

Jamaica Selectboard Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Date: February 9, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Board Members Present

Jessica Pollack (Chair), Kate Ullman (Vice Chair), Greg Meulemens, Robert Brooks

Public Attendees

Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden, Tim Jones (GMP), Don Mills (GMP), Bob Stomski, Chris Robbins, Peter Goldrick, Jeanne Goldrick

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Additions to the Agenda

Greg noted that there would be a mention of an RFP going out for a box culvert on Goodeville Road. Jessica will talk about a resignation from the board.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 28, 2026, Regular Meeting and the January 28, 2026, Budget Meeting were reviewed. Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Greg. All members approved both sets of minutes.

Green Mountain Power (GMP) Cooperation Agreement and Projects

Tim Jones and Don Mills from GMP attended to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects. They expressed appreciation to the town and Keith for work on the Turkey Mountain Road project. Of the three projects on West Jamaica Road, only one was completed, and the Pikes Falls project remains outstanding. The status of these projects will be posted on the Jamaica website. In addition to the three existing projects, there is a new project planned for South Hill and Mowrey roads, a small section of Depot Street, and all of Worden Road. VTRANS work is expected to extend back to the substation by fall.

It was noted that much paving had been done on South Hill Road; overhead lines will remain on paved roads, with all areas restored to good or better condition. Mowrey Road will have lines placed underground. The town will coordinate with GMP on these projects, and it was mentioned that old poles may remain for a number of years before being removed. A request for service on Worden Road may require trenching. The cooperation agreement was sent to the board, and Jessica will sign on behalf of the selectboard.

Discussion: Withdrawal from DVFiber

Chris Robbins reported that DVFiber did not receive a grant to bring fiber to Jamaica, and he will be stepping down as the town's representative. John Van Houten is also not interested in serving. Without a volunteer, the responsibility defaults to a board member, though Chris noted that nominal representation does not serve the town well. Consolidated Communications is overbuilding in the Deerfield Valley, which may force out DVFiber; CCI offers lower rates, but only DVFiber is committed to serving all residents. Chris recommended seeking non-voting affiliate status with the DVFiber board. Jessica supported signing a letter to this effect, and Chris will stay in touch. There is hope that funding may return in three years.

Jessica moved to withdraw from the DVFiber CUD but accept affiliate status; Kate seconded, and all approved.

The board thanked Chris for his service.

Tax Map Update Proposal

Karen Ameden informed the board that the tax map update proposal increased in price from \$1,500 to \$1,750, starting in March for one year, as a continuation of the current work. Jessica moved to approve the proposal, and Kate seconded; all approved.

Purchase and Pricing of Tokens

The board discussed the purchase of three colors of tokens, corresponding to small, medium, and large volumes. The cost per token will be approximately \$0.05, with quantities of 3,000 small, 5,000 medium, and 8,000 large tokens, for a total cost of \$2,008. There are currently no measures to prevent counterfeiting.

Jessica moved to approve the purchase, Greg seconded, and all were in favor.

Pricing for the tokens will likely remain similar to current rates, possibly \$3, \$5, and \$8. Contractor bags will not be allowed and will be monitored by Ernie at the transfer station. The accepted bag sizes will be 8, 15, and 33 gallons.

The town currently covers only about 50% of solid waste costs, and the board discussed aligning prices with other towns; for example, Windham Solid charges \$10 for contractor bags. The impact of the new system will be tracked, particularly regarding the cost of bags to the town.

Short-term Rental Ordinance

Discussion of a short-term rental ordinance was tabled for a future meeting.

Jamaica Village School Vote

The WRED chair and representative held a meeting two weeks prior to provide an update. The current budget shows the school as closed, raising concerns about the availability of Pre-K for three-year-olds. The district has allocated 24 spots, which should be sufficient for anticipated need. The WRED board expressed discomfort in asking the town for another vote unless the Jamaica Selectboard requests it. Questions were raised about the school's assessed value, with Karen noting that there was none and Jeanne emphasizing the importance of informing voters before a decision. The value is not easily calculated, and its impact on taxes is minimal. Jessica encouraged looking up the information, and Karen stated that all properties except the school were assessed in 2018.

Tom confirmed that there will not be a vote at Town Meeting. The possibility of using the school for DVFiber or CCI distribution points was mentioned.

Robert checked with Winston-Prouty regarding Pre-K but found no new information. The board agreed to hold informational meetings before any vote, and the WRED was scheduled to discuss related matters at their meeting.

that evening. Paul Fraser noted the need for new volunteers on the board.

Jessica moved that the selectboard ask WRED to resolve to let the Town vote on closing the school; Kate seconded. The motion passed with Jessica, Kate, and Robert in favor and Greg opposed. The vote will likely not take place in May or June.

Town Office Server Implementation

Tom is working with Omada to obtain quotes for a new town office server. No further updates were provided.

Approval of No Appeal or Suit Certificate

Karen reported that there are no appeals or suits, as all matters have been settled. Jessica moved to approve the certificate, Kate seconded, and all approved.

Health Administrator Appointment

Because Jocelyn Mullins had not yet resigned, Tom could not be appointed as Health Administrator. Jocelyn submitted her resignation earlier that day, so the process is moving forward.

Town Highway Mileage Certificate

The annual Town Highway Mileage Certificate was reviewed. Greg noted that nothing has changed. Jessica moved to approve, Kate seconded, and all approved.

Overweight Permit Approvals

Dead River submitted an overweight permit application. Greg made a motion to approve, Jessica seconded, and all approved.

RFP for Gooddaleville Road Box Culvert

Tom and Greg are working with the State, VTRANS, and ANR on the RFP for the Gooddaleville Road box culvert. The request will be issued the following day, with a site visit scheduled for February 18 at 9:00 AM. The grant is good through next summer.

Selectboard Membership

Christina Robinson has resigned due to moving to Dover. The board expressed appreciation for her service since the last Town Meeting and is seeking volunteers interested in joining the Selectboard.

Time Sheets and Pay Orders

Jessica made motions to approve timesheets for the town office, listers, highway, and transfer station, and to approve pay orders. Kate seconded, and all were in favor.

Public Concerns

Bob inquired about the status of the Depot Street bridge. The town plans to repair the concrete in the spring, although the project is not high on the VTRANS priority list. Efforts will focus on enhancing the bridge's longevity,

including cutting rebar in the spring and possibly shoring up the approaches.

Town report due: Around 2/20

Town Meeting: 3/3

Candidates Night: 3/1 at 6:00 PM at the Town Office

Run and Walk Club: Wednesdays at 5:30 PM

Wednesday Night Social at Jamaica Haus Craft: 6:00 PM

Bingo: Fridays at 6:00 PM

Yoga: Sundays at 9:00 AM at Town Hall

Executive Session

An executive session was proposed if needed.

Adjournment

Jessica and Kate moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by Tom Tolbert