



Town of Thetford Vermont

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Selectboard Meeting Minutes Thetford Town Offices (w/Virtual Attendance Option) Monday, March 16, 2026 7:00 PM

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

Others present:

Contributing Community Members: Emma Cushman, Sarah Martell, Wayne Parks, Doug Stone, Joanne Kirsten

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

1. Agenda review

Sharon suggested moving Item #8 up to follow Public Comment. All agreed.

2. Notes from the Selectboard Chair

Sharon mentioned the June 20th Semi-Quincentennial Celebration on the green in Thetford Center and the Labor Day Parade on September 7th in Post Mills.

Mariah Whitcomb will be stepping down as the Health Officer at the end of May but will continue to be the Emergency Management Director.

3. Town Manager report

- **Capacity Study Comments** – Brian said there is a link to the Capacity Study as well as a comment form on the home page of the Thetford website. There is currently no deadline for comment submissions. There will be a hard copy of the study at Town Hall, and copies can be made on request.

4. Committee and commission reports

Li Shen gave an update on the Conservation Commissions plan to train volunteers to monitor amphibian road crossings.

Steve Tofel said the Cemetery Commission will be opening the RFQ bids for the restoration of the East Thetford Cemetery on Monday, April 6th at 4:30 PM at Town Hall.

5. Public comment

Emma Cushman brought up the discussion from a previous meeting about a private company, Casella, in violation of our posted road weight restrictions. Emma urged the board to contact



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Casella in an effort to enforce the law.

6. Possible approval of a letter of support for Thetford Center Community Trust's Village Store Project

Sharon said the TCCT has asked the Selectboard to consider sending a letter to Senators Welch and Sanders giving support for the project in the hopes of getting grant funding. Sarah Martell said she appreciated the Selectboard's quick response, as the letter is due next week. The Selectboard suggested some edits. The letter will be edited and brought into Town Hall so the Selectboard members can come in and sign.

7. Update on Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) projects by Thetford's representative Tim Taylor

Tim began by giving a brief explanation of the purpose of the commission, and some of the projects they are working on this year.

8. Decision on Tier 1B area designations

Tim Taylor gave an explanation of Tier 1B and how it would apply to Thetford.

Motion by Sharon Harkay that the Selectboard give her permission to write back to Kyle and say we're not going to move on this at this time. VOTE by roll call: Steve Tofel – in favor, Li Shen – in favor, David Goodrich – in favor, David Forbes – in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor. Motion passed.

9. Discussion of the addendum to the Town purchasing policy regarding consideration of human rights

Brian gave an explanation of the background behind the agenda item, which stems from the anti-apartheid resolution adopted at Town Meeting in 2025.

Motion by Steve Tofel to amend the purchasing policy draft as presented to increase the threshold from \$200,000 to \$350,000. VOTE by roll call: Steve Tofel – in favor, Li Shen – in



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favor, David Goodrich - in favor, David Forbes – in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor. Motion passed.

10. Discussion of the proposed Fish and Game Club lease

The Selectboard reviewed the documents. After considerable discussion, Brian will investigate questions that were raised and create another draft of the lease for review in April.

11. Warrants

#11.1 \$122,924.74

#8.2 \$18,150.34

Motion by Sharon Harkay to accept the warrants as presented. VOTE by roll call: Steve Tofel – abstain, Li Shen – in favor, David Goodrich – in favor, David Forbes – in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor. **Motion passed.**

12. Minutes

Motion by David Forbes to accept the March 9th, 2026, Selectboard minutes as revised. VOTE by roll call: Steve Tofel – in favor, Li Shen – in favor, David Forbes – in favor, David Goodrich - in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor. Motion passed.

13. Adjourn

Motion by Steve Tofel to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 PM. VOTE by roll call: Steve Tofel – in favor, David Forbes – in favor, Li Shen – in favor, David Goodrich - in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Martie Betts