

Comments on Draft Town Plan 2014/2015

Venue Key: l=response to listserv campaign; pc=comment at PC mtg; h=at hearing; w=unsolicited written (email or other); tr=TRORC; z=zoning comment/capture doc

Location Key: F=Forward LU=Land Use; T=Transportation; FSU=Facilities, Services, Utilities; HR=Historic Resources; NR=Natural Resources; SR=Scenic Resources; Ed=Education; En=Energy; H=Housing; R=Relationship of Plan to Region; Imp=Implementation; B=back matter; M=maps; G=general

Sift Key: q=question; c=comment; cl=request for clarification; ch=request for change; t=typo, easy wording change; add=request new language; ans=answer to a question; org=organization

Action Key: as=accept, substantive; an=accept, non-substantive; am=accept with modification; d=defer; r=reject; df=defer for future consideration; zdf=deferred by zoning comment/capture doc to town plan discussion; i= ignore

| # | Date | Venue | Person/Org | Location | Sift | Comment | Action | Draft PC response | PC response | Date Closed |
|----|---------|-------|---------------------|----------|--------|---|--------|---|--|-------------|
| 59 | 7/9/14 | l | Stephen Page | Ed | add | The Commission's reference to the TA gym as state of the art is excessive. See the Wikipedia definition | an | | Will use recommended text. | 12/2/14 |
| 79 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | add | begins to be come a one man party after any more than 5 years | R | the PC feels that statements about term limits are beyond the | the PC feels that statements about term limits are beyond the | 11/4/14 |
| 81 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | add | Designation for our high school should be a town wide vote every two years. Right now there is so little | as | a number of comments ask the PC to make suggestions on the | The town directly addresses school governance issues through a | 12/2/14 |
| 82 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | add | alternative education to TA. It needs a broader net. I know of clear examples where TA was not in the best | R | | The process for determining child's best interest with regard to | 11/4/14 |
| 60 | 7/9/14 | l | Jeanne | Ed | c | Ref email for full comment: | Liz | This may be a town governance question rather than town plan; | | 12/2/14 |
| 61 | 7/9/14 | l | Jeanne Fabrikant | Ed | c | How do you explain that the elected school board has responsibility for the education of all students from kindergarten through grade 12 and yet, simply REVIEWS 'the contents of Thetford Academy's strategic | as | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 62 | 7/9/14 | l | Jeanne Fabrikant | Ed | c | It is untrue to suggest that students may attend another school if their families pay tuition. Patently false as the board of education (or thetford school district board?) rarely determines that a child's best interests are served by attending another school. Thetford Academy holds each and every student's tuition as very very dear and will not release their hold on it unless directly threatened with legal action. usually involving I will close by telling you how awe-struck I am by the monumental task that everyone working on the town plan has undertaken. A very worthy, and VERY labor-intensive endeavor. High fives all around! | as | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 76 | 7/9/14 | l | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | c | | an | | | 7/15/14 |
| 83 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c | The changing demographic calls for a more rigorous examination of school costs and their solutions. The money the the town spent on a gym at TA when all the projections promised a sharp decrease in student | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 87 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c | Our tax money, public funding, should not be available to TA for tuition or capital improvements without a separate town wide vote. The two budgets need to be voted on individually because it is possible that one is carrying the other by default. or, like myself, no vote. | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 88 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c | 20k/ student. Show me what that buys. No pubic display of how our grads did. No newspaper announcement. We use to get it every year, now, silence. Who is tracking our kids after HS. How many | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 89 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c | The only way a private school really knows how good they are, is if they have to complete in the open market. It is what all private industry must do. Me included. If TA is given a free ride on taxpayer dollars, then how do we know if they are good enough to compete? How do we know how hungry they are to compete? The truth is this: allow choice, even if it is limited and see what happens. | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 90 | 7/10/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c | It will make TA stronger, or it will reveal that TA is simply unable to compete