

Jamaica Planning Commission Minutes
May 15, 2017

JPC Present: Veda Bassett, Chris Robbins, Cortland Wood

Other Present: Joel Bluming

1. Veda called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. Discussion of the Housing section of the Town Plan included the following changes:
 - Updating housing and income data from the TownCharts.com website.
 - Incorporating information from the WRC document “Town Of Jamaica Town Profile 2014” such as population trends, housing units, seasonal housing, and housing structures. As well as income and employment information
 - Add a “Priority for Action”--> Find a way to incorporate public and private financing to purchase and renovate existing properties that are under-utilized and available to create affordable housing units.
 - Add a Priority for Action→ Create an organization to help provide affordable housing in Jamaica for year-round residents. Perhaps a non-profit organization that buys buildings through grant money/loans/etc. Look into grants available for affordable housing. Look into how to qualify for Section 8 housing, how to build low-income/state-subsidized housing. An organization that could help with a larger security deposit so second homeowners would be more willing to rent to low income people, and working with local organizations such as Neighborhood Connections. Creating emergency shelter/housing through local organizations such as the church. Affordable housing through local hotels and Inns with available rooms
3. Discussion of other sections of the Town Plan included:
 - In the Energy section, adding “The Planning Commission is exploring the use of pumped energy storage at the Ball Mountain Dam to further Efficiency Vermont’s load balancing goal.” And in Table 3-6, changing the efficiency of firewood from 60% to 60%/90% (The two stage high efficiency wood boilers that the state is pushing get 90% efficiency and there is an effort to add them to the energy saving devices for which the state offers a tax deduction.)
4. Chris talked about having Fairpoint come to present about the 10 Gig fiber-optic line to be installed at one of our future meetings.
5. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM until next meeting, June 5, when we will discuss the “Transportation” section of the Town Plan.

Submitted by Veda Bassett