

JAMAICA PLANNING COMMISSION (JPC)
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
July 6, 2020

* Due to Covid-19 limitations to public gatherings, the JPC meeting was held electronically pursuant to 1 VSA 312, including The Legislature's H.861 (2020) "Temporary Suspension of Designated Physical Meeting Location Requirements"

Present: Bryan Zieroff, John Sohikian, and Chris Robbins.

Public Present: Hazel Denton

- 1) Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
- 2) John Sohikian was nominated by Chris Robbins for the open JPC secretary position, which was seconded by Bryan Zieroff, and confirmed after no further nominations by unanimous vote.
- 3) Call for any additions to the agenda. None offered.
- 4) The draft minutes of the March 16, 2020 regular meeting were approved unanimously.
- 5) Mail received. Bryan didn't get a chance to check the mail. Will do so before the next meeting.
- 6) Update on the Broadband Survey – Chris Robbins
 - a) Deer Valley CUD formed.
 - b) Feasibility study complete & on the WRC Website.
 - c) Jamaica joined the CUD on 5/12.
 - d) Chris is our Town member, Jessica and John are alternates.
 - e) 3 Committees: Communications, Vendor and Finance.
 - f) 3 stage rollouts planned: Underserved, lightly served, and well served.
 - g) Funding CARES Act. \$800K must be spent by 12/20. Second bridge funding \$2 million, then revenue bond funding about \$30 million. Rural digital opportunity funding: RDOF Make upgrades to existing funding.
 - h) Communications committee is developing its budget.
 - i) Special meeting last week – a joint call of all the CUD's in VT (VTCUD). Major goal is to lobby state as one entity, all 5 CUDs working together.
 - j) Competition with Starlink will be evaluated. John Sohikian to take the lead to see how the Deerfield Valley CUD can become a beta test site.
- 7) Status of the draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. On June 22, 2020, Alyssa Sabetto of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) communicated to the Town that our draft LHMP has received preliminary approval from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and was ready for adoption. The Selectboard has been asked by WRC to sign and return the Certificate of Adoption page (Page 72) of the draft LHMP, which will allow for final agency approval. The plan is

required to be formally adopted by the Town and returned to VEM within one calendar year of the preliminary approval notice on June 22, 2020.

- 8) Update on the amendment/adoption process of the Town Plan. We are in a position to start the amended Town Plan adoption process, and Bryan to investigate how, if possible, to complete the adoption process under the current Covid restrictions.
- 9) Update on the potential community sewer initiative
 - a) An initial feasibility review of a potential community septic system was presented to the Selectboard in June 2020. The review included an identified location for the proposed system, the anticipated system size (6,500 gallons) and the process for obtaining funding.
 - b) Funding is available by application through the Vermont Water Investment Division (WID), and is awarded with available funds on a first come first serve basis during their July 2020-June 2021 fiscal year. The funding operates as a monthly cost recovery advance for activities (preliminary testing, design, construction cost proposal) through construction, and is not required to be paid back unless construction is implemented. For construction, options are available for funding, long term-low interest loans, and subsidies. The goal, if we move forward, is to be shovel ready for any Covid-19 related stimulus packages that may become available.
 - c) The main goal of the initiative, if we move forward, is to provide the public with all the possible information to make an informed decision as to whether a community septic system is right for Jamaica, and would focus on specific costs, how it will be funded, and the significant benefits that would be realized by village homes and businesses that are severely restricted by our current wastewater environment.
 - d) Bryan is preparing a presentation for the Selectboard to allow them to determine whether Jamaica will apply for funding for this initiative.
- 10) Other business – None
- 11) Public concerns – None
- 12) Calendar items: The next regular JPC meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2020 at 7:00 pm.
- 13) Adjourned at 8.05 pm