

Jamaica Planning Commission (JPC)  
Draft Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting  
January 15, 2024  
Jamaica Town Offices, 28 Town Office Road  
Jamaica VT 05343

Commissioners present: Charlie Peck, Chris Robbins, John Van Hoesen, Patrick McQuillan

Public present: Lexa Clark, Karen Ameden

In the absence of the Chairperson, Chris Robbins agreed to serve as interim Chair. The meeting was called to order at 7:17.

1. There were no additions to the agenda
2. The November 20, 2023, draft meeting minutes were approved as written, by unanimous vote of members present.
3. Chris pointed out that any funds remaining in Jamaica's ARPA allocation must be spent in 2024 or returned to the federal government. He inquired about the status of the JPC's previous recommendation to the Selectboard that a portion of those funds be used to pay a consultant to assess and prioritize needed repairs and improvements to the town's roads and prepare grant applications to seek funding potentially available through the federal IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). There was general discussion about the JPC recommendation. It was noted that the Selectboard had voted to proceed with the recommendation but has not yet acted to select a consultant to assist with project prioritization and grant application preparation. Charlie suggested that this issue may have been overlooked as the Selectboard's time and attention has been focused on working with FEMA to gain disaster relief funding to repair extensive damage to Jamaica's road system caused by the July 2023 flooding event. Charlie will try to follow up on this topic with the Selectboard Chairperson and Road Commissioner.
4. As Bryan was not present to report on the status of the community wastewater disposal system feasibility study, agenda item 4 was tabled until the February JPC meeting.
5. Chris reported that although he did not have the exact number of subscribers that have been signed up since the November 20<sup>th</sup> JPC meeting, he did know that subscriptions were running at about 20% of passings. Since our goal is 60% of passings over a two year period, 20% at this point is very encouraging.

Chris further reported that DVFiber is redesigning its network to meet the constraint of cost growth and the requirement to prioritize unserved / underserved locations. This design provides service to the towns of the southern ring. Chris has proposed alternative approaches that will allow DVFiber to reach the other towns in the CUD sooner without degrading the service to southern ring towns significantly.

6. Charlie reminded the members that he will not be able to continue to serve as JPC Secretary after his current term of appointment expires in March. He noted that there is a need for one or two

other JPC members to have access to the JPC e-mail account, and that Bryan was not able to access the e-mail account with his company-owned computer. Joh agreed to discuss this with Bryan.

7. Karen Ameden asked if the JPC has discussed the continuing lack of affordable housing in Jamaica. There was general agreement that this has been, and remains, a significant problem. It was noted that housing affordability issues are a statewide priority, and the issue will be one of the focus areas during the development of the 2025 Town Plan update. The town's successful application for a Municipal Planning Grant highlights housing affordability as an issue of primary concern for Jamaica.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.