

JAMAICA PLANNING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2018

Present: Chris Robbins, Bryan Zieroff, Rebecca Ohm

Public Present: Joel Bluming, Patrick McQuillan, Lou Bruso

1. Meeting call to order: Rebecca called the meeting to order at 07:02 pm.
2. Additions to the agenda: an Act 250 review from Chris was added and is summarized as Item 4.
3. Approve minutes: the re-scheduled regular meeting minutes of September 5, 2018 were approved unanimously.
4. Chris reported that Charlie Peck informed him of a formal review procedure where a town can have input as part of an Act 250 review by VT DEC. This would be important for Jamaica as it is where the town would have input during the Act 250 review process. The status/details of this formal review procedure will be determined.
5. Mail received: one reminder letter was received on the planning and zoning forum.
6. Draft Energy Plan update: update on the completion of the maps postponed until the next meeting. Chris reported to the Select Board that Windham Regional Commission (WRC) has verbally reported that we are on track for approval, and Chris added final comments with discussion with Charlie Becker.
7. Flood regulations clarifications (Lou Bruso, guest): It was explained that the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) is a quasi-judicial board, which operates separately from the planning commission, with members (when appointments are completed) who are the same persons as the members of the planning commission. FEMA has a program for flood insurance, and the town has to meet state and federal guidelines to be eligible for the insurance. Jamaica currently has flood zone regulations that require town permitting to complete tasks within a flood zone. Updates to the regulations are needed to maximize benefits from the State. Two action items identified: 1) Lou suggested that we contact WRC and have them attend a meeting, review our plan, and provide input on how we can update our regulations. 2) Lou suggested Jamaica should participate in the river corridor program to maximize state benefits. John Broker-Campbell, State Flood Zone Administrator, can also give a flood hazard presentation for informative input to assist with updating our plans, and the October 15th JPC meeting will be targeted for Alyssa Sabetto at WRC to discuss updating the plan. Bryan Zieroff will work with Lou to complete the update process.

8. Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) update: Narrative for the grant application to focus on Land Use in Jamaica and how to have a say in the redevelopment. Funding for planning available to help to hire people to maximize input, capture the public vision, and have everyone's voice heard.
9. Dates for Fall workshops related to "Button Up Vermont" (suggestions / ideas): We are committed to having two workshops in Jamaica to assist people to be more energy efficiency in their home. Button Up Vermont would present. Promoting energy conservation. Rebecca to offer some dates.
10. Membership outreach: Patrick McQuillan, a local resident, business owner, and commercial property owner in Jamaica, indicated an interest in joining the Planning Commission. He will write an application letter to the Select Board.
11. Other Business: The Volkswagen penalty settlement includes a grant opportunity for towns to acquire an EV charging station. Jamaica is eligible, and the Planning Commission was unanimous in wanting to apply. The Select Board will be approached to request that we apply for the grant.
12. Public concerns: The Rt 30 Bus Route. A plan is in place to have a Rt 30 corridor bus route. A well-reviewed bus route currently operates on Rt. 5 and Rt. 9. VT Trans is investing in a study for Route 30. Right now the plan stops in Jamaica. The Planning commission and Select Board should be ready to inquire and provide input. Include bus route review on the next multi town planning commission meeting.
13. Calendar items: The next Planning Commission meeting is October 1st, Charlie Peck will attend; on October 15th, Lou and Bryan will have reached out to Alissa and provide an update. West River Valley Thrives representative Steve Tavella will make a short presentation about how planning can help prevent substance abuse
14. Meeting adjourn: Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 08:30 pm.