



Town of Thetford Vermont

3910 Vermont Route 113 • P.O. Box 126 • Thetford Center, VT 05075
802-785-2922 • thetfordvermont.us

Selectboard Special Re-Organizational Meeting Minutes Thetford Town Offices (w/Virtual Attendance Option) Monday, March 13, 2023 7:00 PM

Selectboard members present: Mary Bryant, David Goodrich, Sharon Harkay, Li Shen, Steve Tofel
Others present: Town Manager Bryan Gazda (via Zoom), Town Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Borst, DPW Foreman Dale Lewis (via Zoom)
Participating community members: Liz Ryan Cole (via chat), Noel (via chat)

Town Manager Bryan Gazda called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Swearing in of Re-Elected Selectboard Members

Tracy Borst conducted the swearing in of Sharon Harkay and Steve Tofel, who were re-elected to the Selectboard.

2. Election of Selectboard Chair – Town Manager Presides

Bryan Gazda asked for nominations for the Selectboard Chair.

Mary Bryant nominated Sharon Harkay as Selectboard Chair. Sharon accepts the nomination. Bryan called for nominations 2 more times. Without more nominations a vote was called for Sharon as Chair. VOTE by Roll Call: Mary Bryant – in favor, Steve Tofel – in favor, Li Shen – in favor, David Goodrich – in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor. Sharon is elected and Bryan Gazda turns the meeting over to her. Sharon thanked the Selectboard members for their continued support and asked for Vice-Chair nominations.

3. Election of Selectboard Vice-Chair

Mary Bryant thanked Li Shen for her service as Vice-Chair and nominated David Goodrich for Vice-Chair. David accepts the nomination. VOTE by Roll Call: Mary Bryant – in favor, Steve Tofel – in favor, David Goodrich – in favor, Li Shen – in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor. David Goodrich is now Vice-Chair.

4. Town Manager Report

• Town HVAC Update

Bryan received an update from EEI, and they are scheduled to start next Monday. The work will happen in phases, beginning in the older section of Town Hall and is expected to last 4-6 weeks.

• Town Facilities Update

Bryan and Dale Lewis have been meeting with an architect concerning the town garage and the Timothy Frost building. He has also been looking into asbestos remediation for the former caretaker building at Treasure Island.

• Damaged Tires Update

Bryan has been reaching out to individuals who claimed tire damage and is still working to get more clarification.

• Delinquent Tax Sale

As of today, Bryan signed liens for 5 parcels, and a tax sale will be held on April 20th at 10 AM at Town Hall.

• Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mariah Whitcomb met with Connor Wrigley, who is leading up the plan as a consultant from TRORC. He would like to put together a committee including the Police and Fire Chiefs, the DPW Foreman, the



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Zoning Administrator, and one member from the Selectboard. They plan on 3-4 meetings with the committee then a few informational meetings for the public.

Steve Tofel asked about the process for the delinquent tax sales.

Mary Bryant asked for clarification concerning the meetings with the architects about the Timothy Frost building and asked about the asbestos mitigation at Treasure Island.

Sharon, Li and David Goodrich are all interested in being on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan committee.

5. Public Comment

Dale Lewis, DPW Foreman, wanted residents to know it will be slow going with plowing tomorrow because the roads are so soft. They will get it done, but it will be slow going.

6. Appointment of Authorized Signatories 24 V.S.A. § 1623(a)(1)

Motion by Li Shen that the chair and the vice-chair be appointed the authorized signatories. All in favor, motion passed.

7. Designation of Newspaper of Record

Motion by Sharon Harkay to designate the Journal Opinion as the newspaper of record. All in favor, motion passed.

8. 2023 Selectboard Rules of Procedure, including Scheduling of Regular Selectboard Meetings

Motion to accept the Rules and Procedures for the year 2023, with the small number of changes discussed. All in favor, motion passed.

9. Appointment of Selectboard Liaisons

The Selectboard discussed adding a regular agenda item for committee/commission liaison news. Steve Tofel will be the liaison for the Library Federation. No other changes were made.