against other private and | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 91 | 7/10/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c | I believe the Planning Board has an opportunity to become a non emotional participant of changing | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 92 | 7/10/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c | We still schedule around athletics. This is also an area that needs some tough love examination. Is that really what we want at the top of the latter for our schools? There is no proper forum to question or be critical of our system. It results in becoming an outcast if you dare question the sacred cow. It speaks very poorly, in my opinion, of the general adult educational level of this community. Is that what we wish to perpetuate? What is wrong with lively, informed debat? | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 93 | 7/10/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c | We simply must disengage from emotion from how we create and fund the best possible education for our kids that we can. | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 57 | 6/3/14 | pc, l | Stephen Page | Ed | c, add | No basis for saying it's subject to open meeting law under current VT law. There is continuing controversy over public/private ? of our designated public high school. Stephen Page got from VT state Asst Sec of State and Sec of Ed: legal opinion is law needs to explicitly address open meeting. If we want TA's meetings to be open choices are to sue, rewrite law or informally agree | df | Check if TA trustees are subject to open meeting law. | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 84 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c, add | School Board needs more elected members and fewer hand picked members. Right now, it is mostly working on 4 members. We need more representation at TA. Mv strategic planning committee suggested | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 85 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c, add | Town needs to consider allowing "limited designation." Choice is our right as parents and no single school works for all its kids. TA could not survive without other schools allowing choice. Their population would be | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 86 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c, add | other schools, graduation records. | df | | see #60 | 12/2/14 |
| 80 | 7/9/14 | l | Ann Swanson | Ed | c, ch | The language for pre school funding is too restrictive. It should not say the program will be funded only through grants. It is the town's responsibility to see to it that education is provided to pre school aged children regardless, in order to iron out the inequities for kids with advatages of pre and nursery school with those who have no such advantage. If that means trimming some of the highschool's fat then do it | am | added preschool education info about act 166 to draft | added preschool education info to draft | 11/4/14 |
| 95 | 7/13/14 | l | Stephen Page | Ed | ch | I see better that the Commission frames some issues, without weighing in heavily. It notes the challenges, without being partisan. | R | | Another comment from Stephen Page. I replied to this, suggesting that he come up with a proposed recommendation about following the in-house funding model employed in renovating the Annex to give us a starting point for discussion | 11/4/14 |
| 55 | 6/3/14 | pc, l | Stephen Page | Ed | cl | The facilities changes are good overall. I do wish you had noted the significant in-house project of the Capital project is 2 phase, not 3 phase. Drilled wells/leach field were part of dirt work for project which | as | | changes made in plan | 11/4/14 |
| 63 | 7/9/14 | l | Jeanne Fabrikant | Ed | cl | It is untrue that voters can use Australian ballot to vote school budgets up or down. They use Australian ballot to vote the Elementary School budqet (usually) up or down. but the Academy budqet is determined | as | | Liz will change language to "total School Budget" voted on to be accurate. | 11/4/14 |
| 66 | 7/9/14 | l | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | cl | On Page Two, the chapter reads that "In 2014, 171 residents out of 2,617 (or 6.5%) of Thetford population were under the age of five." but it then cites the 2010 census. Either someone was proiectina from the | as | | Liz made changes | 11/4/14 |

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|----|---------|-------|-----------------|---------------|--------|---|--------|--|---|---------|
| 73 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | cl | On Page Seven, I have to believe that one goal that goes hand-in-hand with quality education is affordability. | as | | We believe this is already addressed in the body of the plan under "Challenges". | 11/4/14 |
| 74 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | cl | Still on Page Seven, under policies, I find the reference to "improvement around ADA access issues" peculiar, not because it's not necessarily a good idea, but because there is absolutely no mention of ADA anywhere in the chapter up to that point. Similarly, one of the recommendations for action is to "[c]ontinue | as | ADA was a carry over from last time. | removed | ##### |
