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TOWN OF JAY

Climate Smart Task Force

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Town of Jay

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Minutes

July 7, 2026 @ 5:00 pm

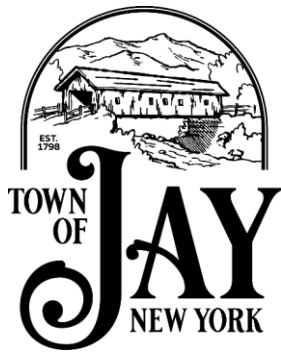
Community Center Au Sable Forks and via online

Attendees: Wally Walters, John Culpepper, Katie Culpepper, Lucy Ward, Robin Licari, Knut Sauer

A. Minutes from May 12, 2026 meeting were approved. Motion by Wally, second by John, all in favor.

B. Updates on initiatives.

1. EV Chargers (Jay and Upper Jay): Installation complete, but cell service connection not sufficient at Upper Jay lot, and spotty at the Village Green. Only one port works at the time, due to lack of sufficient cell service band width at the Village Green, and there has been some charging activity. Town project installing public Wi-Fi at both locations, utilizing a grant and help from Essex County. Install should be completed at the end of July and then chargers at both locations should be fully operational.
2. EV Chargers Au Sable Forks: Before going out to bid we need to determine cost to upgrade electric service and final precise location for the fast charger to be installed at TOPS parking lot. Requires 3 phase which is not currently available. Knut mentioned it has been very frustrating working with NYSEG and the process in trying to determine power availability at the location. Currently a quote from NYSEG is pending for upgrade. Upon receipt we will include the requirement to upgrade as part of the RFP/bid specs.
3. Food Scraps/Compost pilot program: Pending issuance of agreement by Town of Jay for previously awarded hauling and education/outreach component. Once agreement is finalized with service providers, we will also spec out 20' and 40' container options and put out RFP for the same, and work with highway department on location and preparation of area.
4. NY State Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant: L&S completed the bid spec's for windows and roof insulation. Currently pending bid documents from town to go out and bid.
5. Complete Streets Policy grant, pending DEC to release agreement and documentation in the grant portal. Discussion ensued about what this would include, such as inventory of streets, sidewalks, recreational paths, crosswalks etc. Like a mini comprehensive plan focused on our streets, bike and walkability and what the community would like it to look at in the future.



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6. Having this documents will help us secure grants for improvements and new developments. We would like to draw on the Parks and Outdoor recreation committee and the Human Services Committee and do surveys and hold community open houses.
7. Wally gave an update on the Town of Jay Comprehensive Plan. The final draft of the Community Profile, 300 pages, has been released to the Comprehensive Plan special board and is under review. Wally encouraged the committee to read the two documents (the CSC working group recommendations, and the extracts related to the CSC from the community profile) and provide input. It's not too late for them to consider input. Hoping to release it to the public sometime this fall.
8. Sustainability and Energy Fair Planning, September 12th. Knut asked for help in reaching out to vendors. Spread sheet was sent prior to meeting but will be re-sent. If anyone likes to help design a poster/flier for the event that would be helpful as well.
9. Other:
 - a. John suggested we reach out to and recruit additional taskforce committee members, especially targeting younger demographics. This would be great, and that we would do some outreach.
 - b. John raised follow up questions on Battery Energy Storage (BESS) which was discussed briefly at the prior meeting. There are movements among some communities to issue moratoriums on BESS. It's a complex issue, and we need to educate ourselves, the town board, and the public about what it entails and the safety of BESS. John suggested maybe reaching out to the fire departments and discuss what their requirements would be (training and equipment needed etc.). Knut suggested we should invite NYSERDA to the next meeting, and/or town board meeting to present on BESS etc. At the recent ANCA seminar he met a representative from NYSERDA who could be invited to talk about BESS.
10. Next Meeting date was not set. Suggested dates will be sent out for some time in August.