

To: Gary Laroche, P.E. Structures Project Manager

From: Jamaica Selectboard

Subject: Jamaica BO 1442(42), Town Highway 19 – Bridge #32 over West River

Date: August 26, 2025

An Alternatives Presentation meeting for the subject project was held on Monday, June 28, 2021. Various alternatives were presented to the Selectboard at this meeting and the public was notified and invited to attend. Based on this presentation, the Selectboard would like to move forward with the following scope:

- Alt 1: Rehabilitation for H8 (8 ton) loading with traffic maintained on upstream temporary bridge.
- Alt 2: Rehabilitation for H15 (15 ton) loading with traffic maintained on upstream temporary bridge.
- Alt 3: Rehabilitation for H20 (20 ton) loading with traffic maintained on upstream temporary bridge.
- Alt 4: Adaptive Reuse with New Bridge Off-Alignment with traffic maintained on existing bridge.
- Alt 5: New Steel Girder Bridge On-Alignment with traffic maintained on upstream temporary bridge.\*
- Alt 6: New Steel Truss Bridge On-Alignment with traffic maintained on upstream temporary bridge.

\*Structures Management has approved the recommended alternative. If the Town chooses an alternative that varies from the recommended alternative, it will need to obtain Approval from Structures Management.

Reference attached summary of Jamaica, VT Selectboard Decisions dated August 20, 2025.

The Selectboard would like to make the following comments regarding this project:

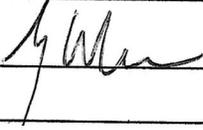
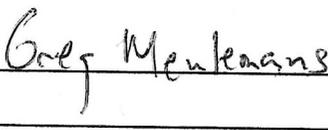
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**Signature of Town Officials**

  9/15/2025

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August 20, 2025

Mr. Gary Laroche  
Structures Project Manager  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
Barre City Place  
219 North Main Street  
Barre, VT 05641

**Re: Depot Street Bridge, Bridge No. 32  
Jamaica BO 1442 (42)  
Summary of Jamaica, VT Selectboard Decisions**

Dear Gary:

The Jamaica, VT Selectboard met on several occasions to discuss Bridge 32 over the West River, including April 14<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. During these meetings Hoyle Tanner & Associates, Inc. (Hoyle Tanner) and Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) representatives attended remotely via Zoom to present updates on the project and engage in discussions with the Selectboard and meeting attendees.

At the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was presented that the project has an updated purpose and need due to the need of the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to access Ball Mountain Dam for construction and maintenance as well as the need for the Vermont State Parks Department of Forest need to access Jamaica State Park for construction projects. As a result, the purpose of the project has changed to provide a structure that can also accommodate typical construction equipment that can be represented by the HL-93 loading.

It was also discussed at this meeting that the existing truss would be removed and could either be preserved and removed to a new location of the Town's choosing or it could be removed, documented and disposed of. The Selectboard was in consensus of the existing truss bridge being removed, documented and disposed of due to the feasibility of finding a new location and cost of relocating the existing bridge and continued maintenance.

During the Selectboard meetings on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Selectboard requested and then discussed information related to aesthetic options and life cycle costs. Aesthetic options discussed included concrete form liners for the abutments, powder coating (coloring) of the bridge railing, painting or metalizing the girders and a paved deck.

At the July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting, the Selectboard voted to move forward with Alternative 5: New Steel Girder Bridge. They have held the right to make determinations on the aesthetic aspects of the bridge that they would like incorporated such as girder coating (metalizing vs painting), railing color, and abutment concrete stamp preferences until the winter of 2025.

Should you require additional information, please contact me at (603) 785-0671 or via email at [sjames@hoyletanner.com](mailto:sjames@hoyletanner.com).

Sincerely,  
Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc.



Sean James, P.E.  
Senior Vice President

Enclosures: 4/14, 6/9, 6/23, 7/28/2025 Jamaica Selectboard Minutes



**Selectboard Minutes**  
**April 14, 2025**

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Greg Meulemans and Christina Robinson

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Gary Laroche, Megan Ooms and Sean James

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

*1. Late additions*

#6 update on Depot Street Bridge includes presentation

*2. Minutes*

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from March 24th, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

*3. VTRANS presentation on Depot Street Bridge*

Alternatives Presentation Meeting:

This is the Depot Street Bridge, which is a single lane bridge. They are in the early stages of the project before design. The bridge was built in 1926 which means it is in the National Register of Historic Places.

Inspection Findings: Most were rated a 6 (satisfactory) and it will be inspected again in October 2025.

