

Selectboard Minutes

July 28, 2025

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack, Greg Meulemans, Andy Coyne, Kate Ullman and Christina Robinson

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Chris Robbins, Gary Laroche, Megan Ooms, John Hathaway, Scott Tully

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Late additions

- A. Chris Robbins- report on opinion on ACT 250 in Jamaica
- B. Approval of appointment of Laura Dauchy to the Library Board

2. Minutes

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from July 14, 2025, seconded by Kate. 4 in favor, 1 abstained

3. ACT 250

Presentation from Chris Robbins, member Jamaica Planning Commission.

The property is next to Pikes Falls cemetery.

They wanted to keep the path to the cemetery where it has always been, but it will not work. Wetlands were discovered on the property, making $\frac{2}{3}$ of it unbuildable. The law requires a 50-foot buffer around wetlands. They applied for 3 campsites and 3 porta potties; there would be no well.

There are 3 neighbors that have submitted complaints about this project. The hearing has been postponed at the owners request, so there is time to figure it out.

There are 4 items that violate the town plan:

- 1. Pikes Falls water fall and swimming hole are designated areas of special interest by the Town Plan. See Land use chapter, page 10
- 2. Porta-potties are potential biohazard issues with the town owned swimming area in the same area. Land use policy #6 says "*lands adjacent to existing public land or planned*

public facilities shall be used in a manner that will not diminish the value of such investments or interfere with their intended use."

3. The Town Plan designates Pikes Falls neighborhood as a developed area. It is a residential area. A camp site with no facilities, has no relation to the residential area. Every other property in the area has a septic permit.

4. The town plan encourages and requires clustered development to have common water and septic systems. The absence of a common septic system for the clustered campsites is not in conformance with the land use plan of the Town Plan.

In summary, they think putting porta potties uphill from the swimming area is a bad idea and they also want to support the residents in the area.

Jessica made a motion to approve the signing of the letter prepared by the Planning Commission to be signed by Jessica Pollack and Bryan Zieroff, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

4. Depot Street Bridge update and decision

Jamaica Weathering Steel Update- VTRANS has a structural design manual. They prohibit the use of weathering steel if the distance to the water is less than 10 feet. The environment guidelines were fine.

Location Guidelines- It should be more than 8 feet over the water, VTRANS uses 10 feet as a guideline. The water elevation is 660.4 feet. The low chord elevation is 665.9 feet. They looked at if they could raise the grade to meet the 10-foot requirement. Coming off the bridge is already steep and raising it one and a half feet would make a significant amount of work.

Weathering Steel Truss- VTRANS does not permit this for vehicular bridges. Salt corrodes the steel.

The bridge on Route 30 is weathering steel but it is higher from the water than the Depot Street bridge. Regulations have changed.

Jessica made a motion to approve Alternative 5, the Girder bridge, to replace bridge 32 also known as the bridge to the state park. Seconded by Kate. All in favor.

5. Update on Town Clerk

One candidate took another position. We will be looking at other candidates.

6. Town Hall Tree work

We received 3 bids to advise what should be done with the two trees at the Town Hall.

Four Winds Tree Care- suggested removing trees, chip and removing all brush and stumps \$5,800

Wise Oak- recommended pruning the trees and taking away all the debris. \$1,800

Michael Longo- suggested trimming and removing debris \$575

Greg made a motion to accept the bid of Michael Longo, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

7. Library Trustees

Jessica made a motion to appoint Laura Dauchy to the library board, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

8. Time Sheets

Jessica made a motion to approve the time sheets, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

9. Pay orders

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

10. Public Concerns

Recycling containers, Scott Tully would like to see them available to residents. He also requested we do something different with respect to garbage. He finds the bags unnecessary and would like to see something like the sticker approach. He has had issues with the bags starting to compost. The board responded we will be looking at other options when we have less of a supply of bags. There are less than 30 cases of the large bags.

Paul Fraser said Thank you for the work put in for the bridge.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Wiswall