| 64 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | t | First paragraph, last sentence: I think the insertion of the phrase "in fact" is awkward and unnecessary. Why not split this latter sentence into two sentences ("... brought this appreciation for education with them. While secondary schools were less common,...")? | as | | rewritten | 11/4/14 |
| 65 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | t | Second paragraph: The term "distance-based" in the second sentence should be hyphenated. A closer call is whether there should be a comma after the word "rich" in the second-to-last sentence. I think there | an, R | | checked Chicago Manual of Style -- not always hyphenated; will be edited; Comma added. | 11/4/14 |
| 68 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | t | Page Three: Any reference to the School Board should use the nomenclature "Thetford School Board of Directors" or "School Board." At the end of the first paragraph, the School Board is referred to as "the | Liz | Liz is going to research meaning of phrase "committee reviewed the leave to editors contents of strategic plan at TA" and look at other sending town | | 11/4/14 |
| 69 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | t | Page Four: In the second paragraph, insert a comma after "years," and then refer to TES either as "Thetford Elementary School" or "TES," but not as "Thetford Elementary." | an | | adjusted | 11/4/14 |
| 71 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | t | Page Six – The first sentence under "Post Secondary Education" is confusing, since it suggests that T.A. won't accept people who want to complete high school. I would insert the word "older" before the word "people." River Bend is not a post-secondary education option (it is only available to currently-enrolled | an | | changing title: continuing education | 11/4/14 |
| 72 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | t | Still on Page Six, first bullet point: DON'T SPLIT THE INFINITIVE!! Still on Page Six, second bullet point: I am confused by the reference to "the anticipated decrease in enrollment," where, on page 4, the report indicates that enrollment numbers have stabilized. Perhaps you could replace the word "anticipated" with "possible" or "potential." Or better yet, "To respond effectively to changes in enrollment..." | R a | | adjusted language; - final comment for editor | 11/4/14 |
| 75 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | t | Still on Page Seven, last two sentences: change "theirs" to "its." | i | | editor will take care of it | 2/17/15 |
| 94 | 7/11/14 | I | William Bugg | Ed | t | There are a couple of errors on the Thetford Academy section -- mainly minor, but it would be nice to get it just right!!! | a | | accepted & corrections made | 2/17/15 |
| 70 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | t, add | Page Five: In the first full paragraph, replace "their" with "its." Also the third full paragraph (discussing the drop in student enrollment at TA since 1999) is misleading, since it doesn't mention the creation of the Rivendell School District. Before Rivendell was created, the school districts in Fairlee, West Fairlee and | as | | changed text | 11/4/14 |
| 67 | 7/9/14 | I | Charlie Buttrey | Ed | t, c | Also on Page Two, last paragraph, first a small matter of form: I think the sentence should read "Most students who live in the Thetford attend Thetford Elementary School (grades K-6) OR [not "and"] Thetford Academy (grades 7-12)." As a matter of substance, you should be aware that public preschool is now the | as | | changed text | 11/4/14 |
| 52 | 6/3/14 | pc, I | Stephen Page | Ed p.4 | cl | line 35 21 seats on board of trustees, not 24 | as | | checked & changed | 11/4/14 |
| 56 | 6/3/14 | pc, I | Stephen Page | Ed p.5 | c, add | annex was renovated without longterm borrowing - \$800,000; -- wishes history were included additional comment 7/15/14: I see better that the Commission frames some issues, without weighing in heavily. It notes the challenges, without being partisan. | R | | Dean replied to this, suggesting that he (Stephen) come up with a proposed recommendation about following the in-house funding model employed in renovating the Annex to give us a starting point for discussion. | 11/4/14 |
| 53 | 6/3/14 | pc, I | Stephen Page | Ed p.5 | cl | unique to Thetford it is the SOLE designated high school, not just A designated h.s. like Strafford | r | | In practice, this is true, but Thetford is the only designated high school in Thetford | 11/4/14 |
| 54 | 6/3/14 | pc, I | Stephen Page | Ed p.5 p.4 | cl | Campus has 3 main buildings, not 4: white building & annex, arts/science building; new gym and Anderson. | an | | accepted | 11/4/14 |

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|----|---------|---|---------------------|--------|-----|--|----|---|--|----------|
