

**Thetford Planning Commission
October 2, 2018 – APPROVED Minutes**

Present: Jamie Thaxton (Acting Chair), Liz Ryan Cole, David Forbes, Dean Whitlock (Recording Clerk)

Absent: Jason Crance

Guests: None

(Numbers below refer to agenda items.)

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

2. Public Comment

None

3. Review of the minutes from the 9/20/18 meeting.

Jamie, noting that the many goals, policies, and recommendations that had been deleted were referred to but not recorded verbatim in the minutes, asked how easy it would be to find the originals if necessary. Dean replied that all of the text has been saved in sequential revisions of the draft Town Plan, going all the way back to the version that was first posted for public review.

The minutes were accepted as written.

4. Selectboard Report

None

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

Dean said that, while adding the last meeting's changes to the draft Town Plan, he had discovered a section of Goals, Policies, and Recommendations in Chapter V, Natural Resources, that hadn't been addressed. The section was titled Vegetation and was positioned between Wildlife and Air Quality. There is no corresponding narrative for this section, apparently removed many revisions ago when the original version of the chapter was greatly reduced in length. This is probably why this GPR section was overlooked. The section covered two topics related to Flora and Fauna: stands of mast trees, which are important for the sustainability of forests and for providing food for many animals; and invasive species of plants, which degrade forest quality and crowd out native species that provide food and shelter to wildlife. Upon reviewing the Flora and Fauna narrative, a reference was found to mast stands but not to invasive plants. After a brief discussion, the commissioners decided to add a single sentence about invasive species in the paragraph discussing Forest Fragmentation

The next chapter to be reviewed would be Chapter VII, Energy. Dean noted that the Enhanced Energy Plan subcommittee of the Energy Committee was working with the regional planning commission to develop an enhanced energy plan based on new state laws. The initial revision that Dean had seen in May had many changes throughout the energy chapter. After a discussion, the commissioners chose to skip over the Energy Chapter until the EEP

subcommittee had completed their draft, since it made no sense to change the current version in the draft Town Plan without knowing what the subcommittee had already changed. Dean said he would contact the subcommittee to find out how near they were to completion.

The review moved on to Chapter VIII, Transportation. The introductory paragraphs were revised to clarify and shorten them. Figure 18, showing revenue specifics up through 2012, was removed and the description of sources and trends was clarified to be more generally applicable to all years. References to Town and State road standards were clarified. The section on Safety was also revised to address issues over which the town has control. There was a long discussion of the section on Congestion, which was extremely detailed. The commissioners felt that such detail belonged in the Zoning and Subdivision standards. Liz said she would rewrite the section and bring a draft for review at the next meeting. The one-sentence section on Scenic Roads, which merely referenced the chapter on Scenic Resources, was deleted. Due to the time, the review as paused at the start of the section on Transportation in the Future.

6. Other Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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