

2026-03-16 Board of Selectmen Minutes

Town of Canterbury, NH  
Board of Selectmen  
Date: 2026 March 16  
Location: Meeting House

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

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

Department Heads: Sam Papps (Town Clerk-Tax Collector), Justin Crotty (Police Chief), John O'Connor (Road Agent), Michael Gamache (Fire Chief), Rachel Baker (Library Director)

Others Present: Kal McKay (Admin Assistant), Edgar Rivera (Libertad Press NE, CPCNH Rep), Beth McGuinn (CPCNH Rep), Fred Portnoy (CCPC)

1. Call to Order
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.
2. Elect Chair
  - a. Beth made a motion to reelect Scott Doherty as Selectboard Chair. Calvin seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
3. Department Heads
  - a. Michael Gamache (Fire Chief)
    - i. Chief Gamache distributed Canterbury Fire Department Selectmen's Report 2/17/26 through 3/16/26.
    - ii. There have been 67 calls so far this year.
    - iii. Chief Gamache recapped the close call that happened on I-93 last month. The incident was captured on video and will be used as a training tool.
    - iv. This past month there was an overnight Carbon Monoxide incident. The family had proper detection in the house so they called the Dept. when the alarms went off. Responders fixed the source of the gas and ventilated the house. Everyone was safe, but the levels were high enough that they would died in the night without the alarms.
    - v. The Dept. helped a Morrill Road resident install new smoke detectors. The existing ones were over 30 years old. The resident heard about the program through the newsletter.
    - vi. There is no longer sufficient snow cover on the ground, so fire permits are required.
    - vii. Chief Gamache thanked the Selectboard for attending the member recognition ceremony.
    - viii. The annual pancake breakfast will be on Saturday 4/25.
    - ix. Chief Gamache met with the Hildreth Farm developers (114 West Road). The water cistern is going in early and e911 house numbers have been assigned. The numbers can't be added to the state portal until the foundation for each building has been put in.
    - x. The new engine is expected to be finished in May and should hit the road in Canterbury late June. Chief Gamache will be going down to the factory in FL two times to review the truck.
    - xi. The Dept. had a meeting with the Red Cross this month. They provide a variety of services including finding housing for people displaced by fire/CO events.
    - xii. The Selectboard and Chief Gamache signed the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). Hard copies will be kept with Dept. Heads and in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Right now, the EOC is just a physical facility. Chiefs Gamache and Crotty intend to make it functional by the end of the year (e.g. installing phones, screens, etc.).
    - xiii. Concord is changing their radio channels so someone will be coming in to reprogram the radios with the new codes.

