

Jamaica Planning Commission (JPC)
Draft Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting
March 7, 2022
Jamaica Town Offices, 28 Town Office Road
Jamaica VT 05343

Commissioners present: Bryan Zieroff, Chris Robbins, Charlie Peck

Public present: None

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.
2. No additions to the agenda.
3. The first sentence of item 4a of the February 7 draft minutes was amended to read:

The Commission reviewed the draft report: and recommendation: “Reclassification/discontinuance of town highways and legal trails and establishment of pent roads”.

The first sentence of item 4b was amended to read:

Supporting the report is a letter Charlie received from Timothy P. Morton, VT State Lands Stewardship Forester to Charlie Peck regarding LT 10.

The draft minutes of the February 7 meeting, as amended, were unanimously approved.

4. Chris reported that the Department of Public service representative to the Vermont Communications Broad Band committee (VCBB) stated that the previously reported letter of credit approach to funding long lead time equipment purchases will not be supported. However, DVFiber’s effort to obtain support for long lead time equipment purchases from town ARPA funds has brought the need for such purchases to the attention of the Vermont Communications Union District Association (VCUDA) as a need all Communications Union Districts (CUDs) will face. The VCUDA has recommended to VCBB that the engineering design phase of the CARES Act (H.360) grants be modified to include money for long lead time equipment purchases during the pre-construction program phase. The VCBB will consider the recommendation at their next meeting. Chris further reported on the Equal Access to Broadband (EAB) initiative that ECfiber, the Exmore CUD, has implemented. The EAB project is a non-profit foundation that addresses the need to subsidize broadband access for families unable to afford the subscription fees. ECfiber has developed a computer supported formal process for qualifying families for financial assistance and providing same. A presentation of the EAB project was given at the recent VCUDA meeting with the recommendation for it to be adopted state wide. The presentation emphasized the process is a

combination of social work and teaching internet literacy. DVfiber is actively considering joining the effort.

5. The Community Septic Feasibility Study grant contract has been prepared by the State, was forwarded to the Selectboard (SB), and is being reviewed for signature by both parties.
6. The JPC provided a review to Greg Meulemans of the SB that included a summary of gravel suppliers, costs sheets/projections, and alternative sources.
7. John Sohikian is moving to Arizona and will be resigning from the JPC. The JPC will notify the SB to start the search for a new JPC member.
8. The JPC report "Reclassification/Discontinuance of Town Highways and Legal Trails and Establishment of Pent Road" was reviewed by the SB. The SB showed support for the recommendations for no action, and voted to work with the JPC to complete the required steps for any reclassifications/discontinuances.
9. The next regular JPC meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2022, at 7:00 pm.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.