

# Jamaica Select Board Meeting Minutes

Date	January 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
Board Members Present	Jessica Pollack (Chair), Kate Ullman (Vice Chair), Greg Meulemans, Robert Brooks, Christina Robinson (remote)
Public Attendees	Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden

## Call to Order

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

## Late Additions to the Agenda

Tom requested the approval of special meeting minutes be added to the agenda. Jessica put that off until the next meeting.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the December 8, 2026, regular meeting were reviewed. Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Kate. The motion passed unanimously.

<Christina dropped out of meeting>

## GMP Cooperation and New Projects

The review of Green Mountain Power's cooperation with the town for 2025 and new projects was tabled, as no GMP representatives were present at the meeting.

## Appointment to Fill Open Selectboard Seat

Robert Brooks was appointed as an interim member of the board. Gratitude was expressed to Karen Ameden for her recruiting Robert. Robert will serve until the next town meeting and shared that he is pleased to join the board following his retirement.

## Transfer Station Token System Update

The board discussed the PAYT token system for the transfer station. Kate explained that implementing the new token system is feasible and would take about two weeks to receive the tokens. There are multiple material options, including plastic, recycled plastic, wood, gum, and fishing net; gum tokens are only available in pink. Kate suggested three different colors for the tokens, and Tom and Sara recommended using gallon size versus specific amounts. Tokens can be personalized and printed on both sides.

The tokens are washable, though wood tokens are more expensive. Kate was considering ordering 2,000 tokens across three tiers, with costs for 6,000 tokens ranging from \$500 to \$1,300 depending on the material. Tom noted that only a pile of the previous yellow bags remains.

Greg proposed holding the informational meeting during a regular board meeting, and Paul and Karen agreed. The informational meeting was scheduled for January 26, and Tom will prepare and post a flyer.

## **Short-term Rental Ordinance Discussion**

Tom has been working on a draft for a short-term rental ordinance. Jessica clarified that the ordinance will be concise, unlike Londonderry's 120-page document. The ordinance will include a contact person for concerns from landowners, a database for tracking, and a fee. It will respect state statutes and address issues such as transfer station usage and leash laws. The ordinance may require a manager to be located nearby.

Tom is considering a two-tier system for premises: on-premises and stand-alone rentals.

## **Jamaica Village School Vote Update**

Jessica reported ongoing discussions regarding the relationship between closing the school and the 3/PreK program, following conversations with Drew and the superintendent. Tom stated that to guarantee the 3/PreK program, the Jamaica School must remain open.

The School Board planned to discuss that evening whether to ask Jamaica to close the school, with a vote anticipated by March 3. Drew informed Karen of a projected 36% increase; closing schools would lead to a reduction of \$1.5 million in the budget, with \$380,000 required to operate the school. There are 25 slots for PreK, with priority given to four-year-olds over three-year-olds.

Karen suggested waiting two weeks before making a decision. Tom mentioned that a recent survey from the WCSU found only 5-8 born in Jamaica in the last 5 years. The state is working on improving the 3/PreK program.

Jessica said more information will be available tomorrow and will be announced at the next board meeting.

Karen requested ideas for future uses of the school if closed, to avoid losing the property or to determine the best budget use. Without a clear plan, the building would remain but cost \$36,000 annually. Tom recommended drafting a proposal in writing.

Jessica expressed her desire to retain the property. Robert shared community concerns that once the school is lost, it cannot be recovered; under the current district, there would be no opportunity to reopen as a school.

## **Town Hall Rental Form Update**

Tom updated the policy, noting that insurance is only required if alcohol will be present during events. The JCA will clean out old items from the building. There was discussion regarding the piano, which has been in the building for over 20 years; Karen expressed interest in removing it, and the board supported this action.

## **Phone System Update**

The new phone system is now installed for listers, library and town garage. Town office and fire station lines will be ported 1/14. Transfer station is dependent upon new line being run which should be in the next couple of weeks.

Karen noted that the current system is occasionally choppy. Tom is to look at tomorrow.

## **Appointments**

Tom Tolbert was appointed as Sign Administrator, Flood Zone Administrator, and Deputy Emergency Management Director. The motion was made by Jessica and seconded by Kate; all were in favor.

The board discussed the appointment of a Health Administrator. With no current health administrator, the responsibility remains with the board. The position requires commitment and some expertise. Tom Tolbert volunteered to serve as Health Administrator, and the motion was made by Jessica and seconded by Kate; all were in favor.

## **Approval of Time Sheets and Pay Orders**

The board reviewed and approved time sheets for the town office, listers, highway, and transfer station. Jessica made the motion, Kate seconded, and all approved.

Pay orders were also reviewed and approved by unanimous vote, with Jessica making the motion and Kate seconding.

## **Public Concerns**

Karen announced several upcoming community events:

- Wednesday, January 14: Run and walk at 5:30 PM, meeting at Rt 30.
- Friday: Jill Sachs at River and Rye, 6:00 PM.
- Saturday: Zak Yak at River and Rye, 6:00 PM
- Sunday: Yoga at 9:00 AM.
- Wednesday night: Social craft session at 6:00 PM @ Jamaicahaus
- Bingo at Masonic Hall: Doors open at 6:00 PM, games start at 7:00 PM.

Tom Tolbert is maintaining all events on the town calendar. Please check out the updated website.

## **Executive Session**

Jessica entered executive session. No action was taken during this session.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM, with Jessica making the motion and Kate seconding. All were in favor.