## 2026-03-16 Board of Selectmen Minutes

- xiv. Chief Gamache met with the new Tilton/Northfield Fire Chief and will be meeting with the new Belmont Chief soon.
- xv. The warrant articles for the command car and extrication equipment passed. The new command car should arrive in August, so Rescue 1 will be updated in September and we can decide about selling the old vehicle then.
- xvi. The old extrication equipment will be kept as a backup for incidents where simultaneous extrication would be helpful.
- b. Justin Crotty (Police Chief)
  - i. Chief Crotty distributed Canterbury Police Department Selectmen's Report 2/17/26 through 3/15/26 and speed reports for Baptist Hill Road and Boyce Road.
  - ii. There have been 6 Incidents, 1 Arrests, 2 Accidents, 37 Citations, and 320 Calls for Service this month.
  - iii. The Dept. will be hosting a Field Training Officer course in August and a Cognitive Interviewing & Detecting Deception course in September.
  - iv. Officers completed 4.5 hours of training this month.
  - v. The Dept. got the new speed radar device and so far have used it to do week-long reports on Baptist Hill Road and Boyce Road. This device doesn't record plates or take pictures, it just records speed, time, and direction so the Dept. can tell where and when they should have a patrol out doing speed enforcement.
  - vi. Chief Crotty reviewed the report results. It shows that speeding on Baptist Hill Road had 12% enforceable violations with only 109 cars going by and Boyce Road had 19% enforceable violations with 787 cars going by. The Dept. now knows the days and times to patrol Boyce Road. Chief Crotty will email the Selectboard the full reports.
  - vii. The radar is being moved to different locations each week to investigate other speeding complaints.
- c. Sam Papps (Town Clerk-Tax Collector)
  - i. Sam distributed the All Unpaid Receivables Listed by Warrant 3/16/2026.
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> notices have gone out that liens will be placed next week for overdue taxes.
  - iii. Sam has received no contact from Beulah Fellowship. Letters are not being returned as undeliverable and when they came in last summer he confirmed the mailing address.
  - iv. There were 159 people at Town Meeting on Friday. Minutes are under review and will be sent to the Selectboard.
  - v. The Selectboard thanked everyone who came to Town Meeting and voted.
- d. Rachel Baker (Library Director)
  - i. Sam Papps is assisting with installing a keypad lock for the Historical Society archive room.
  - ii. Jennifer Weberski (who ran for Library Trustee last week and did not win) has been invited to attend the Library Trustees meeting this evening.
  - iii. Rachel has been focusing on the Library of Things. 49 items are available for 1-week loans.
  - iv. A variety of passes will also be available this year, with funding for that provided by FEOPL.
  - v. Rachel talked with Peter Galatis today. He will be sending his son out tomorrow to fix the gutter. Ken asked Rachel to ask the son to look at a couple of things at the Town Hall that Ken had emailed Peter about and hadn't heard back yet.
  - vi. Rachel thanked the Selectboard for use of the Town Hall. They have 6 programs scheduled in there so far this year. Rachel said being able to use the Town Hall prevents the Library from needing to add an addition.
  - vii. Rachel thanked Jen Chase for doing a fabulous job at cleaning the Town Hall. Since Jen began working for the Town, the building has been amazingly clean and well taken care of. The Selectboard seconded that.

- e. John O'Connor (Road Agent)
  - i. One of the F550s is at Grappone's for repair. There is a national backorder for the parts, so we don't have any idea when it will come back.
  - ii. One of the Internationals needs to go to Manchester for a variety of repairs.
  - iii. The roads are starting to thaw and John has been adding stone to a lot of the dirt roads. No frozen culverts so far.
  - iv. 3.5 tons of coal patch has been placed. Mostly on Shaker Road, some on Intervale Road.
  - v. They were ready to ship mixed paper at the Transfer Station, but the place who was set to take it rejected it because it had too much brown paper. Looking for a new place now.
  - vi. There is little room left for storing recyclables, so John will move sand out of one of the salt shed bays so it can be used for storage.
  - vii. The chevrons and speed limit signs on Old Boyce Road and the bus stop sign on Old Tilton Road have all been placed.
  - viii. Nick Ferguson starts CDL school on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - ix. The big pothole on Kimball Pond Road was filled by the state.
  - x. For warrant articles approved last week, Ken ordered the waste oil burner and slide in water tank today. He has begun shopping for the packer truck. The new highway truck has been ordered and is at Fairfields with a turnaround estimate of 90 days. Either T1 or T2 will be sold when the new dump truck arrives. It depends on which one is in worse condition.
  - xi. Ken explained that CES has contacted the Town for help with their dumpster. Baptist Road has been posted by the State and they are refusing to let CES have Casella come empty their dumpster. Ken has contacted the District 3 Engineer and State Rep Mike Moffett. As a short-term solution, when we bring the packer truck to Wheelabrator, we will stop by CES to pick up their garbage too.
  - xii. The part of Shaker Road that is Town-maintained has also been posted. There was a problem last week when 5 concrete mixers showed up and went down the road. The contractor has been contacted and will get approval from the Road Agent for any other trucks. The concrete company may need to pay for damage.

