

Thetford Planning Commission
March 6, 2018 – APPROVED Minutes

Present: Jason Crance (Chair), Jamie Thaxton, Liz Ryan Cole, Dean Whitlock (Recording Clerk)

Absent: None

Guests: None

(Numbers below refer to agenda items.)

1. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Review of minutes from the 2/21 meeting.
The minutes were accepted as amended.

4. Selectboard Report and Town Plan Report - None
Selectboard Report: None

5. Subdivision – Review and Approval of proposed editing costs (7:56)

The copy editor had emailed a proposal on 2/26 showing projected hours, hourly rate, and maximum cost. After a brief discussion, Liz moved to approve the proposal; Jamie seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor. The editor also asked two questions, one about what text should go on the cover and what guidelines she should use for the formatting of the text. It was decided that the text on the cover should say “Draft for Public Hearing on . . .”, with the date, which we will supply when the draft is ready. Dean suggested that the formatting follow what was done for the Zoning Bylaw and the others agreed. Dean will let the editor know.

6. Update on Forest Block language and Forest Block maps (8:00)

Jason said he had been playing phone tag with Pete Fellows at the Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission so had not been able to speak with him since the last meeting. He needs to have that conversation before contacting Sue Fritz about mapping. He will touch base with her to let her know we haven't forgotten her offer to help.

7. Discussion of Town Plan revision strategy through May 2018 (8:04)

Jason said that the Selectboard was still on task to discuss and approve their Town Plan changes to date on March 19. He referred the commission to Stuart Blood's email in which Stuart stated the Selectboard's wish to set a date when a quorum of the Selectboard can meet with the Planning Commission to officially return the draft Town Plan to the commission and discuss their changes. There was a discussion of when this could take place. Jason thinks the meeting with the Selectboard should happen as soon as possible after 3/19, but Liz will be leaving soon until the end of April, and Dean will be away on the date for the first meeting in May. It was decided that a subcommittee of the commissioners could attend a warned meeting of the

Selectboard while Liz was away and work on inserting the Selectboard's changes into the draft. Their work could then be discussed and approved at the next warned meeting when a quorum is present. If necessary, the first meeting in May could be moved to the second week of May so that there could still be two meetings in May with a quorum. Jason will contact Stuart Blood to set the date for the meeting with the Selectboard.

8. New Member discussion (8:15)

Jamie reported that he had made the planned statement at Town Meeting to ask for new members, but no one has come forward yet. There was a discussion of why people were finding it so difficult to volunteer for town committees in this day and age. Liz put forward the idea of asking Thetford Academy if they would consider allowing 18-year-old students to join the Planning Commission as a challenge class in Civics during their senior year. The other members thought that, while it would be a good project for a student, it would not solve the on-going problem of finding enough members who would serve one or more full two- or three-year terms. Dean and Liz both said they each had a possibility whom they will approach. Liz raised the issue of the length of the meetings. After a brief discussion, Jason said he would continue to end the meetings at 9:00 p.m. rather than 9:30 (and later).

10. New Business - None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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