

Jamaica Planning Commission (JPC)
Draft Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting
February 20, 2023
Jamaica Town Offices, 28 Town Office Road
Jamaica VT 05343

Commissioners present: Bryan Zieroff, Charlie Peck, Chris Robbins, John Van Hoesen

Public present: none

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. No additions to the agenda.
2. The January 16, 2023 draft meeting minutes were approved as written, by unanimous vote of members present.
3. The current Jamaica Town Plan will expire on November 15, 2025. Charlie reported that he has worked through the statutory town plan amendment process steps and concluded that the JPC should have a completed Public Hearing Draft of the updated Plan prepared by May 1, 2025. There was discussion and general agreement that the Town should apply for a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) to cover most of the cost of engaging the Windham Regional Commission to provide consultant services to assist the JPC in producing the Hearing Draft. Charlie reported that the program information (application date deadline) for the FY 24 MPG program will not be released until July of this year, thus, it is presently not possible to determine the date on which a MPG application must be completed and submitted. It is likely that no action on this will be needed until the spring of 2024. Charlie will continue to work on gathering information on scheduling the MPG application and will contact the WRC to discuss a possible contract for planning services.

There was some discussion of issues that should be addressed or focused on during the Plan update process. Charlie will develop and circulate an "issues list" for further discussion and refinement at a future meeting.

4. Bryan reported that the Wastewater Disposal Committee will hold the 60% progress report meeting and discussion on Tuesday, February 21.
5. Chris reported that the pilot test group has reported a favorable experience since being connected in December. Several outages were reported in the First Light company's middle mile connections to the internet. Since this is unacceptable, we are adding a redundant second middle mile connection to provide advertised availability.

He presented actual topology of the three main rings of the DVFiber backbone with three redundant POPs, connections to a main internet node that will provide users an ultra-high degree of reliability.

Chris showed a mockup of the postcard we will be sending to prospective subscribers listing the service options and prices we will be offering; 75/75 Mbs download/upload at \$75, 300/300Mbs at \$90, and 1Gbs/1Gbs at \$130.

And, while Chris reported that schedule uncertainty remains, the published schedule for southern ring towns ranges from 2023 to 2025. In a public letter to the Wardsboro Select Board, DVFiber stated that we remain committed to our 36 month plan that will bring our service to Wardsboro and the underserved parts of Jamaica.

Finally, Chris reported that six towns including Jamaica have made a contribution of a portion of their ARPA town funds to DVFiber and five more are actively considering doing so. Contributions will be used to offset connection costs for those unable to afford them. DVFiber will be receiving a matching grant from the Vermont Communications Broad Band committee and early donors contributions, including Jamaica's, will receive a two for one match.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.