#### 4. Administration

- a. The Selectboard signed:
  - i. Beth made a motion to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$82,528.55. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
  - ii. Scott signed mileage reimbursement check for Treasurer Al Edelstein in the amount of \$145.
  - iii. Beth made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$65,307.22. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
  - iv. Interfund transfer from TDBank Operating A/C to TDBank Conservation Commission Fund in the amount of \$18,253. This is a Land Use Change Tax payment.
  - v. Beth made a motion to sign the Welfare Manifest in the amount of \$1,575. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
  - vi. Veterans' Tax Credit for Map 233 Lot 37.
  - vii. Appointment Slips
    - 1. Jessica Treadway, 1 year reappointment as interim Moderator. She will have to run for election next year. The Selectboard thanked her for doing a great job last week.
    - 2. Alice Todd, 2 years to Recreation Committee
    - 3. Kelly Short, 3 years reappointment to Conservation Commission
    - 4. Bob Steenson, 3 years reappointment to Conservation Commission
    - 5. Lance Messinger, 3 years reappointment to Conservation Commission
  - viii. Fee Schedule

## 2026-03-16 Board of Selectmen Minutes

1. The changes were corrections to match the ZBA and PB applications and MCRD fees.
- ix. Letter to Trustees of the Trust Funds directing them to implement WA 2026-20 by creating an ETF, transferring the funds from the CRF to the ETF, and closing the CRF.
- b. Previous Minutes Approval
  - i. Kal read aloud the suggested changes.
    1. Line 95: Specify that the tree not being purchased is a Liberty Tree
    2. Line 133: Include that Nicolo Anastasy is a rep for Meridian
  - ii. Scott made a motion to approve the public minutes as amended for the Selectboard meeting on March 2, 2026. Calvin seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
5. Selectboard Representative Reports and Determine Representatives for this year
  - a. Planning Board – Scott
    - i. The PB approved with conditions a subdivision on Asby Road of Map 228 Lot 11. The applicant sung the praises of Land Use Administrator Michelle Hammond for her help during the application process. Scott thanked Michelle for her work.
    - ii. The PB reviewed the conditions of approval for the Hildreth Farm development (114 West Road).
    - iii. The PB also approved a subdivision on Baptist Hill Road of Map 213 Lot 11.
    - iv. They also had been working on the now approved zoning amendments.
  - b. Tricentennial Committee – Scott
    - i. The next meeting is on Thursday. There are a lot of projects in the works and fundraising sales happening.
    - ii. Calvin asked why they haven't asked come to the Town yet to ask for funds. Scott explained they are trying to do fund raising first to generate the seed money. Since the final slate of events/budgets for the events aren't finished, they don't know how much to ask for yet.
  - c. Community Power Committee – Beth
    - i. The CCPC will be in later this meeting to discuss rates with the Selectboard.
    - ii. The CCPC will be hosting a listening session on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.
  - d. Conservation Commission – Beth
    - i. The CCC discussed the zoning amendments and considered weighing in on the wetlands article that was approved. They would like to say more about vernal pools.
    - ii. They are working on outreach, have workdays planned, and discussed the updated NH Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan.
    - iii. They will be picking out a new Chair since Ken Stern's term is up and he can't do it for a 4<sup>th</sup> time in a row.
  - e. Energy Committee – Beth
    - i. The EC is looking for new members.
    - ii. The EC wanted to see if the Meeting House could get a copy of the energy audit when the Municipal Complex is evaluated.
    - iii. Ken will check. He got contacted by the audit company today and will be getting dates and costs from them for both buildings.
    - iv. Beth Blair and Beth McGuinn will be going to a workshop talking about municipal battery storage.
  - f. The HDC will be meeting later this week for the first time since October.
  - g. The Recreation Committee will be meeting in May.
  - h. Schoolboard – Calvin
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting since the election will be next week. Everything the last two months has been about the budget.