| 9 | 4/23/14 | I | Tig Tillinghast | En | add | One thing I've seen over the years is that the selectboard has volitional opportunities to create programs and participate in grants that affect not only municipal energy use (conservation and renewable production both), but also programs and grants for the citizens generally. The thing is, this isn't necessarily the job of the selectboard, depending on whom you ask, and how much hassle that member happens to have experienced in recent times. To the degree that the PC can push it, I think it should include an action item encouraging the Town's executive and legislative elements (currently combined in the selectboard) to take advantage of programs and grants made available for itself and also to facilitate their exploitation by | as | Encourage the Town to fully engage its resources and governing bodies to participate in proposals and grants that promote conservation and renewable energy production, and to recruit, encourage, and support town residents to do the same. | PC will consider including in the recommendations looking at grants and proposals and encouraging volunteers or those who find grant writing easy to help. | 12/16/14 |
| 30 | 4/23/14 | I | Michael (Scot) Zens | En | add | I'm sure you will get some questions about statements like the one on page 4 lines 36 and 37. A footnote might help – I know that there was discussion of this the last time the plan went out for consideration. | as | PC hasn't found enough data to support the original statement. Consider revising to: Is it possible to use the forested land of Thetford to produce sufficient fuel wood for the entire Town on a sustainable basis? | | 12/16/14 |
| 31 | 4/23/14 | I | Michael (Scot) Zens | En | add | On page 2, lines 22-24 you cite the EIA on the percentage of electricity that comes from nuclear power. It is entirely reasonable that this percentage will become much lower sometime between now and the drafting of the next town plan. And it is planned by the Public Service Board to use electricity produced from the burning of fossil fuels to provide the balance of electrical power. On page 3 lines 8-10, page 4 lines 15-20, page 5 lines 43-46 and page 6 lines 1-2 there are statements about all possible efforts to minimize damage to our natural areas and/or recreation opportunities, and I heartily endorse these statements. However, I feel that if we try to ensure such protection in this plan, we should also recognize | as | The PC will consider additional statements of environmental impacts from fossil fuel generated electricity as opposed to renewable sources of electricity. The environmental impact to VT by increasing the use of fossil fuel derived electricity includes greenhouse gas emissions, extraction impacts to air, water and habitats, the impacts from pipeline construction and transportation risks. | | 12/16/14 |
| 32 | 4/23/14 | I | Michael (Scot) Zens | En | add | I'd like to see some statement that acknowledges that when we act to stop the development of local renewable power to protect an aspect of our local environment, we do so taking on our small share of the responsibility for environmental damage from fossil fuel production and use. | as | Yes, we will include this in the plan. (See #50 above also.) | | 12/16/14 |
| 34 | 4/23/14 | I | Michael (Scot) Zens | En | add | And finally, I'd like to ask that in the section on Page 6 starting with line 26, we could see some reference to the much higher building standards that are currently used in our state to allow our residences and commercial buildings to approach no net consumption of electrical or heating energy. There are several programs that provide such standards and I'm sure that the town Energy Committee is aware of them. Of course I'd like to see some town level encouragement of building new construction to those standards especially for new town owned facilities. The cited RBES program at the state level is good to include, but it is a very low building energy standard in its current form. | as | Current state building codes offer the minimum standard for energy efficiency while more advanced building programs like "net-zero" and "Passive House" can offer 80% more energy savings and should be encouraged as noted in the following examples: Replaces lines 26 & 27 page 6 | | 12/16/14 |
| 29 | 4/23/14 | I | Michael (Scot) Zens | En | c | It is good. | an | | | 7/15/14 |
