

Jamaica Planning Commission (JPC)
Draft Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting
April 4, 2022
Jamaica Town Offices, 28 Town Office Road
Jamaica VT 05343

Commissioners present: Bryan Zieroff, Chris Robbins, Charlie Peck, Patrick McQuillan

Public present: Lexa Clark

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.m.

1. No additions to the agenda. Lexa Clark requested that agenda item 5 be taken up first, as she wished to speak on it. Her request was granted by the Chair.

2. The draft minutes of the March 7 meeting were approved as written.

3. Agenda item 5 was taken up. Bryan reported that the DEC planning advance contract is in the final stage of completion and signatures by the Jamaica Selectboard and DEC are expected in the near future. Lexa Clark stated that she wants to be sure that the JPC and the project engineer (Chrissy Haskins) are aware that she owns water rights on and through the Ameden property. Bryan replied that he will make sure Chrissy is aware of this, and that Chrissy will contact Lexa to discuss the water rights issue with her.

4. Agenda item 4 was taken up. Chris reported that the DVFiber Broadband initiative is on track.

5. Agenda item 6 was taken up. Bryan noted that "discussion of gravel sourcing" in the agenda item was an error, and he had meant to write "discussion of road repair/improvement grant opportunities". There was general discussion about the potential for utilizing federal ARPA and IIJA funding for improvement of problem areas and road segments not yet in full compliance with state standards. Charlie noted that the Selectboard has requested that the JPC provide its recommendations for prioritizing the use of ARPA and IIJA funds, and that there appears to be strong justification for including road repair and improvement as one of the top priority categories. It was the consensus of the commission that strong support by the Selectboard is necessary to successfully pursue grant funding for a road improvement program. The commissioners agreed to continue discussion of our recommendations to the Selectboard at our next meeting. Bryan will contact Greg Meulemans and try to pin down the "list" of suggestions for use of the ARPA and IIJA funds that Greg has already received. No action was taken, but there was general agreement to proceed to work on the recommendation the Selectboard has requested, and to continue to research grant funding opportunities for road network repair and improvement.

6. Agenda item 7 was taken up. Charlie reported that he has recently learned from Greg that there is an additional road segment, not covered in the recent JPC recommendation to the Selectboard, which is apparently incorrectly classified. Details are not specific at this time, but the Selectboard wants to include this issue in their list of road segments to be proposed for reclassification, if appropriate. The JPC agreed by consensus to authorize Charlie to work with Greg to develop an appropriate recommendation for Selectboard action on this issue.

7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

