

Town of Jay

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2026 @ 5:00 pm

Community Center Au Sable Forks and via online

Attendees: Olivia Dwyer, John Culpepper, Wally Walters, Knut Sauer

- A. Minutes from March 31, 2026, meeting were approved.
- B. Updates on initiatives.
1. EV Chargers (Jay and Upper Jay): Installed and ready-pending SIM cards and networking account set up. Should be up and running by end of week. We need to submit reporting to DEC for the grant funding.
 2. EV Chargers Au Sable Forks: Contract due to us very soon as per DEC. We need to check with NYSEG for a job# and ensure there is enough power for a fast charger.
 3. Compost pilot program: Contract any minute as per DEC, hauling and education/outreach portion awarded. Expecting to get started by July.
 4. NY State Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant: Contract with L&S for Audit to be amended to include them writing the bid specs for new windows and roof insulation. NYSERDA finally acknowledged we could use grant funds to cover the expense. Once bid specs received, we will go out for RFP's via bid.
 5. Complete Streets Policy grant application: Awarded-no further news.
- C. Town of Jay Comprehensive Plan update: Wally shared two documents with the taskforce. 1) Updated working group recommendations submitted for the Comprehensive plan, and 2) extracts from the draft Town of Jay Community Profile regarding climate. The Community Profile attempts to detail information about the town and is an integral part of the forthcoming Comprehensive Plan Update. The rest of the plan update will include an executive summary, details about the development of the plan update, findings and recommendations, and various appendices.
- Please review the documents and provide feedback to Wally as soon as possible. It is very interesting reading and your feedback is important.**
- D. Other
- 1) Knut provided a quick recap of the Climate & Energy Conference ANCA held last week. Knut was invited to be part of a round table discussion, and it was good to share our story and the progress we have made. Good conference and a lot of valuable information and connections made.
- A) At the conference Troy from NYSEG advised he had secured \$500 sponsorship for this years Sustainability & Energy Fair, thank you Troy and NYSEG!

- B) There was a seminar on Battery Energy Storage (BESS), which Knut missed, but will connect with the speaker and maybe ask if she can present to the taskforce. BESS has become a bit of a hot topic, as some groups are advocating against them in the ADK Park. We need to better understand BESS and the impact, and why some people are opposed. BESS is an important part of building out our electricity network and developing more renewable energy infrastructure.
 - C) Knut met with Town of Colton DPW, Darren(?), and discussed their new transfer station which is very impressive (partially grant funded). We suggest to visit the Colton facility, and invite Supervisor Stanley to join us, as eventually we want to move towards a transfer station perhaps, as our composting initiative is a first step. Town of Colton includes the cost in assessment, so there is no per bag fee when dropping garbage off. But, without a pick-up service the success may be hampered and something we would have to consider, perhaps contract out pick up as well?
 - D) Knut met with Matt McQuinn from the New York Power Authority (NYPA). Matt was advocating for municipalities to look at geothermal. Not sure exactly how NYPA can support, engineer and feasibility, or also funding? Knut to follow up with Matt to learn more.
- 2) John spoke about the growth of Human remain composting and we had an interesting and enlightening discussion. Is that's something we want to advocate for in Jay?

E. Next Meeting date was set for July 7th at 5pm