

Jamaica Planning Commission (JPC)  
Draft Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting  
April 17, 2023  
Jamaica Town Offices, 28 Town Office Road  
Jamaica VT 05343

Commissioners present: Bryan Zieroff, Charlie Peck, Chris Robbins, Patrick McQuillan, John Van Hoesen  
Public present: Mercedes Ross, Karen Ameden

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. No additions to the agenda.
2. The March 20, 2023 draft meeting minutes were approved as written, by unanimous vote.
3. The wastewater committee received or was made aware of inquiries from the public about information related to the wastewater feasibility study. Specifically, requests were made for information related to field data, report summaries, possible feasibility outcomes, and the need for public presentation meetings. Bryan, who is a member of the wastewater committee, reiterated that:
  - Anyone can come to our JPC meetings (7 pm on the third Monday of every month), and we'll be willing to discuss the project and answer any questions to the best of our ability.
  - The wastewater committee is an independent committee (not a town government organization), but, in an effort to increase transparency and public involvement, we advertised our meeting schedule and included the public for our 30%, 60%, and 90% design meeting.
  - The date and time of the wastewater committee meetings are based on the availability of the members (who are volunteering their time outside of work and family), our wastewater engineer, and the State project manager, who is overseeing the project so we meet the goals to maintain our funding.
  - We included two town meetings in the funding application, at which we will present to the public in an open meeting format the results of the feasibility study.
  - The public meetings are targeted for the end of the project so we can present actual, site-specific data, and have conceptual ideas or plans on type of system, cost, funding, etc.
  - At this point in the project, we don't have specific on-site data that can be used to confirm any project specifics (the who, how, means, cost, etc.)
  - Bryan is willing to meet with and discuss the project with any member of the public, and can be reached at [blzieroff@gmail.com](mailto:blzieroff@gmail.com).
  - Bryan will confirm all data presented above with the Selectboard to ensure an efficient, cost-effective process that meets all State and local requirements.
4. Chris reported that DVfiber has awarded the major fiber laying labor contract to Sertex, a Connecticut based full service broadband communications company with offices in Massachusetts near Vermont's southern border. Search Sertex Broadband Solutions:

### Fiber Optic Experts - Sertex Broadband

Sertex will work with our prime contractor, GWI, installing the fiber optic cable for the primary and secondary rings and field service areas, the neighborhood level distribution networks to individual homes. GWI will test the completed network at individual household connections and then light up the net for each new subscriber. Thereafter GWI will operate and support DVFiber's network for the new subscribers. Sertex was competitively selected as offering the best value as well as the lowest cost. One consideration which has caused some delay in awarding this contract is that it has taken some time to get Sertex technicians qualified to do one touch cable installation on utility poles: a process that involves moving other cables as well as installing DVFiber's in order to meet the requirement that all cables be separated by at least one foot. Sertex is presently marshaling labor and material resources to begin work within the next few days. DVFiber expects the build of the southern ring of the network to now proceed expeditiously.

5. There was discussion of an e-mail message requesting information about real estate acquisition, development incentives, and regulatory and permitting issues in the Jamaica area. This request was received by the Town Clerk and then referred to the JPC, Selectboard Chairperson and Town Administrator. Charlie will write to Jessica Pollack and Mike Tuller, providing the JPC's suggestions and general position on this and other similar requests.
6. Mercedes Ross introduced herself as the new owner of Jamaica House, and expressed interest in planning issues and possibly joining the JPC. JPC members encouraged her to continue attending and participating.

Karen Ameden reported on a discussion she has had with Rep, Laura Sibelia about organizing a meeting with GMP officials to discuss ways to reduce power outages during severe weather events such as the recent heavy snow storm that resulted in multi-day power outages for many parts of Jamaica.

Karen also spoke about the ongoing efforts of the Jamaica Area Mountain Biking Alliance (JAMBA) to promote and enhance biking opportunities in Jamaica and establish "human powered" transportation and recreation routes and connectivity with bike routes in nearby towns and with regional trail systems.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.