

**Thetford Planning Commission
September 20, 2018 – APPROVED Minutes**

Present: Jason Crance (Chair), Jamie Thaxton, David Forbes, Dean Whitlock (Recording Clerk)

Absent: Liz Ryan Cole

Guests: None

(Numbers below refer to agenda items.)

1. Jason called the meeting to order at 8:14 p.m.
2. Public Comment
None
3. Review of the minutes from the 9/18/18 meeting.
The minutes were accepted as amended.
4. Selectboard Report
None

5. Review and modify Town Plan draft based on Selectboard and TRORC comments

The review of the draft Town Plan proceeded to Chapter VI, Flood Resilience. Dean said he hoped that the review would result in there being a recommendation that the Town set up a schedule to review and upgrade all culverts and bridges in Thetford to take into account the effects of the rainstorm of July 1, 2017 and the new predictions for increased frequency and severity of such storms. There was a brief discussion of adding the July 1 storm to the list of historical severe storms but it was decided not to. A note about the increase in frequency and severity of storms was added to the section titled *Causes of Flooding*. A few other changes were made to the narrative to remove redundant statements or increase the clarity of the language; however, most of the text was determined to be germane and much of it was made a requirement in the years following Tropical Storm Irene.

Under Goals, Policies, and Recommendations, there was a long discussion of Policy 2, which would move or abandon roads subject to frequent storm damage. Jason and Jamie noted the difficulty the Selectboard had had in earlier attempts to abandon roads. The policy was changed to say “move or improve”. Policy 3 was changed to refer specifically to new culverts and bridges and current VTrans standards. Policy 4 was deleted because it is now overruled by Vermont’s Shoreline Protection act. Policies 5 and 8 were deleted because they are dealt with under Natural Resources (Chapter V). Policy 7 was reworded for clarity. The four recommendations were left as is. Dean noted that Recommendation 4, already in the chapter, includes creating a schedule to replace undersized culverts.

This completed the review of Chapter 6. Dean said he will update the final sections in Chapter V and all of Chapter VI and create a new revision of the draft plan ahead of the next meeting.

6. Other Business

Jason said he will have to miss the next meeting, scheduled for October 2. He will post the required warnings of the meeting, and Jamie will serve as acting Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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