

Thetford Planning Commission

General Open House on Planning Issues, October 4, 2011

| NAME | Comment | Response |
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| Li Shen | <p>(see submitted comments)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rivers: goal to protect natural processes, as well as Do this through protecting zones, determined through geomorphic study. 2. Protect cold water fishery (Ompomp). Stocked and conserved for native trout 3. Restore Ompomp and tributaries where degraded; much is artificially placed; related to washouts, where constricted; limits, due to development, but give it room 4. 2007 study of Ompomp water quality found some high areas of e-coli. Steps can reduce type of bacterial run off. 5. Lake Fairlee (others comments) 6. Forest: preserve... large forest lots for recreation and larger mammals (bobcat, moose); also need connections; preserve large habitat lots for interior nesting sites, ensure connections 7. Wetlands: preserve... values of wetlands, particularly those for protective of fishery habitat; including unlisted ones; provide linkages 8. Vernal pools: special habitat, protects additional animals 9. General: biodiversity – many smaller types of habitat required for diversity, resilience 10. Control invasive species, also supports bio-diversity | |
| Dale Gephart | <p>Lake Fairlee: asset as recreational area; under threat of becoming eutrophic, from phosphate; need to protect water shed. Milfoil under control (3 town cooperation, and State). Fairlee may become fiscal agent, to replace funds lost when Thetford declined to remain as fiscal agent.</p> | |
| Tig Tillinghast | <p>Villages: number of distinctive villages, some under threat; No. Thetford lost bridge, now PO. Ways to encourage mixed use and keep concentration of population, should encourage.</p> | |
| Tara Bamford | <p>On reading the Plan, Introduction reflective divisiveness. Past that, jumps to policies, recommendations. Seems to be missing vision statement(s), opportunity for consensus building and to ease implementation. To reduce sprawl, now, hard to see where villages are, because of spread along roads. Will PC do some visioning? Can provoke discussion of vision through questions about what might make Thetford a better place to live.</p> | <p>Kevin O'Hara: have discussed vision statement development. Not sure how to get there, apart from listening.</p> |
| Mike Pomeroy | <p>Encourage more businesses. Conserves gasoline. Encourage in villages and RR. Rights of landowners. Affordability to live here, too. Make it more of a destination, not just a thoroughfare. Soemthing to bring folks here. Trail system, water ways, boat launch.</p> | |
| Dennis Donahue | <p>Housing should be a major topic, not just affordability. Specific needs, like elderly housing, other types. Village and rural. As population grows, location of affordable property will diminish, should stay ahead.</p> | |

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| Dale Gephart | Thetford Sr & Affordable Housing Cmte: current plan has mandate, has been valuable to Cmtee. Have gotten 3 grants through this, Please keep and if you want to augment, will work with you. Thanks for the density bonus, more flexibility in choosing land and meeting needs of Town Plan. Haven't established where. Will listen to the Plan for guidance. Open meeting next week. | Kevin O'Hara: PC will follow up with specific groups (CC, EC, Aff..) |
| Paul Rump | Sawnee Bean district, subject to large change over 40 years. Was wrong side of tracks, was wonderful. Meeting with "groups" doesn't include the group that lives there. Town allowed it to become strange setting for McMansion, long drives. Haven't been consulted about this development. Can't get legal protection, don't have means to block development, have let development happen. Should consult with people in districts, and villages, consult, find out what people are willing to accept into their lives. Saw road widen to speedway. Impossible to walk on the road, can't hunt on half the properties. Get out from behind desk, knock on doors, discuss changes occurring, find out what people think. People don't feel comfortable coming to Town Hall; need to come to their front door. Essential to essence of the Town. | |
| Mike Pomeroy | From current Plan, "to preserve rural character", enjoy dirt roads, don't mind narrow roads, don't mind pulling over; doesn't need to be plowed out by 6:30am. If fast pace important, should seek elsewhere. | |
| Patrick Kearney | Paul's comments apply all over Town. Different people have different ideas; here to hear opinions, not to say what to build. To consider what everyone thinks. | |
| Paul Rump | Was accepted by community when he came here. Looking for warning that half million house won't put taxes sky high, that deer yard won't be destroyed. They are entitled to purchase and buy, would like some input into changes to his world. Would appreciate some input. If you talked to people in their homes would be welcome, not authoritarian pin heads. | |
| Mary Dan Pomeroy | Dislike what is happening to our roads. Have been widened, talking about paving dirt roads. Like idea of creating pathways to connect the Villages together. All season attraction. Flip side of environmental concerns – should take care of education, awareness, rather than dictating to property owners what they can/can't do. | |
| Matt Fiskén | Utilities, telecomm: Some of our rights of ways are maintained, prop of CVPS, others are FairPoint. Those entities have different policies for clearing vegetation. FP – policy not to remove branches on wires unless wire broken. Electricity, phone, internet are important, would seem that having a common goal for maintaining rights of way would make sense, save money when there is storm damage (although mostly up to utilities). Would like to see more public phones, great that there are still a few pay phones. For emergencies, where no cell, great if at least every village had a public phone to call emergency numbers and make free local calls. Pipe dream: great to see phone booths covered and enclosed. | |

