

Parks & Open Space Committee

Town of Jay

Meeting Agenda

Community Center

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Attending: Olivia Dwyer, Sarah Duheme, Andrew Hamlin, Larry House, Frank Krueger, Brook Paries

Absent: Tim Rowland, Knut Sauer

Town of Jay Parks — Update by Brooke Paries

- New garbage cans have been distributed:
 - Two on Main Street in Au Sable Forks; one by the laundromat and the other across the street
 - One more on Jay Village Green (total of two)
 - Two at the Covered Bridge in Douglas Memorial Park in Jay
 - One at the Upper Jay Picnic Area
- At Henry's Trail in The Grove, the last play feature determined to be unsafe has been removed. The "boat" play feature at Henry's Trail has been repaired and approved to stay.
- At the Children's Playground in Jay, the missing part for the water table has been ordered and will be installed when it is delivered.
- Brooke and Water/Wastewater Superintendent Paul Mintz have been working on the fountain at the Jay Village Green. After removing damaged stone and getting the remaining structure assessed, they have developed a repair plan to move forward with.
- At The Grove, bathrooms have been redone and new sinks installed.
- Brooke said town staff are keeping up with maintenance and they are happy about the current condition of all town parks. She identified two projects they would like to get to at The Grove:
 - Repaint the building at the pavilion that holds the kitchen and bathrooms.
 - Repair fences surrounding both ball fields at The Grove.
- Other committee members offered the following comments:
 - Larry there is a fence in need of repair at the Douglas Memorial Park tennis courts. Olivia provided an update that the Town Board is preparing an RFP for the renovation of those courts, which would replace fences.
 - Frank expressed an interest in organizing volunteers to help with painting the pavilion building. The committee supported this idea, although timing and which committee member would organize volunteers was left

undecided. Brooke to report back with a time that would work to do the project.

Comprehensive Plan — Update by Olivia Dwyer

The Comprehensive Plan Special Board is working with consultant Ann Ruzow Holland to finalize a draft of the comprehensive plan update to share with the public for comment for fall 2026.

Olivia shared the draft Tiered Matrix of future priority projects with the committee, requested comments by September 3, 2026, so they can be delivered to Ann and board chair Wally Walters.

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities — Update by Olivia Dwyer

Olivia reported on the steering committees activities:

- June 23, 2026: Completed the Community Self-Assessment. Thank committee members for participating.
- July 14, 2026: Steering Committee met to plan the Community Workshop planned for Friday, September 25, and Saturday, September 26.
- August 14, 2026: Olivia met with members of the planning assistance team to brainstorm federal, state, county, local partners to invite. They will handle outreach to federal partners.

Olivia shared draft schedules for the community tour on September 25 and for the community workshop on September 25–26 for comments and feedback from the committee.

Olivia shared draft goals to guide community discussion at the September workshops:

- **Goal 1: Enhance recreation access for everyone in the community** – Make trails, the Ausable River, bicycle routes, and other close-to-home recreation amenities easily accessible for all residents throughout the Town of Jay, and harness them to build a sense of community.
- **Goal 2: Strengthen connections between Jay's three hamlets** – Create safe and interconnected bicycle and pedestrian routes, transit/van/shuttle service, and consistent and branded wayfinding to link Au Sable Forks, Jay, and Upper Jay to each other and to surrounding recreation destinations.

- **Goal 3: Enhance Jay's hamlets and main streets** – Make Jay's hamlets welcoming and vibrant and support small businesses in order to attract and meet the needs of residents and visitors.
- **Goal 4: Engage everyone in outdoor recreation and stewardship** – Engage community members of all ages, backgrounds, and perspectives in outdoor recreation and main street revitalization efforts and in cultivating a stewardship ethic that protects what makes Jay special, so we can grow our outdoor recreation economy sustainably.

Dog Park — Update by Sarah Duheme and Larry Hartson

Sarah and Larry shared a draft site plan with committee members and received positive feedback.

They plan to present the draft site plan to the Town Board at the September 10 meeting so board members know in advance what is being proposed for the site and what the dog park organizers are requesting.

Once the Town Board approves the site plan, Sarah and Larry will work on getting bids with updated specs so they can compare accurately.

Sarah and Larry shared their proposed name for the dog park: the Kendall Harston LeMay Dog Park.

They have an offer of an in-kind donation for labor and equipment to construct a path from the parking area on Grove Road down the embankment to the grassy field on the 23 Grove Road property.

- Sarah and Larry confirmed construction will need board approval.
- They are seeking board approval so they can accept the donation and work can proceed this fall so there is time to construct the trail, let it settle, and check for drainage and other issues before the public begins using it.
- Constructing the trail will require taking down eight trees.

Sarah and Larry tabled at Jay Day to continue fundraising and community outreach.

Donations received to date exceed \$3,000; with trail construction in-kind donation they are well over \$10,000.

They hope to break ground on the dog park summer or fall 2027, pending fundraising success and Town Board approval.

They will start looking at grants and other fundraising opportunities.

They will invite community members to join their efforts at their next ADK Civics Club meeting at NewVida Preserve on Friday, August 21, at 6 p.m.

Town of Jay Budget — Update by Olivia Dwyer

Olivia provided an update on the budget timeline, with department heads submitting proposals to Town Supervisor Matt Stanley, who also serves as the Town Budget Officer, by the end of August. Discussion:

Olivia will be talking to Matt about a capital reserve in the budget for parks equipment, noting that catch-up maintenance over the last five years has included the purchase of equipment including two trucks, a trailer, a dump trailer, and a mower also used by water/wastewater. The objective would be to set aside money in coming years so there is capital on hand to replace the equipment when it begins to fail.

Sarah and Larry asked about creating a restricted fund within the General Fund for long-term dog park maintenance, noting that they hope the dog park will outlast their ability to volunteer with that project and the town could provide support in the distant future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.