There is an updated purpose and need. The US Army Corps of Engineers needs access to the dam. The Department of Forest also needs access. Another change is the time of year and water work restrictions. June 1-October 1 is when work can be done in the water.

Alternative 5: Replace bridge with new steel girder bridge.

Alternative 6: Replace bridge with new truss bridge. There is more cost with this for cleaning and painting the structure.

For both alternatives, the truss would need to be removed. It needs to be moved, and the financial responsibility would be on the town. The other option is to destroy the current bridge. They are recommending alternative 6, it is the less expensive option.

Construction would start in 2027.

**Total cost: \$7,560,000**

**Town cost: \$153,200**

The costs are 10% of the preliminary engineering and 10% of right-of-way costs. Any maintenance is 100% on the town as it is anywhere in the state.

Jessica asked about when we would be liable to pay for the town portion. Gary said once we have an agreement, the town would be billed on a monthly basis. The town will not be billed all up front, it will be gradual over the next three years.

The refurbished bridge that the town had decided on is no longer an option because it does not meet the needs.

This will be on the agenda for the May 12, 2025 meeting.

#### *4. Approve signer for financing grant paperwork*

When projects are done, we sign agreements. Currently, Terri Garland is the signer for the grant. Jessica made a motion to make Sara Wiswall (Treasurer) and Jessica Pollack (Selectboard Chair) be approved to sign paperwork requiring a signature for state financing costs, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

#### *5. Tax Sale*

The tax sale went well, everyone paid or set up a payment plan beforehand, so the tax sale was canceled.

#### *6. Mowing Bids:*

There were no bids for roadside mowing.

Austin Meeks of Meeks Maintenance

Cemetery mowing with ballfield was itemized but there was no total.

Jessica made a motion to accept the one bid we did receive with the total amount being presented at the next meeting, seconded by Christina. All in favor.

#### *7. Discussion on new flagpole proposals*

Andy has a couple of estimates.

SB Signs (Williston, VT) - 25-foot pole commercial, installed with new footing \$5,128.

Patriot Flags (Swansey, NH) commercial flagpole with exterior rope, flag, and install \$1975+\$150  
With an interior robe- \$2300

Andy recommends the second one.

Everyone agreed to getting a flagpole from Patriot Flags.

#### *9. Overweight permits*

Greg made a motion to accept the overweight permits for New England Quality Service, Inc., Dead River Company and Cota & Cota Inc., seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

*10. Liquor Licenses*

Jessica made a motion to approve the second-class license for Northern Sun Mercantile, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Jessica made a motion to approve the first-class license for Honey Pie, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Jessica made a motion to approve the exterior consumption for Honey Pie restaurant, seconded by Christina. All in favor.

*11. Time sheets*

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

*12. Pay Orders*

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

*13. Public concerns*

Paul had a complaint about kids going into the Tukesbury house. The board recommended calling the sheriff's department.

Paul asked when the street sweeper will be here. It is within the month, but we do not have an exact date.

Discussion on feather signs, how they were in the ordinance as banned but then it was changed and feather signs were allowed. They will look at the ordinance again and start the process of cleaning up the sign ordinance.

Greg made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Seconded by Andy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Wiswall

## Selectboard Minutes

June 9, 2025

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Greg Meulemans, Kate Ullman and Christina Robinson

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden, Megan Guest (VTRANS), Gary Larouche (VTRANS), Vincent Polhemus, Sean James (VTRANS), Kristen Wilson, Bryan Stearns

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

### *1. Late additions*

No late additions

### *2. Minutes*

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from May 27th, seconded by Kate. Christina Robinson was present. All in favor.

### *3. VTRANS presentation*

VTRANS presented three alternative bridges for the Depot Street bridge leading to the state park. There will be a temporary bridge with any of these alternatives.

Alternative 5- New Steel Girder Bridge would be the most cost efficient. It would be the least expensive to maintain.

Alternative 6- Replace the bridge with a new Truss Bridge.

Alternative 7- Replace the bridge with a new Through Truss Bridge (this was considered at the request of the Selectboard) There would be large building and maintenance cost with this bridge.

Truss bridges need a lot more maintenance.

There was another update since VTRANS presented last time. Additional geotechnical information led to the recommendation of a deep foundation.

Alternative 5 is what VTRANS recommended. The total project would cost \$7,500,000.

The town cost would be \$138,000 for a new steel girder bridge while maintaining traffic on the temporary bridge alongside the existing bridge. Maintenance costs were discussed, VTRANS said they would get us more information.

Jessica suggested that the town may need to start a bridge fund.

If the town decided to go with one of truss bridges (More expensive) then it would have to fit into the VTRANS budget and could take longer. It would take each bridge the same amount of time to construct but if the town chooses one with a higher cost, it might take longer to start because of budget.

