



Town of Thetford • PO Box 126 • Thetford Center, VT 05075 • (802) 785-2922

Town of Thetford
Selectboard Town Plan Hearing
August 24, 2017

Attendees:

Selectboard: Stuart Rogers, Chair, Doug Stone, Li Shen, James Dixon and Jessica Eaton.

Audience: Bill Huff, Chad Whitcomb, Mariah Whitcomb, Mike Pomeroy, Mary Dan Pomeroy, Gabe Brison, Sue Tallman, Mike Kiess, Jack Kanders, Markell Ripps, Sarah Martel, Wayne Parks, Keith Wolstenholme, Stuart Blood, Kevin O'Hara, Jason Crance, James Thaxton, Joanne Kirsten, Sean Mullen, Sharon Harkay, Susan Rump, Dean Whitlock, Sue Rogers and Eric Bragg
Martie Moses, Selectboard Assistant and Tracy Borst, Town Clerk

The Selectboard first hearing to discuss the draft Town Plan was called to order by Stuart Rogers, Selectboard Chair, at 7:10pm on August 24, 2017. He began by reading the notice to the public "Notice is hereby given to the residents of the Town of Thetford, in the County of Orange, and the State of Vermont, that the Thetford Selectboard will hold the first of two, required Public Hearings on August 24, 2017 at 7:00 PM, Thetford Town Hall, in regard to the adoption process of the 2017 Thetford Town Plan pursuant to Section 24, Chapter 117, Section 4385 of Vermont Statutes Annotated (24 V.S.A. §4385).

The proposed 2017 Thetford Town Plan includes 14 chapters: Introduction, Housing, Education, Future Economic Development, Facilities, Services & Utilities, Natural Resources, Flood Resilience, Energy, Transportation, Historic Resources, Scenic Resources, Land Use, Relationship of the Plan to the Region, and Implementation of the Plan. A full text of the draft plan is on file, and copies are available in the Thetford Town Clerk's office, as well as on the Town of Thetford webpage. This plan proposes goals and policies that impact the entire Town of Thetford, and is intended to be consistent with those goals noted in 24 V.S.A. §4302.

This hearing is for public comment and consideration of the draft Town Plan, to assist in future discussion by the Selectboard. For those that may not be able to attend, written comments will be accepted until the date of this Public Hearing, either by mail or e-mail, as noted on the Town webpage or in the Town Report.

Stuart Rogers explained the requirement is for the Selectboard to hold two, publically warned hearings for public discussion of the proposed DRAFT Town Plan. As the entire document will not be able to be reviewed in the next 3 hours, the board plans to continue the hearing to a time and date certain, which is likely to be September 7, 2017. There are 4 options for the Selectboard in regard to the Town Plan process: 1) approve the draft 2) deny the draft 3) propose changes to the draft in a written report to the Planning Commission requesting the opinion of the Planning Commission on the effects of the changes, or 4) table the proposed Town Plan for one year at which time, the Vermont Legislation considers the plan to be denied, Stuart said the fourth option was not one the Selectboard would consider.

Stuart offered thanks to the Planning Commission for their efforts on the document, noting it's been an enormous amount of work. The proposed plan is a complete new document from the previous town plan. It is expected that the plan will be reviewed, and for the meeting to end no later than 10pm. He then turned the moderating of the hearing to Jessica Eaton, Selectboard/Planning Commission Liaison.

The plan was reviewed, from beginning through the end of Chapter 4 with comments and questions from the public and responses and explanations from the selectboard and Planning Commission members. All comments were captured by Martie Moses, Selectboard Assistant, in a separate document. A motion was made by Douglas Stone to continue the hearing to a date and time certain of September 7, 2017 at 7pm at Town Hall. The motion was seconded by James Dixon. The motion was approved unanimous.

Respectfully submitted:
Tracy Borst, Town Clerk