

**Thetford Planning Commission
October 23, 2018 – APPROVED Minutes**

Present: Jason Crance (Chair), David Forbes, Liz Ryan Cole, Dean Whitlock (Recording Clerk)

Absent: Jamie Thaxton

Guests: None

(Numbers below refer to agenda items.)

1. Jason called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
2. Public Comment
None
3. Review of the minutes from the 10/2/18 meeting.
The minutes were accepted as written.

4. Selectboard Report

None. Jason explained that Cathee Clement and the rest of the Selectboard were very busy with other tasks, so Cathee probably would not be able to make any meetings in the near future. The Commission would focus on completing the new draft Town Plan to send to the Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) for review. At that time, we could offer it to the Selectboard for review but they might not be able to take it up. After receiving the review comments from TRORC, he would schedule a meeting with them and the Selectboard to explain the nature of the changes. We would not warn our public hearing until after that meeting. He suggested a schedule that would complete the draft for TRORC by the end of November, expect it back from them at the end of December, meet with the Selectboard by the end of January, warn the hearing in early February for a date after Town Meeting, either late March or early April.

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

The review took up where it had left off at the end of the previous meeting, in Chapter VIII, Transportation. While Liz finalized her new draft of the section on Congestion, the others went through the section on Transportation in the Future. Following the guidelines set forth by the Selectboard to remove mention of outside vendors, the discussion of the Stagecoach bus company routes was replaced by simple mention of bus routes that might be expanded to serve Thetford better and the existence of the Rideshare program. The paragraphs on bicycling were reduced to a single paragraph by removing some unnecessary and/or redundant detail. Enough of the core language was left to support the Goals, Policies, and Recommendations.

Liz presented her revised draft of the section on Congestion. Several blocks of language were identified as being too much in the form of recommendations or standards and were reworded to be simply descriptive. Dean marked sections that should be saved and worked into the Subdivision or Zoning standards, if they were not already there. The paragraph that described the situation in East Thetford was also reworded because of better knowledge of the natural restrictions to development in East Thetford (septic and drinking water issues) and new thinking

about how commercial development will most likely grow in the Town's other districts. Dean copied the new section into the draft plan.

The review moved on to the Goals, Policies, and Recommendations. The Goals were left as is. Jason started a discussion about the second and third policies, which seemed duplicative. After some discussion and review of state laws and standards, it was decided that they referred to different situations regarding Class IV roads and both were left.

It being after 9:00 p.m., Jason closed the review for the night and asked the members to review the rest of the policies and recommendations and prepare individual lists of suggested changes to discuss at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 30th. The first meeting in November may be cancelled, to be decided after the 10/30 meeting.

6. Other Business

None

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

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