

Jamaica Planning Commission (JPC)
Draft Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting
June 6, 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. Lexa Clark requested that agenda item 6 be taken up first. Her request was granted, and Bryan reported that Chrissy Haskins of the Dufresne Group has released a 30% draft of the Wastewater Feasibility Study to Jamaica's Wastewater Committee. The 30% draft includes data compiled during the initial investigatory steps of the study, and included information on project planning, existing facilities, and the need for the project. A 30% progress meeting, which will be run by Chrissy Haskins and will include the Wastewater Committee and a representative of the VT Department of Environmental Conservation, will be held on Wednesday, June 8th, at 5 pm at Town Offices. The meeting is open to the public and will cover the information contained in the draft report, and provide an opportunity for questions and comments concerning the project.

2. The draft meeting minutes for the May 16, 2022 JPC meeting were approved as written.

3. Chris reported that the VPR All Things Considered radio show had a feature on DVfiber and Vermont CUDs in general last Tuesday. Their interview was held at the undisclosed location where our fiber optic cable is stored, and featured the arrival and unloading of a truck load of cable. Our new chairman, Steven John, spoke about the volunteer effort that has brought DVfiber to the point of being ready to begin construction. Rob Fish, the Public Service Department's representative for communications, described the CUD movement as Vermont's answer to the long standing problem of lack of rural broadband internet. He said that the advanced purchase of fiber optic cable has allowed Vermont to be able to tackle the problem well ahead of the rest of the nation. And, DVfiber is well advanced in Vermont. He reported that the Northeast Kingdom has started stringing fiber and DVfiber expects to start this summer with first connections before the year ends.

Chris further reported that the DVfiber Governing Board reviewed and approved statements of work (SOWs) 3, 4, and 5 covering construction, ISP support, and VOIP services. These are required for our application for construction grant money and it's anticipated that these have been executed by now.

4. Charlie commented that he has already sent the final version of the JPC recommendations for use of available ARPA and IJA funds to the Selectboard. Chris stated that he felt that the final version of the recommendation document should be formally approved "after the fact", and so moved. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

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