



Jamaica Selectboard
Town of Jamaica
PO Box 173 • Jamaica • Vermont • 05343

August 26, 2010

Dear voters, residents, and citizens of Jamaica,

As your Selectboard, we have been thinking about the future of the Town, and particularly how it is governed. In the course of our experience over the last few years, we have come to the conclusion that the general laws governing municipalities are not flexible enough to allow us to establish procedures and rules in the Town's best interest.

Earlier in the spring, the Selectboard appointed a Town Charter Review Committee to recommend ideas for the Town Charter. The product of the committee's work is now available for review in the Town Clerk's Office and Town website (www.jamaicavermont.org.)

The first hearing will be on September 30, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Office Meeting Room and the second on November 1, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. also in the Town Office Meeting Room. The Town wide vote on the proposed Town Charter will be held during the General Elections - November 2, 2010.

There are a few substantial changes in this proposed charter. One is the proposal to appoint, rather than elect, our town clerk, treasurer, and delinquent tax collector. Each year, more towns are transitioning to the appointment of individuals to these positions to ensure accountability and proper work performance. We are fortunate that the current officials are able to perform these crucial tasks. The Selectboard feels it is in the Town's best interests to ensure that those who hold these critical offices are able to perform the work. See Section 8.

Please attend the public hearings, and let us know your thoughts on this new charter.

Thank you.

Alexandra A. Clark, Chair
For the Selectboard