| 43 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | EN | add | On page 9, you state a policy to encourage and promote sustainable fuel-wood production and improve forest management, but I don't see any recommended actions (page 10) related to this topic. If Thetford forests are capable of supplying enough wood fuel for the entire Town (page 4), what needs to be done to realize this opportunity? I have heard people say that the recent rapid expansion of pellet burners has resulted in a sometimes-unreliable pellet supply in the broader region. What actions would be needed to build connections between all parts of the pellet supply chain, from local forests (abundant, but under dispersed ownership), to regional pellet producers (scarcity), and back to local pellet users (increasing)? | as | See reponse to Item #49. How viable are wood resources for heating energy? Some of the answers can be found in this report, "Feasibility Study of Pellet Manufacturing in Chittenden County, VT August 2011, Biomass Energy Resource Center | It's possible that Thetford may contain enough forested land to produce sufficient fuelwood for some part of or the entire town on a sustainable basis. As far we know, no study has been done to verify that claim. We will change the language in the Town Plan to say this. A study in Chittenden County indicates that pellets can't be economically produced in any area smaller than 5 contiguous counties. Cordwood produced by locals may prove to be more | 12/16/14 |
| 42 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | EN p.3 | add | The section on passive heating and lighting (page 3, line 27) contains a very good suggestion about influencing the wording of zoning bylaws and subdivision regulations, but I don't see this idea reflected again in the recommended actions on page 10. | as | PC will draft appropriate recommendations. | | 12/16/14 |
| 41 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | EN p.3 | c | I look forward to seeing how this map will look when updated to reflect the results of the current Solarize initiative and other ongoing solar installations. | an | Map has not changed as of checking 11/18/14 | | 7/15/14 |
| 1 | 4/4/14 | I | Stephen Page | G | c | Avoid the sad development of towns w/ little or no zoning (Sharon, Hartland) | an | | agreed that zoning is a good idea | 5/6/14 |
| 5 | 4/4/14 | I | Stephen Page | G | c | Lyme and Hanover have a number of multi dwelling projects that become small neighborhoods of sorts. I think these mini neighborhoods are beneficial in creating character by grouping. Paul McGovern's development off Cadwell Road is an example in Thetford. I think Thetford would benefit from more development of this sort. | an | | agreed with philosophy and addressed in zoning and town plan (see comment #35 below re bus routes) | 5/6/14 |

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|----|---------|-------|--------------|-------|-----|--|----|---|--|---------|
| 58 | 6/3/14 | pc, I | Stephen Page | H | c | Very difficult to do affordable housing well -- a good example is Star Lake in Norwich. Unsuccessful because: location, not on a bus route, 3 miles out of town; 22-24 houses on 14 acres, all land held in common, housing too close together -- tough to get people to live well close together. Not even space for garage. No privacy. A real test of affordable housing in long run is how valuable the housing is in long run. They're not appreciating very well. Need explicit detailed covenants that work and enhance liveability & address living together in a group. Also think single houses in the suburbs are because of density, respect of neighbor | an | Lots of issues to consider to be viable. Thetford's needs may be different than another towns needs and success can be measured by many different standards. | | 7/15/14 |
| 2 | 4/4/14 | I | Stephen Page | LU | c | Avoid the end to end commercial zoning of Route 5 in Fairlee, for the lack of being able to step up to some differentiation of areas. | an | | agreed with philosophy and addressed in zoning and town plan | 5/6/14 |
| 3 | 4/4/14 | I | Stephen Page | LU | c | Avoid Enfield's 5 acre min. bowling alley lots, which are among the worst residential subdivisions in the UV. | an | | agreed with philosophy and addressed in zoning and town plan | 5/6/14 |
| 6 | 4/4/14 | I | Stephen Page | LU | c | Some UV towns have gone to 2 or 3 levels of min. lot size in rural areas, differentiating between different levels of rurality. However, it is interesting to see a town like Norwich, with 2 acre rural lots throughout, be successful with market activity (with affluence) in maintaining larger rural lots. | an | | | 5/6/14 |
| 7 | 4/4/14 | I | Stephen Page | LU | c | | an | | we agree that it's a good idea to look at neighboring town zoning and results and choose whether or not to emulate them | 5/6/14 |
| 8 | 4/4/14 | I | Stephen Page | LU | c | Hanover is likely the best example of good zoning through good planning. I think they are a town to look to emulate in many ways. I think one of the large challenges in Thetford is to work to enhance one of our unique features: the 5 villages. I think each village should have a defined area for zoning. One large question is what villages should have commercial potential, and of what sort. I think both East Thetford and Post Mills should have a reasonable level of potential for commercial use, but purely residential villages are also enhancing. | an | | | 5/6/14 |
