

Minutes of Meeting
Board of Adjustment
Canterbury, NH
23 July 2025

Present were: Chairman Jim Wieck, Sean O'Brien, Christopher Evans, Web Stout (via Zoom) and Lisa Carson, Alternate. Scott Herrick, Gary Spaulding and Randi Johnson were excused absences. Also present were: Kal McKay and Joe Lopez.

Chairman Wieck convened the meeting at 7 PM advising those present this is a work session meeting of the Board of Adjustment and no formal hearings will be heard. Chris moved to accept as written the Minutes of Meeting from 25 June 2025. Web seconded the motion, and the board voted to unanimously approve the minutes as written.

The first order of business to address is a request for a rehearing regarding Case No. 2024-7 that regards a school located at 161 New Road. In the original hearing, questions were raised by Tim Entwistle. The Board reviewed those questions at its previous meeting. The Board had one outstanding item it wanted to get guidance on which was whether or not there would be any impact to the property owners' rights, particularly abutters, particularly regarding the use of firearms. Chris asked for clarification that this is not an appeal, but a request for a rehearing because Mr. Entwistle felt there was information that we didn't consider. The Board felt all the items presented were not new information save one. The Board had questions about that last one and wanted to seek guidance as to whether the presence of firearms near a school impacted abutters' rights. The issue is a school zone. Discussion ensued about the number of people who have weighed in on the issue. Kal advised the Board of associated RSAs to the matter and their interpretations. The school district attorney advised it would be up to the town and police department to determine if a school zone would be created by the presence of this small, private learning environment. Kal read to the Board Mr. Entwistle's letter noting there are discrepancies in interpretations and understanding of related RSAs to this issue. No local authority is going to designate this a school zone. Extensive discussion by the Board continued until Chris moved to not grant a rehearing because there is no new correct information. Sean seconded the motion, and the Board vote was a unanimous decision to deny a rehearing.

The next agenda items, Right to Know and Code of Conduct, were opened for discussions. Chris said he'd read them through and what he got out of was that we can disagree, but it is best not to be disagreeable. Kal clarified the necessity, not from this Board, but from others that we adopt a Code of Conduct for our meetings and hearings and that at each start those present be reminded they are publicly posted for all to see, read and adhere to.

By-Laws are being recrafted, Kal attended NHMA trainings to realize things that need to be added before they can be reviewed by boards and committees and adopted. We will be required to hold two public meetings so the public can comment. We can vote to adopt at a third meeting after any changes are made. One of the things that needs correcting is the procedures for hearings and readings aloud of supporting documentation for applications or presentations. It needs formalizing. Chris asked if it could be put in a script form. If someone needed to conduct a hearing, they would have a written script to read to ensure the integrity of a hearing is met. She will do this. When she has completed the draft, it will be sent out to the whole board for review and comments. Chairman Wieck will be getting sworn in on Tuesday 29 July.

There was no further old business. No one had anything to bring to the meeting. A reminder was given about the All Boards meeting to which all boards, commissions and committees' chairs are specifically invited as well as the members and the public, Thursday, 4 September at 6 PM in the Meeting House. At that time the Code of Conduct as well as any other topics will be discussed. Chris made a motion to adjourn, Sean seconded the motion, and the board voted to unanimously adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT

Lisa Carlson, Clerk Board of Adjustment