Historic District Commission Minutes
Town of Canterbury, NH
July 15, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. Meeting House

Members Present:
Kevin Bragg (Chair), Vanessa Crofton, Ted West, Calvin Todd (Selectboard Rep)

Members Absent:
Anne Emerson, Jessica Scanlon (Alternate)

Others Present:
Jim Sojka, Rev. Becky Josephson, Ron Turcotte, Jim Moir
Cheryl Andrew (Recording Secretary)

Call to Order:
Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

New Business:

- Public Hearing – Canterbury United Community Church, 5 Center Road, Map 106 Lot 2

Jim Sojka (CUCC Board of Trustees) presented the application for building ramp access at the main entrance of the church. This project was approved by the church body at the Annual Meeting as the entrance is not currently ADA compliant. There is an aluminum ramp which is unstable and poses a safety issue. The top step would be extended out to eight feet with a 7" x 8'7" granite slab. There will be four granite posts pointing to egress at the front and the sides of the top step. Asphalt walkways at the front and sides will be replaced with a base of gravel and repaved above grade to allow for better drainage. The walkway will be sloped to the parking lot and the curb near the lamppost will be cut to allow for accessibility.
Further, the walkway from the store to the parish house will be replaced with a five foot walkway. Due to the drainage issues in the winter, this will not have an ADA compliant rise, but will be wide enough so assistance can be provided to those who need it.

Kevin asked for questions or comments from the public who were present.
Rev. Josephson (CUCC Pastor) said she would like to allow people in wheelchairs and those who require assistance walking to be able to enter the church as easily as others. The entrance should look welcoming and deliberate rather than inclusion as an afterthought. The walkways are cracking and are currently a hazard which needs to be addressed.
Mr. Turcotte (CUCC Board of Trustees) noted the ramp and walkways have been discussed for several years, and the church now has the funds to be able to proceed with the project.
Mr. Moir (Canterbury Community Market, LLC) said the walkway from the Parish House to the back of the store has drainage issues in the winter. Reducing the grading will allow for better drainage. As the walkway is on church property, the church and the LLC should work together to resolve any concerns of connecting a brick walkway to a paved walkway.
There will be a curb cut in the parking lot at the lamppost for wheelchair accessibility. The question was raised regarding a specified handicap parking space, for which regulations require lines and signage. Kevin noted every parking lot must have 1 ADA space for every 6 spaces, and the first must be van accessible. There is an area in front of the store which has a cordoned off

area to fit this requirement. The church front entrance will be ADA compliant to the parking lot, but the side entrances are pitched too steeply. Ted suggested working on the ramps and the grading as the present concern, and leaving the parking lot for discussion with the LLC and a future application as the project progresses.

Kevin asked for questions or comments from the Board.
Ted noted he appreciated the updated plan with the granite posts heading the path to the walkways.
Calvin asked about the timing of the project from start to completion. Mr. Sojka responded the granite slab must be cut. The start time of the project may be as late as October or November, which would add a challenge of the weather. The project may be put off until Spring 2027.
Kevin asked why there are four posts. Mr. Sojka said two will be added at the end of the entry slab as a heading for the walkways away from the building. On the second step near the building there will be a concrete slab and 10 inch granite cubes to indicate that there is a step-back hazard. People will not be able to walk that closely to the building when the church doors are open.
Kevin also noted the width of the asphalt walkway of five feet, noting the usual 2 person width is up to 48 inches. The 60 inch walkway will allow for three persons, or two persons and a wheelchair to walk together.
An extended walkway of 20-25 feet will collect water and requires proper grading. Ice melting from the roof and snow removal activity contributes to the problem of water and ice on the walkway from the church to the store. Currently water collects at the corner of the building so there will need to be a granite drainage bed to channel the water next to the walkway.
Ted made a motion to approve the application as presented. The motion was seconded by Vanessa. A vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:
There were no edits presented for the minutes of the May 20, 2026 meeting. Kevin made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2026 meeting as written, motion seconded by Ted. A vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.
With no edits presented for the minutes of the June 17, 2026 meeting, Kevin made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 17, 2026 meeting as written, motion seconded by Ted. A vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.
Minutes of the June 25, 2026 meeting were presented with no edits. Ted made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2026 meeting as written, motion seconded by Calvin. A vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Kevin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Ted. A vote was taken, all in favor, motion passed.
The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Next Meeting: 19, 2026, 7:00p.m. at the Meeting House
Minutes submitted by: Cheryl Andrew, Recording Secretary