| 26 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | LU | add | Land Use: #8 We think the aesthetics of each village is an extremely important consideration... especially in E. Thetford and Post Mills, where you expect to see more commercial growth. Significant resources have been pumped into Thetford Center for the town green and garden, and the aesthetics of Thetford Hill are protected due to the Historic District overlay. We believe Post Mills and E. Thetford deserve similar attention to "the visual aesthetic of a Vermont town". Post Mills has been compromised with the poor clean up of the mill site and the brown house on Rte. 113 that was abandoned years ago and fell into dangerous disrepair. There are just two cases in point | an | The selectboard has had many conversations w/ owner. There is a dangerous building ordinance, but in this case there is no danger unless there is trespass or risk to the road. The doors have been secured. Most successful resolutions wd come from neighbors talking w/ owner, Fred Butson (sp?), owner of Lake House Inn. | Discussed; we agree that there's a problem but don't see an appropriate insertion in town plan. | 12/2/14 |
| 28 | 4/15/14 | w | Stuart Blood | LU/NR | add | In current Zoning regs: It looks to me like 6.09(B) is poorly written. It allows a waiver if ANY of the four conditions are met, whereas #4 should probably always be a requirement. So it looks like the subsection allows the DRB to grant a waiver by deciding that there's a pattern of gazebos close to the lake. 6.09(B)(1). | am | | We will look at 6.09(B) -- put in town plan proposal to clarify regulation 'such that' | 12/2/14 |
| 12 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | add | We applaud the adoption of zoning bylaws that require a 75 ft. shoreline buffer for lakes and ponds, and the 50ft. buffer for wetlands. However, we worry about the monitoring and enforcement of these. We also worry about the possibility of the DRB waiving these setbacks. They did just this in the spring of 2013 for an application to build an impervious surface (large gazebo) only 15 ft. from the lake on an already overdeveloped lot. As neighbors we had received warning about this application and wrote a letter detailing our reasons (and the documentation behind them) for not approving of a building so close to the lake. We worry that the DRB doesn't show your dedication to shoreline setbacks, riparian buffers, the limit | | discuss: trying to contact Sean Mullen; no phone ans. machine; I don't want to email -- 785.4373 | | |
| 14 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | add | water resources recs: - If #1 could have some language such as "rigorously support and monitor" setbacks, that would help put more teeth in it. | as | | | 12/2/14 |
| 15 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | add | water resources recs: yes, incentives would be wonderful...might there also be deterrents (such as fines or retroactive mitigation) for transgressing fundamental best practices (zoning bylaws) along the shores? A carrot and stick approach...which is the case in NH and Maine. I realize the ANR does not have the resources to be everywhere at all times, so this is no easy thing, but it is something we worry about as we watch the natural shoreline of Lake Fairlee steadily disappear. | r | as: recommend changing as described | A stick requires that the town commit to enforcement and we're not ready to do that; we're operating under the assumption that most people want to do the right thing and our town wants to focus on increasing knowledge/understanding. | 12/2/14 |

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|----|---------|---|--------------|----|------------|--|----|---|---|---------|
| 46 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | NR | add | I think the recommendations related to flood and drought (two of the most significant risks to Thetford as a town) are too gentle. Both of these risks are likely to increase in future years, as our climate continues to change. This chapter includes many recommendations related to reducing erosion and water pollution, but I would like to see you go even further (well beyond "Pay extra vigilance to roads that border waters"), to recommend that the town develop alternate routes for roads that run beside rivers (e.g. Route 132 between Tucker Hill and the Strafford line), so that some current roads can be decommissioned the next time they get washed out by a major flood. | df | discuss | | 8/19/14 |
| 47 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | NR | add | Also the town should put in place policies to help guide decisions (which will have to be made quickly when the time comes) about which buildings should or should not be re-built after the next big flood. | df | Contacted Mary Ellen -- FEMA options: buy out or fill up basement: other avenues personal opinion is other avenues to make that happen. Contacted Kevin Geiger at TRORC. Can't not allow someone to replace building. Options include: can add variance that the house be required to be rebuilt in best place possible on lot or building | | 8/19/14 |