## 2026-03-16 Board of Selectmen Minutes

- ii. They will be working on CBA and grants. Calvin wants to keep an eye on what grants they are applying for and look for opportunities for the Town to work with the District on joint applications.
- i. 2026 Selectboard Representatives
  - i. Scott explained that he no longer had time to Chair the Selectboard and be the rep for the Planning Board.
  - ii. The Board discussed and Calvin will be the new Planning Board rep since his other committees are seasonal/infrequent.
  - iii. All other Selectboard reps will remain the same.
- 6. New Business
  - a. Conflict of Interest Policy
    - i. Ken emailed out a sample policy from another town.
    - ii. When Scott was answering questions for the annual audit, he noticed that a Conflict of Interest Policy is the only suggested one that we don't yet have.
    - iii. The Selectboard will review the sample policy and send suggested edits to Kal, then review the new draft at the next meeting.
  - b. 2025 Owed Overtime and 2026 Payrates
    - i. Kal explained that while doing a review of overtime in 2025 to collect data for a new tax deduction, they found hours that should have been paid as overtime. They compiled a list and calculated how much each person was owed, so the additional money could be paid out.
    - ii. The Selectboard authorized paying the owed overtime and signed the paysheet.
    - iii. Kal asked the Selectboard to confirm which payrates they wanted for the Police Dept. so they could set up the new payrates in the payroll system and calculate retro pay.
    - iv. The Selectboard confirmed that after going back and forth, they had settled on doing the proposed wages increases rather than doing COLA plus bonuses. Scott and Beth were in favor of increasing the payrates because Chief Crotty had advised that the uncertainty of bonuses rather than raises would negatively affect retention. Calvin was in favor of doing bonuses so as to not memorialize the wage increases until the new Police Dept. report and long-term plan was decided.
    - v. The Selectboard signed off on the 2026 payrates.
  - c. Landfill Post-Closure Report
    - i. 2 years ago, DES began requiring that the Town fill out an annual post-closure report for the old landfill at the Transfer Station. Ken did the report for 2024 and 2025. 2024 was accepted, but this year DES rejected it, saying that their requirements have changed and they now require an engineer's stamp and 2 annual inspections.
    - ii. Ken contacted Aries Engineering and it will cost \$2,300 for them to do the report. This wasn't budgeted for, but he will find a line the money could be taken from. We will make sure it gets budgeted for in 2027.
    - iii. Scott signed the agreement for Aries to do the post-closure report.
  - d. Power Company for Municipal Buildings
    - i. Ken was contacted by Neighborhood Energy in Thornton NH. They are a 3<sup>rd</sup> party electricity supplier and would like to see our electric bills to create a proposal. They believe they could offer power at 10 cents per kWh as opposed to the 14 cents per kWh that the Town currently gets through Community Power.
    - ii. The Town used to use a different 3<sup>rd</sup> party supplier before the switch to Community Power.
    - iii. Ken will send them the bills, but told them we are pretty committed to Community Power.
  - e. Cemetery Trust Funds
    - i. Beth suggested asking the Cemetery Trustees to look into the Perpetual Care – Cemetery Lots non-expendable Trust Fund. There is \$57K in there now and although only the interest

## 2026-03-16 Board of Selectmen Minutes

may be used, if it is possible to get even \$1K annually, that could offset some of the maintenance costs.

- ii. Each perpetual care fund can only be used for the grave it is associated with, so a lot of math would need to be done to determine how much of the labor, fuel, etc. is used for each burial plot.
- iii. NHMA will be hosting a class in June for trustees and how this works will be one of the topics. Beth suggested asking the Trustees to attend that class and see if this idea is feasible.
- iv. The Selectboard will send along the training info and ask the Cemetery Trustees to come into a future Selectboard meeting to discuss the idea.

