

Christine Montague
Town Board Member Report
May 2025

Tompkins Co. Chamber of Commerce / Lansing meeting, April 30

- Lansing residents, business owners and representatives from Anna Kelles' office and The Tompkins Co Chamber of Commerce met to discuss ideas for actualizing the Lansing of our dreams.
- Business owners have concerns with how their buildings are approved. They feel that they have had complicated and confusing routes to getting things built and that they need better guidance from both the Planning department / Code Enforcement and the Planning Board. Residents who have built houses in Lansing also said that the process was much longer and more complicated than it should have been.
- Business owners asked if the sign law can be adjusted so they could advertise on part of the fences at the ball field. That would bring in revenue to the Town and allow local businesses to advertise. There was an idea of adding a cafe at Myers Park.
- Many had a vision of a Lansing Town Center with things to do and a place for teenagers to go. We discussed the need for infrastructure in that area first. The Chamber and the business owners were interested in being in the advisory group formed for rewriting our zoning laws.
- The Town Librarian is hoping to get a teen center combined with a library and a certified kitchen for small businesses to make their food to sell. She is also planning on upgrading the webpage that the Town could turn into a community website.
- People noted that the schools seem to be closed off from the rest of the community. Those who tried to reserve a room or use the facilities have found it impossible. On the positive side, the school has been able to pull together some funds to get local business owners to do upgrades at the homes of less fortunate students.

Tompkins Co. Youth Services Advisory Board, April 28

- We had a presentation from The Learning Web, one of the agencies funded by County Youth Services. They described their services, which include career tours and experiences for teens, professional development for staff of other agencies, and emergency food, mental health and housing for young people. They have expanded their mental health services, a transitional living program, life skills training for young people, and a supporting strong families program.

- Youth Services is developing a resource hub to help the county school districts' liaisons that are tasked with helping homeless youth.

Lansing Housing Authority, April 28

- The board accepted a quote for fixing a catch basin and looked at quotes for resealing the parking lot and replacing windows and siding.

Conservation Advisory Council, May 7

- The CAC had a presentation from Rebecca Schneider from the Dept of Natural Resources at Cornell. She spoke on land use strategies and alternative ditch designs to reduce flooding and degradation of streams and the lake.
- Jerry Sheng from Cooperative Extension informed us of two potential granting sources. One is to fund a climate action plan to increase resiliency. We would need to choose a focus. He also mentioned that NYSERDA has grants for towns to explore the reuse of fossil fuel plants that have shut down.