There are things you can do to make the bridge more aesthetically pleasing, such as color, type of material, form work, etc. but each option would add cost to the bridge. All three alternatives are for a double-handed bridge. None of them account for sidewalks/pedestrians/bikers.

Jessica asked if it is reasonable to put the decision on the agenda for the meeting in two weeks. VTRANS agreed.

#### *4. Transfer Station Hauling bids*

We received bids from Casella for everything and Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) for some of them.

##### **Casella bids:**

Construction and Demolition (C&D)- \$288 per haul/\$225 per ton

Mattress- \$50 each

Municipal Solid Waste- \$138 per ton

Compost- \$35 per cart per service

Recycling- \$288 per haul/\$182 per ton

**WSWMD-** \$45 per mattress but must be dry (there is no place right now to store them to keep them dry) Ernie did mention if we removed the cover over the C&D container, we could repurpose it to keep the mattresses dry.

Compostable waste \$390 a month

Jessica made a motion to select the company Casella to do our hauling of C&D, our solid waste and non-paper recycling, and to contract with Windham Solid Waste Management District for composting and paper until such time the board makes another motion. Seconded by Kate, all in favor.

#### *5. Review Transfer Station construction bids*

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued by the town for work to be done at the Transfer Station. We received one bid from Hunter Excavating for \$120,000 which

includes all the engineering work. It far exceeds what we had budgeted for. The way it was bid, it did not allow us to take the bid apart.

Chrissy Haskins told Jessica that the cost is in line with the work to be done. Any retaining wall over 3 feet requires engineering. The only part that wouldn't require engineering is in front of the recycling.

Jessica made a motion that we withdraw this RFP and instead issue a new RFP that would have two separate parts, one with the work around the recycling area and the second part would be to ask for bids to remove or repair the overhead over the construction bins, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

#### *6. Bike/Pedestrian Grant application*

These studies are \$50,000-\$60,000. They would look at the traffic in the area. Greg walked the town with Colin. If we are going to apply for the town, the town's share would be 20%. The grant application is due in early July. Discussion on finances and we do not have to accept the grant. Jessica made a motion to prepare and submit the application with the help of Windham Regional Commission, seconded by Greg. 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

#### *7. Time sheets*

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

#### *8. Pay orders*

There is a payment to pay off a significant part of the loan we took out from M&T Bank. The commercial line of credit expires at the end of this month. It doesn't include \$180,000 that would be the town's share. Jessica and Sara discussed paying it all down. At the next meeting, we will recommend paying off the rest of the loan once the numbers are crunched a little more. There are two projects from FEMA that hopefully will be obligated soon. There is still work that is not done on Goodaleville Road. Jessica made a motion to approve the pay orders as issued, seconded by Christina. All in favor.

#### *9. Public concerns*

Jamaica Village School (JVS): Jessica has been in contact with the school board. Jessica asked the school board to put on the agenda bringing up another vote to close Jamaica

Village School. She had asked to put it on the agenda in mid-July, but the school board said it wouldn't be until late fall. Jessica has asked for information on the maintenance of JVS but has not heard back yet.

Andy Avery had sent an email expressing concern about the trees outside of Town Hall. They need to be trimmed down because they are hitting the building. The board will work on an RFP for the work to clean up the trees.

Jamaica Day Saturday August 16th.

Wednesdays are the sidewalk social at 6:00 p.m. in the village.

Complaints about speeding on Henderson Road. Please call the Sheriff's Department.

We are stronger Together, June 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Becca Balint will be there from 9:30-10:30.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. seconded by Christina.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Wiswall

## Selectboard Minutes

June 23,2025

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

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden, Andy Avery, Megan Ooms (VTRANS), Sean James (VTRANS), Gary Laroche (VTRANS), John Hathaway

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

### *1. Late additions*

Proposal for 2 road names, and one to be rerouted for 911.

Move VTRANS to the beginning of the meeting.

### *2. Minutes*

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from June 9th, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

### *3. VTRANS presentation on bridge Alternatives*

The presentation is to provide alternatives and costs.

#### **Aesthetic upgrades:**

Concrete form liner-\$30,000-\$50,000

Railing Powder Coat Paint- \$75,000

Painting Girders- \$100,000 is just for the paint. Maintenance would need touch up paint every 15-20 years which is estimated \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Metalizing of Girders- \$200,000 for just the coating going on.