### 7. Old Business

#### a. Sign Policy

- i. See Selectboard minutes 10/20/26 section 6.a. for previous discussion.
- ii. The Friends of Canterbury Center are applying for a sign and wanted to know if the Selectboard ever finished updating it after their discussions last year.
- iii. The last discussion was about if they wanted to try doing a town-managed sign or continue on with allowing everyone to place their own signs.
- iv. Beth will resend the pictures and Kal will resend the last draft. The Selectboard will refresh their memory on the topic and come back to discuss/finalize the policy at the next meeting.

### 8. Community Power

- a. See Selectboard minutes 3/2/26 section 5.b. for previous discussion.
- b. Edgar Rivera (CPCNH Rep), Beth McGuinn (CPCNH Rep), and Fred Portnoy (CCPC member) attended the meeting.
- c. Edgar handed out a packet of information to the Selectboard.
- d. Scott explained that he read an article about how several communities in NH have left Community Power because the rates have been higher than the utility companies. He found out from the article that CPCNH had to use \$8M to purchase extra power because they didn't correctly set their rates, and rebuilding their reserves is part of why the rates went up for the February 2026 - July 2026 period. He is concerned that Community Power came with a promise of lowered rates and that hasn't materialized.
- e. Beth McGuinn explained that in her view, what was reported was a little sensationalized.
  - i. Bow is pulling out of Merrimack County's Community Power program, not CPCNH directly. Wilmot, who pulled out last year, also left Merrimack County's program. Hudson has officially requested to pull out of CPCNH. These are communities where the Selectboards were against Community Power in general.
  - ii. The \$8M loss happened because the organization was new and didn't have a track record to base their initial rates on, so they priced under the existing utility companies (Eversource, Unitil). When it was discovered that the rates were too low to cover expenses, the prices were corrected to cover the cost of supplying and rebuilding the reserves.
  - iii. When Community Power started and the utility companies suddenly had serious competition, they all dropped their rates to undercut Community Power. Those companies are taking losses because of their artificially low rates, but because they have significant reserves built up, they haven't yet had to correct the rates like Community Power has.
  - iv. Another loss is about to happen now for all of the utilities because ISO New England estimated Day-Ahead Ancillary Services Initiative costs to be \$2 per MW, but it ended up being \$43 per MW. So all power suppliers are going to have to correct for that in the coming rate cycles.
  - v. Lower rates were one of the benefits advertised when Canterbury voted to join Community Power, but local control, a voice at the PUC, and the opportunity to set money aside for town expenses were also part of the appeal. Those last 3 are still happening.

- vi. Right now, any individual resident has a choice between Community Power and the other utility companies. If the Town pulls out of Community Power, then residents will not have that choice.
- f. Scott expressed frustration that the adder funds haven't accumulated as promised. Beth McGuinn countered that this is due only having Canterbury Basic as the default rate for one 6-month rate period, Canterbury being a small town, and Canterbury only having 75-80% participation (800-900 meters) because of the high number of net metering customers.
- g. Scott asked if CCPC has heard from anyone struggling to opt out of Community Power; one newspaper reported people having trouble getting off of Community Power. Beth McGuinn said she has only heard from people who ended up having good experiences.
- h. Edgar explained that the handouts are electricity bills from two different people in the Eversource service area of Canterbury.
  - i. This shows the difference in rates over the last year and between the Community Power plans.
  - ii. The Community Power rates only affects the supply portion of the bill; the delivery charges and other fees are what make up most of the bill and those are where the largest increases have been year over year. If someone were to withdraw from Community Power, the 2 cent difference in the kWh supply charge wouldn't result in a huge amount of savings because the other fees would still be in place.
  - iii. Eversource and Unitil recently got the ability to purchase electricity from the spot market, increasing their risk and decreasing their rates. Last year when they did this, they ended up undercharging for the electricity. The PUC allowed them to make up for this loss by increasing the delivery charges, but CPCNH went to court and prevented them from doing this. So having a voice with CPCNH saved customers across all utilities from having to pay a higher delivery charge to make up for the utility companies' risky decision.
- i. Beth McGuinn added that bigger picture shows that adding Community Power as a competitor forced the big utility companies to drop their supply charges from \$0.24 to \$0.08 per kWh. So even if Community Power is 2 cents higher in this rate period, the supply rate is still much lower than a few years ago.
- j. The next rate period will be negotiated at the end of June. Now that Community Power has a track record to rely on, they will be pricing bases on how much it cost to supply power. Rebuilding the reserves after the \$8M loss and the global power situation will factor in.
- k. The 2 cent adder that is being used to rebuild the reserves is expected to decrease as CPCNH gets closer to the \$30M goal (60 day reserve). It takes 3 months to see how much is actually making it into the reserves after all other bills are settled, so as of today, they don't know how quickly it is building up. Beth McGuinn said that before the recent market instability, the adder was expected to be 2 cents for 2026, 1.5 for the first half of 2027, and then steadily decreasing down to nothing for the next couple of years.
- l. Beth McGuinn compared the situation to the stock market. If the Town withdraws now when the rates are higher, we won't benefit when the rates lower again. To rejoin, we would have to start from scratch and by the time we got signed back up the rates will have changed. It makes more sense for individual residents to opt in and out each rate period.
- m. Some people have come to CCPC with their bills to understand the costs and consider opting out of Community Power. So far they haven't heard from anyone who decided to opt out. All of the increased bills were either due to things like a new electric car or the delivery fees increasing.
- n. Beth Blair pointed out that communicating the choices and ability to opt out is the issue. She requested Beth McGuinn get the data on how many have opted up/down/out/in so they could try and determine if the communications in the newsletter have been effective.

