

Christine Montague
Town Board Member Report
May 2026

Lansing Housing Authority, April 27

- The accounting firm Insero presented their audit of the LHA Board's finances for the year.
- LHA needs to find new insurance for the building and liability because their previous policy was canceled.
- Woodsedge management has installed new washers and dryers to be used with a card system. They are also talking with a prospective renovation contractor and cabinet suppliers to be able to upgrade kitchens during unit turnovers.

Tompkins County Youth Services Advisory Board, April 27

- We had a presentation from the Tompkins County Workforce Development Deputy Director. She described the county programs available to help young adults become "job ready" through assessment, guidance through goal-making, and support in the search.

Interviews for Board of Ethics, May 4

- Four of us took part in interviewing the two applicants for one opening on the Board of Ethics.

Conservation Advisory Council, May 6

- The group talked more about what's needed to set up a BioBlitz this summer for the meadow so we will know what plants and animals are currently living there. Coordination of education, schedules, parking, and restrooms was discussed.
- Our rep from Southern Tier 8 Economic Development Organization is the contact for getting Climate Smart Community (CSC) designation. She is helping the Town get designated a CSC by compiling the actions the Town has done, and by filling out a climate smart resiliency planning tool with input from Ruth. We should know by August whether the Town will have enough points to get Bronze designation. Other future actions the CAC can help with includes making an adaptation plan.
- The committee discussed concerns regarding the status, maintenance, and long-term oversight of landfill sites located within the Town of Lansing.
- They also discussed opportunities to work with Soil and Water Conservation District staff on future planting and restoration projects along Salmon Creek.
- One member asked for Open Meetings Law training for the CAC.

Rethinking Affordable Housing: Codes, Design & Community, May 12

- This was an online session run by the University of Virginia Architecture School, for UVA alums. They talked about making sure the people in need of housing are involved in the planning, design, and review of codes. We learned about durability of building materials and ways to build inexpensively but also for durability and climate resilience. Americans depend on housing for long term stability, but are unique in the world for being more migratory, therefore making most housing with lighter materials. New types of small housing include alley flats, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), pocket neighborhoods oriented around a common space, tiny houses, pre-fabricated parts, and the ability to age-in-place. For these alternatives to be considered, codes need to be in place to allow affordable and green design, speed of permitting, and options besides single-family houses.