

**Thetford Planning Commission  
January 17, 2017 – APPROVED Minutes**

Present: Kevin O’Hara, Liz, Ryan Cole, Jason Crance, Dean Whitlock (Recording Clerk)

Absent: Michael Schunk

Guests: None

(Numbers below refer to agenda items.)

1. Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Review of the minutes for the 1/3/17 meeting  
The minutes were accepted as amended.

4. Selectboard Report - None

5. Town Plan

a. Follow up assignments – Jamie reported that he was still looking for citations about rare, threatened, and endangered species in Thetford. Dean suggested he ask Patricia Norton and Li Shen, who had written the original drafts of the chapter. Liz suggested using broader language that doesn’t list specific animals and plants, instead indicating the Town’s support for protecting all such species. Jamie said that the specific animals were part of the makeup of Thetford’s character. He will do more research and propose appropriate citations and language at the next meeting. In addition, Jamie will review the language Li Shen had provided regarding vernal pools and compare it to rewritten language he had provided in December to see if there were additional changes to suggest.

Dean repeated the information from Pete Fellows of the regional planning commission about the Fluvial Erosion Hazard Area maps. The FEH maps had been replaced by River Corridor maps, which were the same thing but with a different name. The map data is available, and Pete provided a link to view them online at the Vermont Flood-ready Atlas: [http://floodready.vermont.gov/assessment/vt\\_floodready\\_atlas](http://floodready.vermont.gov/assessment/vt_floodready_atlas). Rather than try to crowd more data onto an already busy map, it was decided to add a note to the map’s legend referring the reader to the URL of the Vermont Flood-ready Atlas for more information.

b. Update and discussion – focus on Comment Resolution Document.

The discussion resumed at comment #168, Transportation Chapter, regarding the current location of the Park and Ride lot east of the I-91 interchange. There was some question as to whether the lot could be expanded if needed. Kevin pointed out that the current lot was convenient to the interstate and not usually filled to capacity. There was no need to change the current description in the Transportation Chapter.

Comment #169: Towns are moving away from blacktopping of dirt roads. There was a brief discussion noting that the specific locations given in the recommendation are hills that are susceptible to erosion, and also that the wording in the recommendation says that cost and neighborhood desire to maintain rural character.

Comment #170 has three parts. Recommendation 4 refers to enforcing lower speed limits in villages. The text was simplified by removing “lower”. Recommendation 2 was dealt with in the previous comment. Recommendation 3, regarding sidewalks and crosswalks in East Thetford, was questioned due to potential high cost. The comment was noted; however, the recommendation came directly from a neighborhood forum convened by East Thetford residents and should be addressed.

Comment #171 expressed liking for several sections. Noted.

Comment #172 refers to the “Town” investigating if it would be possible to have Zip Cars based in Thetford. “Town” in the Town Plan, refers to the municipal government of Thetford, which is the Selectboard or their appointed committee or agent. Liz will contact the regional planning commission about this. They have reviewed the entire Town Plan and not commented on this usage, but she will confirm that it is correct. The comment also refers to the should/shall confusion discussed earlier. As written, the recommendation does not require the Town to investigate car-sharing; it is a suggestion.

Dean pointed out that car-sharing is not discussed anywhere in the narrative of the Transportation Chapter, which means that the recommendation has no support and might not hold up in court. After some discussion, Jason moved that the following sentence be added after the first complete paragraph at the top of page 110: “In addition, some neighboring communities have car-sharing programs, which may be beneficial to Thetford.” Jamie seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Comment #173 has two parts: the first refers to Policy 5 in Transportation. Zoning Administrator Mary Ellen Parkman suggested that it refer to town road standards rather than subdivision regulations. This was agreed to unanimously. The second part refers to Recommendation 5, where specific service providers are named. She suggested that the language refer to the service rather than the provider. This was also accepted. The term “transportation providers” was substituted and “van routes” was changed to “routes”.

There was a brief discussion of the process for notifying the copy editor of the changes. It was decided to create a single Changes Master List document to send to the copy editor. Some time was spent going back through the Comments Resolution Document to pull out all of the cases where text had been changed. Jason created the first draft of the changes list from this. Dean will put the document into the Planning Google Drive folder.

6. Other Business (9:47) – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

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