## 2026-03-16 Board of Selectmen Minutes

- o. CCPC will be hosting a listening session on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at Town Hall to hear residents' concerns and questions about their bills and Community Power. A rep from CPCNH will be there so we can ask them questions.
  - p. Edgar explained that the Town is allowed to withdraw from Community Power at any time. Any adder funds still held by CPCNH could be returned, but the timeline would be up to 36 months.
  - q. There was some discussion about ensuring residents are getting a fair deal, how to improve communication, the good service and competition to utilities that Community Power has provided, and how even though residents can opt out at any time, human nature is to stick with the default.
  - r. Beth Blair suggested that the CCPC might hold work sessions at the Meeting House for residents who want help opting out of Community Power. There was consensus that this would be a good idea
9. Old Business
- a. Meeting House lights proposal from Affinity
    - i. See Selectboard minutes 2/17/26 section 6.b. for previous discussion.
    - ii. Affinity provided a very high cost for switching the Meeting House lights to LED and estimated a 10-year payback. That payback would probably be even longer since they estimated based on an 8-hour day, but we don't use that building that much.
    - iii. Ken will be getting a price for the same work from the electrician who did the lights at the Municipal Complex high bays to see if a more reasonable price and payback are possible.
10. Executive Session
- a. Scott made a motion at 7:13 p.m. to enter into Non-Public session as per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss renewing the Police Chief contract. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
  - b. Scott made a motion at 7:39 p.m. to exit the Non-Public session. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
  - c. Scott made a motion to seal the minutes. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
11. Data Centers
- a. Kerry Clock approached Ken at end of Town Meeting to give him an article to give to the Selectboard about data centers. He understood that the zoning amendment to ban data centers passed on Tuesday, but felt this article had a lot of pertinent info if further discussions are ever had.
12. Town Meeting
- a. Beth suggested that at the next Town Meeting, there should be a ceremony at the beginning or end of the meeting to swear in all of the newly elected officials.
  - b. Scott was leery of adding further time to the already lengthy meeting.
  - c. Kal pointed out that an official's term doesn't technically end until the Town Meeting is officially closed, so the meeting would have to be closed before a swearing in ceremony could take place.
13. Adjournment
- a. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Next Meeting: 2026 April 6, 6:00 p.m. at the Meeting House

Minutes submitted by Kal McKay, Administrative Assistant