

Thetford Planning Commission
June 16, 2015 – APPROVED Minutes

Present: Kevin O’Hara, Patricia Norton, Michael Schunk, Liz Ryan Cole, Dean Whitlock
(Recording Clerk)

Absent: None

Guests: Jessica Eaton (Selectboard liaison)

(Numbers below refer to agenda items.)

1. Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m..

2. Public Comment: None

3. Review of the minutes from 6/2/15

The commission reviewed the suggested changes sent by Dori Wolfe and moved to accept them. Three other changes were suggested by commissioners. The minutes were accepted as amended.

4. Selectboard Report:

There was a brief discussion of issues that the Selectboard might need to consider after the new Town Plan has been adopted. Kevin noted that there was always the possibility that an individual, group, or town committee might raise issues, but that the Town Plan is the foundation for development regulations and issues. New issues can be addressed in the next revision of the Town Plan or removed or addressed in standalone ordinances, like the Telecommunications Ordinance. Dean noted that the Zoning Bylaws and Subdivision Regulations, by law, must be updated to conform to changes in the Town Plan.

5. Town Plan Discussion (7:35)

a. Version 5, Liz pp 16 & 18 - With Liz now present, the group reconsidered two passages in the Education Chapter. Patricia pointed out the changes to the Governance section that were suggested at the previous meeting, and there was a long discussion of the wording that described the duties of the School Board of Directors in relation to Thetford Elementary School and Thetford Academy. Additional changes were made to trim redundant passages and clarify the section. The language about the decline in enrollments due to regional population changes was also edited for clarity.

b. Chapter III - The commission begin the review of the chapter on Facilities, Services, and Utilities. Kevin noted that, in the time since the current draft was written, there had been changes to the libraries and cemeteries that required rewriting. (Closing of the North Thetford Library, transfer of North Thetford Cemetery to the Town). Other than that, the changes were made to

clarify meaning or correct names of organizations. The last section of the narrative and the Goals, Policies, and Recommendations will be reviewed at the next meeting.

6. Subdivision - Postponed due to the late hour.

7. Other business (9:45)

Liz suggested that the meetings start earlier during the rest of the Town Plan review period to move the process along more quickly and avoid such late endings. The group agreed to meet at 6:15 for the next meeting.

Liz noted that she had recruited two people who were interested in joining the commission, though one of them would need to find regular child care so she could attend. She hoped they would come as guests to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dean Whitlock, Recording Clerk, Thetford Planning Commission