| 48 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | NR | add | I believe that, in the long run, drought and wildfire pose an even greater risk to a larger percentage of properties in Thetford than does flooding or pollution of groundwater. Does anyone have data on which homes and businesses in Thetford have wells that would be the most susceptible to drought? The worst-case, but very plausible, scenario is that we could experience widespread die-off of certain forest tree species, resulting from infestations of Emerald Ash Borers, Hemlock Woolly Adelgids, or Gypsy Moth caterpillars, followed by a multi-year regional drought that not only slows down decay of the dead standing timber but also increases the flammability of the understory of shallow-rooted invasive shrubs that would | | | | |
| 78 | 4/15/14 | w | Stuart Blood | nr | add | | as | Contacted Don Fifield, Emergency management Coordinator; waiting for response. 785.2604 | | 12/2/14 |
| 22 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | add/c h | Section 6.11(C) allows the Conservation Commission to advise the DRB on developments. Maybe the town plan should be more encouraging of the DRB seeking advice from the CC. Lakes & Ponds: #2 Yay to a wash station!! ...but WHERE? We have been pondering this for years, and believe we have the support of the community, but there is very little space at the public launch for parking, let alone a wash station. We have though of sharing a wash station with lake Morey and having it somewhere halfway between the two lakes. Would love to hear your thinking on this. | an | Add policy under All Natural Resources: The Development and Review Board seeks advice from the Conservation Commission in matters regarding natural resources. | Add policy under All Natural Resources: The Development and Review Board seeks advice from the Conservation Commission in matters regarding natural resources. Building one in between seems extremely impractical to us -- a wash station would only be practical where the boat launch is. Consider Treasure Island? | 12/2/14 |
| 10 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | The introduction describing the abundant resources we have in Thetford, is eloquent. It makes me proud to be a resident, and I believe ascribes value to the surrounding natural world that most residents hold dear....and which must be safeguarded for the future. | an | No town owned land in Ely -- between might be on Rt 5 in Fairlee? | | 7/15/14 |
| 11 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | Making clean water resources a priority cannot be overstated -- it is key to our own health, as well the diverse ecosystems. | an | | | 7/15/14 |
| 13 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | natural resources recs, we appreciate each of your thoughtful priorities! | an | | | 7/15/14 |
| 16 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | water resources recs: Same problem with monitoring failed septic systems--how do we know where this has happened? | an | | | 7/15/14 |
| 18 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | Flowing waters: #1 -- applaud the preference of buffer plantings over riprap.....for improved function and aesthetics. | an | | | 7/15/14 |
| 19 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | Flowing waters: #2 The CC has started to help raise consciousness about this with the Storm Irene program last week, and hopefully there will be more ways we can help in this "Year of Water". | an | | | 7/15/14 |

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|----|---------|---|--------------|----|-----|--|----|---|---|---------------|
| 20 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | Flowing waters: #4 AMEN! | | an | | 7/15/14 |
| 21 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | Flowing waters: #13 - GREAT!--- this is so needed. When we offered to plant buffers on certain sections of inlets into the lake, farmers were very resistant to making any adjustments which would protect the water from their livestock, OR diminish their farmable land. It's a tough decision for them, even knowing financial incentives, free labor, and plants are available, AND that it is crucial for the health of everything downstream from their farm. | | an | | 7/15/14 |
| 23 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | Flora & Fauna: brilliant goals! | | an | | 7/15/14 |
| 24 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | Quiet, Natural Light & Darkness: Bravo! What worthy things to keep in mind. Thank you!!! But again--- how will this be supported and monitored? | | an | | 7/15/14 |
| 25 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | Land Use: #7 Appreciate your thoughts to change this triangle of land in Post Mills back to "Rural Residential" due to the habitat value. | | an | | 7/15/14 |
| 27 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | c | Looks like the Conservation Commission has our work cut out for us.....which we will happily do to partner with you in preserving the quality of life Thetford that we all value so much. T H A N K Y O U! This is noble, valuable work!!! | | an | | 7/15/14 |
| 44 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | NR | c | Thank you for including mention of dark skies for astronomy on pages 2 and 22. I agree that this is an important natural resource! | | an | | 7/15/14 |
