

Selectboard Minutes

February 24, 2025

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Greg Meulemans and Kate Ullman

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Robert Stomski, Chris Robbins, Chris Antonello, Greg Sochin and Karen Ameden

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Late additions

A. Tobacco License

B. Overweight permit

C. Move item 3 to the March 10th meeting

2. Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10th meeting, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

4. Vermont Bond Bank- Allonge Agreement, rolls the loan for another month.

Jessica made a motion to approve the bond bank loan rolling over for another month, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

5. *DVFiber*

Update from Chris Robbins: The past year and a half, they had been planning to start. There is a grant but there is a 25% match. The grant was suspended. They do not know when/if these grants funds are going to be available. The Jamaica 2026 timeframe is no longer likely. They are still applying for the grant. Final proposals are due March 6th, and grants will be awarded at the end of the year. They have 800+ subscribers. They are on schedule and on plan. They can operate while they pursue options.

If the BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment) fund is permanently canceled, they could make DVFiber private.

The BEAD program does have some support.

Steven John is going to write a letter to all the Selectboards in the CUD when they know more.

DVFiber.org has information on their website on service.

6. *FEMA Update*

Greg is feeling like we are getting close. We have had \$1.1 million that has been obligated. We have received maybe half of that. The July storm we will receive 90% of what we paid. The December storm is 75% and we have been fully obligated but most of it has not come in yet.

There are still some projects that have not been completed.

7. Update on summer plans for the State Park

Greg Meulemans received a notice from the State of Vermont about the state park. Hamilton Falls- They are looking to have another meeting early this summer. The ranger has moved on, so they are trying to fill the position.

The landslide on the West River Trail has an engineering design. They still need to put it out to bid with hopes it will be completed by the fall. They want to limit the impact on the state park while this work is being done. The park will be open.

8. Update on Bridge #32

They are proposing that we put a presentation on the Agenda for April 14th.

9. Update on RIVERS program

They have looked at 2 projects in Jamaica for mitigation. The first one is by the trailer park next to Cota & Cota. This project is not likely.

The other project is on Pikes Falls next to two culverts near the Hamilton's.

10. Tobacco License-

Chris Antoniello (on zoom)

Jessica made a motion to approve the tobacco license for 8678 VT Route 30 (Harmony Trust LLC), which is at Our Mother's Garden, seconded by Kate.

They have had a store in Brattleboro for 25 years and they think their business deserves better than what Brattleboro has to offer. They have moved to Winhall and want a store closer, and in a safer community. They want to move their tobacco license to Jamaica.

The retail area (about 800 square foot area) that they have been able to set their retail up in.

They hold a strict policy, and they have never sold to someone underage. It will be him and his wife running the shop.

All in favor.

11. Overweight permit

Greg made a motion to approve the overweight permit for Lynde Well Drilling, Inc., seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

12. Jessica made a motion to approve the timesheets, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

13. Jessica made a motion to approve the pay orders, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

14. Public Concerns

There is a candidate's night at the Jamaica House, Sunday at 5 p.m.. Anyone interested can attend for more information.

Tomorrow is the information meeting at 7 p.m. about Article 5 on the Town Meeting Warning. There will be a Q & A posted on the website. It is at the Town Office.

Karen said thank you to the road crew, the village looks great. The bobcat did blow a belt on Friday. Hopefully the sidewalks will be cleaned soon.

We are still having trouble with the Town Hall heat. Scott is supposed to have fixed the belt that had been laying on the floor.

Jamaica Day is August 16th. They will be posting additional meetings.

Factory Street is having an issue with a cat urinating all over the houses. Greg Sochin had caught it but animal control would not take it. Discussion on updating animal ordinance, reaching out to Rob Willis (the constable) and contacting animal control.

Bob Stomski- Are they going to continue cleaning the sidewalks on Depot Street? Yes. Bob suggested they repaint the crosswalk by Andy's house and replace the speed sign.

Please clean up after your dogs, especially down by the school.

Eugene Alletto- prior to opening the restaurant they would like the crosswalk repainted near the old Muzzy building. He would also like to have a crosswalk from the old Asta's building across Route 30 but that is a state road and VTRANS makes all decisions concerning state roads. We can suggest the crosswalk to them.

He would also like striping when the speed decreases into the village.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Wiswall