10. Scheduling of and Structuring of the Selectboard Meeting of Annual Priorities

The Selectboard will review the 2022 list of annual priorities and individually send a list of what they would like for 2023 to their clerk for the April 3rd meeting.

11. Re-Appointments to Committees and Commissions including Discussion of Status of Treasure Island Exploratory Committee

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Janet Dowell to the Conservation Commission for a 4-year term ending in 2027. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Bill Bridge to the Development Review Board for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Chuck Cole to the Thetford Joint Energy Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Alice Stewart to the Thetford Joint Energy Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Stephen Branchflower to the Historic Preservation Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

There was discussion about the reappointment to the Planning Commission. Sharon asked the Selectboard to review the audio recording of the Planning Commission's last meeting before making the reappointment. This reappointment was deferred to the next meeting, when it will be discussed.



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Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Charlotte Rutledge to the Recreation Advisory Council for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Joe Deffner to the Recreation Advisory Council for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Sarah Martel to the Thetford Housing Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Pippa Drew to the Thetford Housing Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Pril Hall to the Thetford Elder Network for a 4-year term ending in 2027. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Sue Rump to the Thetford Elder Network for a 4-year term ending in 2027. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Inge Trebitz to the Thetford Elder Network for a 4-year term ending in 2027. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion to reappoint Jessica Eaton as Town Service Officer for a 1-year term. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Jessica Eaton as a member of the Tri-Town Commission for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint David Goodrich as the Upper Valley Ambulance liaison for a 1-year term. All in favor, motion passed.

The Selectboard agreed to make the Treasure Island Exploratory Committee a permanent town committee with the name Treasure Island Committee. The Selectboard members will work individually on what they think a charge should be and discuss at the next meeting.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint David Roth to the Treasure Island Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Jim Zien to the Treasure Island Committee for a 2-year term ending in 2025. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Dale Gephart to the Treasure Island Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Ann Jane Kemon to the Treasure Island Committee for a 2-year term ending in 2025. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Lucas Stepno to the Treasure Island Committee for a 2-year term ending in 2025. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to reappoint Doug Tiffit to the Treasure Island Committee for a 3-year term ending in 2026. All in favor, motion passed.

Tracy Borst read a comment in the chat from Liz Ryan Cole stating she was surprised at the Board's decision to pass on her interest in continuing with the Planning Commission. She asked if the Selectboard was really going to observe how the Planning Commission works out their issues and then decide on her reappointment. Sharon replied that it was complicated, and no reflection on Liz and the work she has been doing on the commission. Sharon said she was not intending to be disrespectful but had been asked by a member of the commission to listen to the meeting. Sharon has asked the whole Board to listen and thinks it will be more prudent to hold the decision off for another week.

Marty Betts read another comment in the chat from Joel who asked if the Board would be discussing the Thetford/Lyme Bridge, specifically a pedestrian bike span and the CDS fund application. Bryan Gazda replied that he would have more information about the plans for the bridge construction at the next Selectboard meeting.



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12. Convening of the Local Liquor Control Board

Motion by Sharon Harkay to suspend the Selectboard meeting and convene a meeting of the Local Liquor Control Board. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Steve Tofel to approve the application for the beer and wine license for Huggett's Mobile Market. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Sharon Harkay to adjourn the meeting of the Local Liquor Control Board and reconvene the Selectboard Meeting. All in favor, motion passed.

13. Warrants and Minutes

#5.4 \$27,189.30

#9.1 \$1,151,438.77

Motion by Mary Bryan to approve the warrants as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Mary Bryant to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of February 27th, 2023, as amended. All in favor, motion passed.

Sharon asked Bryan if Tucker Hill Road should be posted. Bryan said that DPW Foreman Dale Lewis checked with the state, and there is no reason why it can't be posted. The Selectboard will need to make a motion to add it to the previously approved list of roads. Li clarified that what the Board wanted to know was if the condition of the road warrants posting. Sharon said the board had wondered if the road should be posted due to its current condition.

Bryan will check with Dale about the condition of the road.

14. Adjourn

Motion by Steve Tofel to end the Selectboard meeting at 9:07 PM. All in favor, motion passed.