

Thetford Planning Commission  
April 1, 2014 – APPROVED minutes

Present: Kevin O’Hara, Patricia Norton (serving as recording clerk), Michael Schunk, Liz Ryan Cole (7:44 p.m.)

Absent: Dean Whitlock

Guests: None

1. Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Review of Minutes from the 3/18 meeting.

Minimal amendments were offered.

The minutes were accepted as amended. Patricia will forward amendments to Dean.

4. Selectboard Report: None.

5. Town Plan (7:24 p.m.)

a. Energy – Michael compared the Norwich energy chapter, which is only 6 pages, with our more lengthy one. The benefit of the longer report is that it gives more information and educates but there is great appeal in a briefer presentation. He has not had much opportunity to work further on the chapter, but would prefer to model the chapter after Norwich. Patricia offered to write an initial draft combining the Norwich and Thetford chapters to send to Michael, who will be able to work on it after next week.

b. Forward – as far as we know, this is in Dean’s competent hands.

c. Education - postponed until Liz arrived. Discussion begun at 8:04 p.m.

Liz incorporated changes from last time and did minor editing. The PC read through the chapter and provided minor editorial comments. Michael asked how the town could go about increasing the Grand List. Liz and Patricia noted that we need to establish a clear definition of Goals, Policies, and Recommendations and be sure that information is included in the Introduction to the Town Plan. Liz will make changes as suggested, including corrected title for Department of Labor and Services from Kevin, then send the chapter to the PC to be reviewed at the next meeting.

6. Other business

a. TRORC is seeking public and planning commission comment on proposed amendments to four chapters in the regional plan: Housing Resource, Childcare Services, Flood Resilience, Relationship of the Regional Plan to Neighboring, and Agency Plans. Public hearing Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. at Fairlee Town Hall, Weds April 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Bethel town office.

Tara Bamford is our contact; she also says we may wish to discuss a process for compiling town’s comments and getting them to TRORC before the hearings.

The chapters are available at: <http://www.trorc.org/trorc-regional-plan-public-hearings/>.

We should come prepared to the next meeting to share thoughts; if anyone will be absent, comments can be sent via email.

b. Dean followed up with Chris Sargent re report for changing district designation and has not yet heard back.

c. Scott Hesser is willing to archive back copies of the Planning Commission minutes online as part of his town duties. Kevin put forward a motion that we archive our past minutes through the Town website to make them more readily accessible to members of the community. Michael seconded. No discussion. The ayes were unanimous.

Dean will please follow up with Scott.

d. Three-week listserv campaign: The campaign is approved, and Patricia will send it out as described.

e. Potential new members were discussed; PC members should contact any potential nominees to encourage interest.

f. Patricia will send out minutes and action items.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Norton; amendments inserted by Dean Whitlock.