

Christine Montague
Town Board Member Report
February 2025

Tompkins Co. Youth Services Advisory Board, Jan 27

- We got an update on county staffing and shelter changes that would affect the youth services department.
- They held orientation for new board members.
- The director reviewed the department's goals for achieving youth results, assessing the most pressing challenges, amplifying public awareness of programs, and revamping the website to incorporate data and serve the needs of runaway and homeless youth.
- We also reviewed the goals for the board and the agencies tasked with the work.

Lansing Housing Authority, Jan 27

- The management company for Woodsedge is doing a full inspection of all apartments to check outlets, look for leaks, etc
- Management also said the building is in need of roof repairs and new hallway lights.
- The board did the yearly walk-through of Woodsedge to check for specific areas that need to be repaired.
- Update on 2/11: LHA has received word that the settlement from a class action lawsuit (the Franconia claim award) has been paid out to the lawyers for the claimants in their group. The money should come through in the next few weeks and will allow them to finish the roof repairs and other repairs that have been on hold.

Discussion with Shawna Stevenson of Tompkins Co. Planning Dept (1/31) and Delia Yarrow from Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS, 2/5)

- The county has two programs to assist municipalities and nonprofits to build and repair housing. They are the Community Housing Development funds and the Housing Affordability and Supportive Infrastructure Grants (HASIG).
- The Housing Affordability and Supportive Infrastructure Grants (HASIG) process allows towns to hire consultants to assess the feasibility for affordable housing development and to apply for state Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The HASIG program will accept grants starting March 17. Projects may request no more than \$10,000 in County funds.

- INHS currently helps homeowners all over the county, including Lansing, with home repair, through the county's Community Housing Development Fund.
- INHS also builds developments with rentals as well as community housing trust homes, where the resident owns the house but not the land under it.
- They encouraged us to start the process of becoming a Pro-Housing Community. This is a state designation that will help us get state infrastructure improvement grants and home building or repair grants.

Conservation Advisory Council, Feb 5

- The CAC was designated in 2019 to be the task force for the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program for Lansing. If we're certified based on our actions, it will help us get grants in the future. We have not added any of our actions to the website yet. CAC wants guidance on their role in helping Lansing become a climate smart community. The Town Board will also need to appoint a new coordinator because CJ is still listed. It can be someone on the CAC. Jerry Sheng from Cooperative Extension will send an example resolution to appoint the coordinator. He will also send the list of actions that the town can do to become a climate smart community.
- There was a discussion about how to designate areas of town as Critical Environmental Areas (CEA) so that they have to be addressed during SEQR questions. CAC would like guidance on how to decide which areas are CEA. There are maps from the state DEC and from the county (unique natural areas). Wetlands were discussed as one possible element of a CEA assessment