

2026-02-17 Board of Selectmen Minutes

Town of Canterbury, NH
Board of Selectmen
Date: 2026 February 17
Location: Meeting House

Selectmen: Scott Doherty (Chair), Beth Blair, Calvin Todd

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

Department Heads: Justin Crotty (Police Chief), Rachel Baker (Library Director)

Others Present: Kal McKay (Admin Assistant), Edgar Rivera (Libertad Press NE, Canterbury Rep for CPCNH)

1. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 4:58 p.m.
2. Department Heads
 - a. Justin Crotty (Police Chief)
 - i. Chief Crotty distributed Canterbury Police Department Selectmen's Report 1/19/26 through 2/17/26.
 - ii. There have been 4 Incidents, 2 Accidents, 35 Citations, and 303 Calls for Service this month.
 - iii. The State Police assisted with no calls as far as we know. Usually they email with stats for the previous 30 days. They did get a couple calls and informed the PD via fax as per usual, but they won't come to town for non-emergencies so presumably they received no emergency calls.
 - iv. The new cruiser has been received and is ready to use. They will clean out the old one and get it ready to sell.
 - v. The PD will be hosting a couple of trainings. They get two free seats per class so they will have one officer attend and give the other seat to a neighboring PD.
 - vi. Officers in the Dept. have undergone 16 hours of training this month.
 - b. Sam Papps (Town Clerk-Tax Collector)
 - i. Sam couldn't attend. He distributed the All Unpaid Receivables Listed by Warrant 2/17/2026 ahead of the meeting.
 - ii. The new ballot machine will be tested on Tuesday 3/3 at 9 a.m. at the Sam Lake House.
 - iii. Sam will be asking Moderator Jessica Treadway to attend the 3/2 Selectboard meeting to discuss Town Meeting.
 - c. Michael Gamache (Fire Chief)
 - i. Chief Gamache couldn't attend. He distributed Canterbury Fire Department Selectmen's Report 1/19/26 through 2/17/26 ahead of the meeting.
 - ii. The FD assisted with calls in Loudon twice and Epsom once.
 - iii. There was a close call on I-93. Three Canterbury FD members responded to a crash along with a couple state troopers. They used the engine to block the scene (as is standard procedure). There was a coating of snow on the road and another vehicle approached the scene at speed. The vehicle avoided crashing with the scene, but veered off and crashed on the other side of the highway.
 - iv. Scott explained that these are the most dangerous calls the FD responds to in Canterbury. It is standard procedure to block off the scene with the fire engine for this exact scenario.

2026-02-17 Board of Selectmen Minutes

Some departments purposefully bring their oldest vehicles to block off those scenes as a “sacrifice”. When the new engine arrives, we may want to begin doing that, too.

- v. There was some discussion about how that stretch of interstate (I-93 through Canterbury and the neighboring towns) is the most dangerous in NH. The State has tried to figure out why, but no concrete reason has been discovered.
 - vi. The Selectboard reviewed the names for the proposed streets at the 114 West Road/Hildreth’s Farm development: Farmhouse Lane and Oakmont Drive. The Chief ok’d the names, has assigned the addresses, and the addresses have been approved through e911. The Selectboard had no issues with the names.
- d. Rachel Baker (Library Director)
- i. The Library has had an increase in conference room use.
 - ii. Rachel has retired as President of the NH Library Association.
 - iii. At the end of January, Congress restored and increased ILS funding. So libraries in NH will be able to continue do things like inter-library loans and providing Libby. The State of NH provides no funding for libraries, so these programs would have been disbanded.
 - iv. The Library is continuing its food drive and they are keeping items on-site rather than bringing them to the Loudon Food Pantry. There are a number of residents who are unable to drive to Loudon, but are able to walk to Elkins Library, so this system works better for them. No one yet has accepted the offer, but the Library Trustees have volunteered to do meal prep and deliver for those residents.
 - v. Storage and space for the collection continues to be an issue.
 - vi. Peter Galatis has promised that he will come fix the gutter this year once winter is finished.
 - vii. The new “eyebrow” above the back door to the Historical Society is working great.
 - viii. The Library is very warm inside with the new insulation. The article written about this project was recently published in all sorts of papers and magazines.
- e. John O’Connor (Road Agent) did not attend.
3. Administration
- a. The Selectboard signed:
 - i. Beth made a motion to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$75,023.24. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
 - ii. Beth made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$52,061.84. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
 - iii. Appointment slips to the Historic District Commission for Ted West (Member) and Jessica Lozier nee Scanlon (Alternate).
 - iv. 2026 Warrant and 2026 MS-636.
 - v. Distribution from Lucia Elkins Trust – Books in the amount of \$1,032.09 to the Elkins Public Library Trustees.
 - vi. Distribution from Drew Family Fund for Elkins Library trust in the amount of \$216.39 to the Elkins Public Library Trustees.
 - vii. Distribution from Arthur and Mary Mudge for Elkins Library trust in the amount of \$239.12 to the Elkins Public Library Trustees.
 - viii. Scott moved to accept terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of \$2,000 for the LEOP update. Furthermore, to acknowledge that the total cost of the this project will be \$4,000, in which the Town will be responsible for a 50% match (\$2,000). Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried. The Selectboard then signed the grant paperwork.
 1. There have been two meetings so far with the company hired to do the EOP and a rough draft is done. Ken is hopeful it will be finished soon.

