

JAM Board Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2025 Meeting

In Person at JAM - 5 South Main Street, White River Junction, VT

Attendees: Samantha Davidson Green, Tamara Waraschinski, Craig Sterrit, Alex Torpey, Jim Zien, Daniel Maxell-Crosby, Jennie Chamberlain, Johanna Evans, Ali Reza Punjani (via Zoom), Sam Kaas.

Absent: Joe Major, Amber Davis Hanna

Others Present: Calvin McCrory, Maria Hebling, Members of Public

Meeting called to order at 5:38PM by Tamara.

Tamara briefly welcomed members of the public to the annual meeting.

Public Comment: The Board took comments from the public.

Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from the June 10, 2025 meeting. Jennie moved to approve the minutes; Samantha seconded. The minutes were approved.

Board Membership: Sam & Joe were up for renewal of three year board terms. Samantha asked for a motion to renew the terms of both directors. Jennie moved to renew Sam's term; Jim seconded. Craig moved to extend Joe's term; Jennie second. Both Sam and Joe were renewed for a second three-year term.

Samantha reviewed the list of board officers and members, and community members of the advisory committees.

"State of JAM" Reports:

Youth Media Advisory Report: Calvin McCrory, co-chair of the Youth Media Advisory Board, reported on this new committee, which is focused on youth media literacy and advocacy in the Upper Valley and beyond.

Director's Report: Samantha delivered her Director's report, highlighting the JAM staff and production crew, and presenting the 2024 JAM "Sizzle Reel." Samantha also highlighted the 2024 Annual Report, which was recently sent to supporters and circulated to attendees of the meeting, noting that JAM has now "fit comfortably into its new model" after the organization's transition from CATV. Highlights for 2025 so far include the launch of JAM Productions, the continued success and growth of JAM camps, and the growth of JAM's newsletter. Strong community partnerships continue.

Digital Media Literacy Toolkit: Maria Hebling introduced JAM's Digital Media Literacy Toolkit, which is designed to help teach young people media literacy. Highlights include the interactive "Plato Quiz," which was a hit with the group.

Finance Report: Samantha presented the financial report, noting that JAM is currently in a financially stable position, and has not been affected by federal funding cuts. Samantha presented a visual comparison of sources and uses of funding for JAM from 2023 to 2024, illustrating diminishing cable

franchise fees but an overall increase in funding from other sources. Expenses have also increased, primarily due to increased staffing costs.

Strategic Plan Review: Samantha reviewed the Strategic Plan Objectives with the group. Tamara offered an update on where the organization stands on meeting these goals, highlighting staff growth and retention and program growth, and requesting public feedback. Highlights include a need for increased visibility.

Budget Prep Schedule: Samantha presented the timeline for the creation of the 2026 budget. The finance committee will begin working on the FY26 budget on September 11 and the hope is to approve the budget at the December 9 board meeting.

Johanna moved to adjourn, Jennie seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Sam Kaas, Board Secretary.

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