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| John Bacon | More mixed use of villages, business and residential, above. Building ordinance would have to cover dual use. Thet Ctr, wouldn't change character, would add character. We have limited space, topography. Would encourage development, good type of. Would like more stability, not transient population. | |
| Jim Masland | Maintaining rural character. Used to be that 10-acre minimum would maintain 'rural character'. Now, we know that isn't good. Breaks habitat, encourages driving to play. Encourage grouping (cluster), around existing infrastructure. Flora/fauna, kids, better off. Less impact on infrastructure. | |
| Diana Wrigit | Many referenced plans to pave roads. Thinking, lives on New Boston Rd, "west" Thetford, dirt road. Was cut during Irene, road fixed by lunch, so could get out of Strafford. Paved road 132 took longer. So, utility to dirt road. Lessons on who weathered Irene damage better than others. Interest in discussing to what contributes to resilience – physical and social – that a Town can use. Not all about culvert size, that's important. Also about having viable businesses in a bunch of places, become hub of communication . There are things contributing to less resilient neighborhoods – like – in my neighborhood, since y2k, some have hard wired generators, fewer portable generators . Asset on a neighborhood scale. Not sure of how to address through Town. | |
| John Bacon | We were lucky this time. Suggest to bring point (generators, resilience) to emergency preparedness group. | |
| Tig Tillinghast | Other planning process; police, fire, SB meet to do long term planning. Maybe some pieces appropriate for Town plan. (and reverse) | |
| Paul Rump | Sense of community, how to nourish . Centers, for communities to actually work. Thet Ctr, store & PO. Has essentials, except for communications. To develop nodes, hubs would be possible. Have geo divisions. If we had community centers, to act as focal points, for communications. Can't do it broadly, need to do it locally, where people know each other . During the storm, had to contact the people we know. Need communication with adrenal energy. Planning can help develop these things, elder housing, things for people with limited mobility. | |
| Dennis Donahue | Communications capacity should be major point . Barricade not technical. Major suppliers not willing to adapt to our circumstances, not willing to expand connectivity westward, in low density areas. Should be in our Plan. Let's not wait until hell freezes over. | |
| Susan Rump | See ECFiber better supported by the Town, the State. Local, regional control could do more than big powers. | |
| Matt Fiskien | Resiliency: smart grid library website article, C. Herzog, about microgrids. For developing nations, could also apply in emergency, anywhere. Solar trailer, solar with batteries . Portable generator that doesn't take fuel. Could power 40 homes, if village lost power. Something to look at – portable back up power. | |

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| JoAnn Burns | Had no idea it would be so hard to get internet. Has to orient life to go out of town to use Internet. Listserv is fantastic, houses spread; now, finds out about neighbors, how to meet people. Would love to see more people get the listserv. Welcoming new people – may be ambivalent about new people, but can't stop it, would be good to welcome them. Some write on list and get help as new comers. Not aware of non-family Thetford social opportunities, what has heard about, through list. If had internet, would at home more. Would change the quality of life, have to leave to work. Less road use. Route 113 from Exit 14 to Thetford Ctr, road quality embarrassing introduction (State Rd.). Thanks for the opportunity to talk. | |
| Wayne Parks | Sr and Affordable Housing, very important. Would like to see village multi-use, reduce driving, increase residences in the Villages, walk to services, stores. Promote high-speed internet and cell phone services. Two house sales lost because of lack of these, affects real estate values. Do consider rights of property owners. | |
| Clyde Cook | Don't create regs that conflict w/each other and the goals. Charm of community is heart, multi-generation; harder make it to peel off small property or add space for parent to live. Villages couldn't have been built with current restrictions. | |
| Dale Gephart | Needs of seniors – isolation. How do we keep seniors as active members. Of 50 seniors at lunch, only 4 on listserv. How do we reach out to our seniors? | |
| John Bacon | Stevens to Quail John; houses straddled road, schools all over, small. Didn't know people in other communities, focal point the small community around the school. Now, breaking up to villages, focused on that one community. How to bring that back? Only time everyone got together, Town Meeting. How to bring back to feel as one voice? | |
| Jim Masland | Pavement vs gravel: Corinth study – some places torn up pavement, went back to gravel. Should revisit, with new numbers. | John Bacon: Should be looking at this |
| Sally Duston | Apropos development. Would like to see more, where there is more. If can happen in villages, small business, multi-use, house with business. Rural character is vital and ag component is important, need to support that. | |
| Scott Hesser | Newcomers, Godfrey rd. Settled on thetford for schools, quality of rural community. Availability of internet. Paved road a big bonus. Rural setting very important, but from proximity, have 2 acres, don't even need that, if village housing, would have settled in denser area. Of value in development, proximity to schools, modern communications. Admire rural setting, dirt road not a priority. | |
| Wayne Parks | Points out diversity. End of class 3 road, both perspectives should be taken into consideration in what is permitted, not permitted. No emergency vehicle could get through class 4 rd., used to be passable, mixed emotions on fixing it up. Traffic versus emergency access. | |

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| Dan Grossman | People interested in details, for this year, this decade. Need to keep in mind on how all have an impact on coming decades. One house can have impact on deer, moose runway. Need to compare every detail as far in the future, will be mostly wrong, that's the challenge. Don't screw up the future. Just about any one thing can. One narrowing in river, can tear up downstream. have to think about 100-200+ years, don't foreclose descendants ability to enjoy this town and area. | |
| Jim Masland | Manager of Oakland A's: have to decide "now", probably wrong, harder to recover from bad decision, than to postpone, and make better decision. | |
| John Bacon | As density in village increases, sewer and water needs increase. Important to preserve habitat (water shed). Need septic technology, approved. Will happen in VT as we get more condensed. Norwich water main, may happen here. Needs to be thought out in long range plan. | |
| Susan Rump | Potential for hydro power. We were a town filled with mills, dams, that made products. With coming grid difficulties, considered making small mills possible again, for power and local manufacturing. | |
| Tara Bamford | Seems like have comments to compose vision statement, as draft. As theme on resilience, importance of agricultural land for local food, and importance of local food. | |
| Paul Rump | thanks | |