| 45 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | NR | c | Page 5: I am amazed that nobody has surveyed the depth of Childs Pond since 1888, but it is fun to have such an intriguing mystery in our town! | | an | | 7/15/14 |
| 51 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | NR | cl | add Page 19, line 12, and page 20, line 33: What is the context behind the word "stabilize" in these recommendations? Have taxes on land under Current Use been fluctuating wildly? The local impact of State policies is not explained here. | as | "Current Use has not been fluctuating wildly -- 1 & 6 would be more bluntly stated as: the town provide property tax stabilization by choosing to subtract development rights from appraised value of parcel (not considered an accurate market value, as market value does not appear to decrease based on sale of development rights in VT) | delete those two recommendations because we're not at the time/position to put them into effect | 1/6/15 |
| 17 | 4/14/14 | I | Libby Chapin | NR | org | water resources recs: #4 & #5, #14, #15 I would like to offer to help work on shoreline guidelines for the lake. This is a project I have been wanting to do for several years – and the goal would be to have it for property owners as well as builders, architects, foresters, landscapers...an educational tool to help build a stewardship ethic for living near or on a lake or pond. | df | | Given that there are new shoreline guidelines from the state, the task of creating guidelines specific to Thetford is large; we hope that work will be done on this for the next town plan. | 1/6/15 |
| 49 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | NR | t | Page 3, line 21: I believe that the correct term is "polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons" (PAH). | as | Msg in to Libby 333.9308 | | 1/6/15 |
| | | | | | | | an | Accept change | | |
| | | | | | | | | | an | Accept change |

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|----|----------|-------|----------------|------------------|-----|---|-----|--|--------|---|
| 50 | 5/20/14 | I | Tom Norton | NR | t | Page 7, line 17: Does the word "Greatest" belong in the second half of this sentence? | r | | 1/6/15 | |
| 35 | 5/6/14 | pc | Jessica Eaton | T | add | Add to town plan that developers shd be asked to be aware of school bus routes when planning development. | r | Yes, because this is how Vermont's Wildlife Action plan designates them. | r | Yes, because this is how Vermont's Wildlife Action plan designates them. |
| 39 | 12/6/10 | Z #78 | Tara Bamford | zoning 6.03(B) | | Here is another opportunity to make the ordinance more farm friendly by exempting agricultural enterprises not covered under the state's AAP regs. [refers to exemptions from Site Plan Review; discuss broadening the exemptions] | zdf | | | We recommend discussing this concept during the drafting of the next town plan. We believe that fully addressing this will take considerable time and public participation. |
| 36 | 11/30/10 | Z #57 | Heather Carlos | Zoning 6.04 p.25 | | Vernal Pools: There seems to be no mention of these important natural features. df by zoning | zdf | | | That's correct. There is no State regulation for vernal pools to provide a precedent. We suggest this be considered during the development of the next Town Plan. |
| 38 | 12/6/10 | Z #67 | Tara Bamford | zoning 3.03 | | Opportunity to support local agriculture by relaxing the requirements for agricultural enterprises not necessarily covered by the state's accepted agricultural practices (AAP) regs. [see above] | zdf | | | |
| 40 | 11/16/10 | Z #16 | Mike Pomeroy | zoning 5.01 p.17 | | Why have specific statements on land required for churches (we cover parking elsewhere)? Most of our churches would not conform. Why are they required to have this much land? [review the rationale; consider changing | zdf | | | This regulation is identical to what's in the current ordinance. We don't have any guidance – either from a church or the town plan -- on why or how to change it. |
| 77 | 4/15/14 | w | Stuart Blood | Zoning 6.09B | cl | You mentioned that the DRB waived the setback requirement for a gazebo on the lake last spring. I don't know about that situation but I can say that our zoning ordinance has standards for waivers. I've included the text below. It looks to me like 6.09(B) is poorly written. It allows a waiver if ANY of the four conditions are met, whereas #4 should probably always be a requirement. So it looks like the subsection allows the DRB to grant a waiver by deciding that there's a pattern of gazebos close to the lake. 6.09(B)(1). I think this one slipped past us and it should probably be fixed. | | | | |
| 37 | 12/6/10 | Z #61 | Tara Bamford | | | Insufficient protection for agriculture in draft; shortcomings in farmworker housing and lack of encouragement of economies of scale through cooperative ventures [review all 3 items] df by zoning | zdf | | | Specific suggestions that exceed the exemptions under State law and current zoning should be considered during the development of the next Town Plan and the next revision of zoning. |

