club with discussion topics planned to be the dog park, downtown beautification, and more. All are welcome to attend.
- 3) The November 2025 call for dog park name suggestions yielded 40 names from 2025. Olivia will follow up with people who submitted by email to thank them, and invite them to attend the January 2026 ADK Civics Club meeting to meet Sarah and Larry.

Committee volunteers Sarah and Andrew completed a **site visit** to 23 Grove Road property since the last committee meeting. Topics discussed:

- 1) Need to identify fire department access points.
- 2) Follow up with Supervisor Matt Stanley to find out if adding a dog park to the town’s liability insurance will increase the premium.
- 3) Volunteers will keep an eye on flood conditions during winter/spring to build knowledge about flood risks at the site. Rebecca has offer to help given that the Tahawus building has a bloom of the site.

- 4) Volunteers will send letters to neighbors that they have not been able to connect with through canvassing.
- 5) Updates on site needs and ideas:
 - a) Could there be an accessible trail from the parking area on Grove Road down to the dog park area? Andrew said that this would be challenging as much of the slope is construction debris (concrete, not soil) that would be an unstable trail foundation. It would be possible to bring in fill, but that would also require a substantial retaining structure on the outer slope.
 - b) Having an accessible trail from the Grove Road parking would be an advantage because it would consolidate access at one place.
 - c) Another option for an accessible trail would be to build an accessible trail down to the dog park from near the pump house close to the bridge, where there are already 1 or 2 parking spaces and which is close to the Riverside Park parking lot by Tops for more access.
 - d) Noted that there needs to be easy and fast uphill egress/exit from the dog park in case of fast moving waters.
- 6) Next steps: Gather more public input before committing to the site.
 - a) Tour/site visit after 2026 Parks & Trails Day to get more people interested and informed.
 - b) Start planning/looking into the physical plan for the dog park: soil, concrete footings, type of fencing, and more.

January 2026 Parks & Open Space Meeting

Purpose: 90-minute, Open house-style meeting to share information about ongoing projects and the future of outdoor recreation in Jay, recruit volunteers, and have a general listening session to get input from the community.

Agenda:

- 1) General Presentation (less than 20 minutes)
- 2) Small Group Discussion — encourage people to follow their interests. Possible topic areas:
 - a) Town Beautification
 - b) Four Peaks
 - c) Dog Park
 - d) Upper Jay Park
 - e) Other topics suggested in the room.
- 3) Report out/Talkback.

Goals:

- 1) Make people aware that the Parks & Open Space Committee exists—and they can join to bring their ideas to life.
- 2) Recruit volunteers.
- 3) Provide opportunities for community engagement.
- 4) Get ideas and input from community members.

Parks & Trails Volunteer Day | Saturday, April 25, 2026

Projects:

- Douglas Memorial Park / Site Leader: Tim
 - restrain pavilion
 - reset pavers in pavilion
- DEC Partner Project / Site Leader: Andrew
- Wells Memorial Library / Site Leader: Library Board of Trustees
- Henry's Trail / Site Leader: Frank
- Children's Playground / Site Leader: Sarah (or Douglas Memorial Park mulching)

Celebration:

- Party/cookout of some kind at The Grove pavilion after volunteer work complete
- Include a visit to the dog park site too.

Resources:

- Keith Garrow, DEC Forester for Jay Mountain Wilderness and Wilmington Wild Forest. Besides DEC role, Keith does a lot of work with the Adirondack Rail Trail Association and is well-versed in working with volunteers. He had a positive response to working with the Town of Jay. Keith will come up with a list of volunteers projects; how many volunteers needed at each; skill sets needed/available. Could be fixing split rail fencing at the end of Stone House Road at access point to Four Peaks.
- Kayla White, ADK's Director of Field Programs. Said that Town of Jay can borrow trail-related tools, just need 1-2 weeks of lead time.

Volunteer Communications:

- Prepare project-specific details for volunteers so they know what to expect: location, why this project is important, driving directions, expectations for the day, gear to bring. Could be delivered in a follow up email to sign up form.

Other:

- Look into liability waiver
- Invite Black Brook to participate, perhaps with their River Park as a site.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ 7 p.m.