2026-02-17 Board of Selectmen Minutes

- ix. Citizens Bank signature cards for Sam Lake Trust account which gives the Selectboard the ability to accept the trust disbursement every year.
- x. Welfare Manifest in the amount of \$476.20.
- b. Previous Minutes Approval
 - i. Scott made a motion to approve the public minutes for the Selectboard meeting on February 2, 2026. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
 - ii. Scott made a motion to approve the non-public minutes for the Selectboard meeting on February 2, 2026. Calvin seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
- 4. Selectboard Representative Reports
 - a. Planning Board - Scott
 - i. The PB approved a 3 lot subdivision on Baptist Hill Road.
 - ii. They have had some discussion about the proposed warrant articles and will be publishing communications about it in various places this week.
 - iii. The developers for 114 West Road/Hildreth's Farm will be returning to the PB on 2/24 with their HOA documents.
 - b. Tricentennial Committee - Scott
 - i. Their last meeting was cancelled, they are next meeting on Thursday.
 - ii. They made over \$200 in t-shirt sales.
 - c. Calvin's two committees (Historic District Commission and Agricultural Commission) have not met since the last report.
 - d. Community Power Committee - Beth
 - i. The last meeting was cancelled. Hasn't been any news since setting the rates.
 - ii. A resident contacted Calvin and Ken regarding Community Power. He had questions about the program and rate changes and didn't feel that he had been notified about how to unenroll. Calvin and Ken both directed him to CPCNH Rep Beth McGuinn's email.
 - iii. Edgar will make sure CPCNH will be putting out mailers for the new rates that started on February 1st.
 - iv. Beth published a full explanation about how Community Power works in the December 2025 Canterbury Newsletter. She will put it in again for February.
 - e. Conservation Commission - Beth
 - i. The CCC has been reviewing wetlands permits.
 - ii. Audra Klumb is the newest Canterbury rep to UMLAC. She reported that it is a good group.
 - iii. They discussed investing the LUCT funds and should be reaching out to Ken. The LUCT fund currently has just over \$400K. Ken suggested doing laddered CDs for \$300K of it, so there is always a good amount on hand if they need to jump on an opportunity.
 - iv. The CCC discussed the trees the Cub Scouts want to plant. They want to help find places, but don't want to put them on conservation land because the trees will likely get damaged during the mowing the CCC does to combat invasives.
 - v. They have been discussing a bill coming up in the state legislature that would get rid of current use. They may ask the Selectboard to sign a letter against it depending on the timing.
 - f. Energy Committee - Beth
 - i. The EC met last night. They discussed SB 538 which is on the agenda for later tonight.
 - ii. Jeremy Whaley has proven to be a really great addition. He will be working on getting costs for a new level 2 audit for the municipal building.
 - iii. They discussed doing another Solarize Canterbury program, but decided to wait until the 10th anniversary in 2028.
 - iv. On Thursday, there will be a virtual lunch and learn about SB 538, and later in the month will be a virtual "button up" workshop.

2026-02-17 Board of Selectmen Minutes

- v. They discussed future educational projects and new membership.
- 5. New Business
 - a. Letter re SB 538
 - i. The Energy Committee would like the Selectboard to sign a letter in favor of SB 538 which would ensure municipalities are able to use net metering.
 - ii. The Selectboard agreed to sign the letter.
 - iii. The Energy Committee will also be signing and sending a letter in favor.
 - b. HB 1002
 - i. The Energy Committee wanted to thank Representative Alvin See for tabling HB 1002, which would have repealed the solar energy systems tax exemption.
 - ii. Beth will forward the email from Ruth Heath (EC Chair) and the Selectboard can do it individually.
 - c. Cody York
 - i. Beth noted that Cody York is a young man in Canterbury who wants to run for state rep. He has spoken individually with Beth and Calvin and will be reaching out to Scott soon.
- 6. Old Business
 - a. Tree Planting
 - i. See Selectboard minutes 2/2/26 section 8.a. for previous discussion.
 - ii. Ken got the details about the tree options and they are all huge, from 35 to 45 ft tall and \$1,850 to \$2,200. They would charge an extra \$1K in shipping and that possibly includes digging and planting. The tree would come with a plaque and they are willing to edit the plaque to be for Canterbury's Tricentennial as well as the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
 - iii. The Selectboard discussed the logistics of getting such a large tree, the timing of when it would arrive, and when the dying tree next to the Sam Lake House garage could be removed.
 - iv. Ken will consult Kevin Bragg about placement of the tree and if this is a good variety to plant.
 - b. Update on Affinity Lighting Project
 - i. See Selectboard minutes 2/2/26 section 4.a.vii. for previous discussion.
 - ii. Ken got the on-bill financing agreement from Unitil. Unitil had originally proposed funding \$11K, but now they are going to fund \$22K, so the Town will only need to fund \$22K instead of \$32K. This considerably reduces the monthly payment and increases the annual savings.
 - iii. The Meeting House is the only municipal building left in town that has fluorescent lighting. Ken will ask Affinity if they could do a similar project for that building, too.
- 7. Adjournment
 - a. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Next Meeting: 2026 March 2, 5:00 p.m. at the Meeting House

Minutes submitted by Kal McKay, Administrative Assistant