



# Town of Thetford Vermont

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**Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Thetford Town Offices**  
**3910 Route 113**  
**(w/Virtual Attendance Option)**  
**Monday, April 6, 2026 7:00 PM**

Selectboard Members present: Chair Sharon Harkay, Vice-Chair David Goodrich, David Forbes, Li Shen, Steve Tofel

Others present: Town Manager Brian Story

Participating Community Members: Sherry Merrick, Cynthia Shelton, Duncan Nichols, Henry Nichols, Didi Pershouse, Dean Whitlock

Sharon Harkay called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

## **1. Agenda Review**

No changes to the agenda.

## **2. Notes from the Selectboard Chair**

Sharon informed the Selectboard that at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting the Capacity Study Steering Committee and the representatives from Dubois and King would be present.

The Upper Valley Fish and Game Club lease will be discussed at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **3. Town Manager Report**

1. Green Up Day – Sign ups are open and the Conservation Commission will have a table at the transfer station for the next few weeks.
2. Comments for Capacity Study – everyone who has comments or questions will be able to ask them at the meeting, but advance submissions will close tomorrow.
3. A driveway permit was issued on Quinibeck Road for a parcel without current address, near the corner with Dennison Lane.

## **4. Committee and Commission Reports**

Steve Tofel said Cemetery Commission has verbally agreed with TCCT (*Thetford Center Community Trust*) on the boundary and right of way into the Evergreen Rest Cemetery.

Li reported that Alicia Houk is not going to continue with the Conservation Commission.

## **5. Public Comment**

Sherry Merrick mentioned the 250<sup>th</sup> free event on Saturday at the Martha Rich Theater. It is a screening of We The People's production of *1776*. Sherry said there is information on their website. Their monthly meeting will be on Sunday at 6:00 PM at Town Hall and anyone is welcome to come.

Cynthia Shelton requested that the vacant Health Officer job be put on the listserv with a good job description.

Sherry Merrick also said that on May 2, David Briggs will be talking about the history of Thetford across the street at Thetford Center Community Building. There will be a potluck at 5:00.

## **6. Discussion of the Addendum to the Town Purchasing Policy Regarding Consideration of Human Rights**

Brian had made edits to the document for the Selectboard to review. After discussion, a motion was made by David Goodrich that under the exemptions we insert a statement that this policy does not apply to the purchase of used equipment from a vendor that doesn't benefit the original manufacturer. Brian suggested that it might be better to handle that in the setup, where it talks about what qualifies, rather than as an exemption. With no other discussion Sharon called for a vote. Motion passes with all in favor.

## **7. Discussion of Securing Liability Insurance for the June SQC (Semi-Quincentennial) Event**

Motion by Sharon Harkay that the Selectboard should ask the existing SQC volunteers to continue planning and put the event on the Thetford Center Town Green on June 20<sup>th</sup> to make sure it happens for the town. And that the town will therefore cover their insurance with the town's insurance. The motion passed unanimously.

## **8. Appointments to Town Committees, Commissions and Other Positions**

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Matt Parno for a 4-year term on the Conservation Commission ending in 2030. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Sue Howard and Bill Bridge for 3-year terms on the Development Review Board, ending in 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that Mariah Whitcomb is willing to continue serving as the Emergency Management Director for another year, so that term would end in 2027. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Chuck Cole and Alice Steward to another 3-year term, each on the Thetford Energy Committee, ending in 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Stephen Branchflower for another 3-year term on the Historic Preservation Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Liz Ryan Cole for another 3-year term on the Planning Commission, ending in 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

Sharon explained that she had received an email from the current chair of the Treasure Island Committee suggesting that the committee be disbanded or dissolved. Sharon reached out to other committees for their thoughts, and it was suggested that there is redundancy with the Treasure Island Committee and the Recreation Council. There is also concern that the stewardship plan continues and perhaps the Conservation Commission could take that on. Sharon made a motion that we dissolve the Treasure Island Committee for the time being. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion on how to distribute the work of the Treasure Island Committee between the Rec Advisory Council and the Conservation Commission.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we will rename the Recreation Advisory Council to the Parks and Recreation Council, aka PARC, which will inform and assist our Recreation Director with her mandates, and that it will continue to be a 3-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about if the charge would change and why it is a council and not a committee.

Sharon then changed her motion to say that she made a motion that we rename the Recreation Advisory Council to Parks and Recreation Committee with members having 3-year terms. Motion passed unanimously.

Sharon Harkay made a motion that we reappoint Charlotte Rutledge (to PARC) for a 2-year term ending in 2028, that we newly appoint Amy Duchette for a 2-year term this time ending in 2028, that we newly appoint Tori Barker, Keisha Covey and Chris Leitao for a 3-

year term ending in 2029, and thereafter everybody will have 3-year terms. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Pippa Drew and newly appoint both Dave Joyce and Matthew Lyons all for 3-year terms on the Thetford Housing Committee with terms ending in 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Pat Pisano and Sue Gault for 1-year terms ending in 2027 and newly appoint Mary Raynes to a 3-year term ending in 2029 for the Thetford Elder Network. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Chief Scruggs and Town Manager Brian Story to the Thetford Restorative Justice Council for 3-year terms. Motion passed unanimously. There was discussion about why this was named Council instead of Committee. Sharon said to correct her motion to call it Thetford Restorative Justice Steering Committee.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we should reappoint Jessica Eaton for a 1-year term for Town Service Officer ending in 2027. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Donn Downey for another 1-year term as our Tree Warden ending in 2027. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Jessica Eaton for another 3-year term on the Tri-Town Commission ending in 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Tim Taylor as our rep to the TROC (*Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission*) board with a 3-year term this time, ending in 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint Brian Story to the Transportation Advisory Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that we reappoint David Goodrich to be our representative with the Upper Valley Ambulance for a 3-year term ending in 2029. Motion passed unanimously.

## **9. Adoption of Vermont Road and Bridge Standards**

After discussion, David Goodrich made a motion that we accept the new Town Road and Bridge Standards as Brian presented them tonight. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Approval of 2027 Grants in Aid Letter of Intent**

Motion by David Forbes to accept a letter of intent to participate in the fiscal year 27 Municipal Roads Grants Management Program as presented, and to appoint Brian Story as a duly authorized representative. Motion passed unanimously.

**11. Warrants**

12.1	\$23384.74
13.1	\$51498.97
14.1	\$45336.05
7.3	\$1471.86
6.4	\$33288.83
7.4	\$35091.66

Motion by Li Shen to accept the warrants as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**12. Minutes**

Motion by Steve Tofel to accept the meeting minutes of March 16<sup>th</sup> as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to approve the short version of the minutes of Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, as further edited. Motion passed unanimously.

**13. Adjourn**

Motion by Steve Tofel to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 PM. Motion passed unanimously.