Paved Deck, provides appearance of continuity from road to bridge- estimated \$35,000

#### **Life cycle costs:**

All costs are in 2025 dollars (no inflation included)

All Alternatives include:

- Pavement Crack Sealing and Pothole Repair
- Repair of concrete deck and concrete abutments

- Replacement of Deck
- Bridge Expansion Joints
- Field Painting

**Trust Alternatives include:**

- Bearing Replacement \$185,000
- Structural Steel repairs \$1,380,000
- More extensive field painting \$1,380,00

**Life Cycle Costs for 75 years:**

Alternative 5- \$4.1 million (painting is about \$600,000) the rest is other maintenance.

Alternative 6- \$6.4 million

Alternative 7- \$7.6 million

John Hathaway asked why they didn't propose a certain type of bridge. VTRANS responded that it is because of the elevation. Discussion on the height of the bridge from the water. John said steel bridges need much less maintenance so the overall cost would be more. VTRANS is unsure if this is even an option to do steel on any of the options.

The board needs to make a decision by the first meeting in July as to which alternative.

*4. Update on Town Clerk*

The committee met last week. They have 4 candidates they are recommending to the Selectboard. Jessica and Sara will do a quick phone interview. Then the interviews will be in the second week of July.

*5. RFP for Turkey Mountain, Pikes Falls and Goodaleville*

The information has been posted on [jamaicavermont.org](http://jamaicavermont.org) website.

There are 2 projects on Turkey Mountain Road.

There are 3 sites on Pikes Falls Road that need stream bank mitigation.

Goodaleville road is a stream bank restoration as well.

The deadline is July 14th. There are site inspections on Wednesday, July 2nd.

*6. Sheriff's contract*

The contract is the same but needs to be signed by the board.

#### *7. Extension of Greg Meulemans*

Jessica made a motion to approve extending Greg's contract for the fiscal year 25-26, seconded by Kate. Not enough board members to vote with Greg abstaining. This will be put on the next agenda.

#### *8. Transfer Station bids*

We received one bid from Hunter Excavating.

\$35,000 was the bid for the groundwork at the recycling area.

Greg made a motion to accept the bid from Hunter Excavating, seconded by Kate.

Jessica wants to ask Hunter if he would bid less without engineering.

Jessica modified the motion to accept the bid but if it can be modified anyway to make it less expensive, alternatives could be explored. Kate and Greg can work with Hunter.

Seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Discussion on taking the covers off the C&D containers.

Greg will reach out to Hunter to see if his bid could be separated.

#### *9. Sign Permit*

There is a sign permit application for River & Rye.

Jessica made a motion to appoint Sara Wiswall as the sign administrator, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

#### *10. Approve increasing fee for disposal of mattresses*

Jessica made a motion to approve raising the cost of disposing of mattresses to \$50, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

#### *11. 911 Addresses*

Karen and the listers have identified some inconsistency in the roads for 911. The numbering of Mowrey is one of the main concerns, it goes through a town trail, and then the road continues after the town trail. The proposal is to change the name of part of the road. Karen has reached out to most of the individuals that would be impacted.

Jessica made a motion that current Mowrey Road would commence from South Hill Rd and would end at the point it becomes impassable, where the Town Trail begins. Seconded by Kate. All in favor.

Jessica made a resolution that Howard Road, which commences at River Road, would be the length of the road to the legal trail where it becomes impassable, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Jessica made a resolution that Craven Road will now begin at the intersection of Howard Rd. and former Mowrey Road, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

Jessica made a resolution that we approve a new proposed private road, of Craven Road, to be named "Open Sky Way" that any 911 numbers would make reference to Open Sky Way. This is Bob Rolen's property. Seconded by Kate, all in favor.

Jessica made a resolution that we approve naming the private road that comes off West Hill Rd serving the Cotswold Hill properties, to be name Cotswold Hill Road. Seconded by Kate. All in favor.

#### *12. Time sheets*

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

#### *13. Pay orders*

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

#### *14. Public Concerns*

Windham Regional Commission annual plan update On July 22, 2025. More details are on [jamaicavermont.org](http://jamaicavermont.org)

Greg sought three bids for the tree work at Town Hall. Greg has received one bid so far, it will be on the next agenda.

Summer food distribution on Thursdays, starting July 3rd from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. It is open to everyone, it is free. They can use a few more volunteers.

Sidewalk social on Wednesdays.

Jamaica Day is August 16th.

The library summer programs have started. The library does home delivery if needed.

You must get a permit from the fire wardens to burn anything.

JAMBA- Mondays they are riding; Thursdays are trail work.

Pikes Falls Chamber of Music will be here in August.

The History Museum is open on Saturday from 10-1 and Tuesday from 1-4

More discussion on the bridge and the material.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Seconded by Kate. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Wiswall

## 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