

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
May 1, 2023

Selectmen Present: Cheryl Gordon
Kent Ruesswick
Scott Doherty

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

Administration

The Selectmen signed: Elderly exemption for Tax Map 240 Lot 11
Solid Waste Appointment Slips (4)
Conservation Commission Appointment Slips (2)
TD Bank Signature Cards

Kent made a motion to sign Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$526,937.22. Scott seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Kent made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$43,291.56. Scott seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the April 15, 2023, meeting. Cheryl made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Kent seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Appointments

Brian Salas of Eversource attended the meeting. Brian explained that he is a registered arborist for Eversource. Brian reported that they like to do would be annual maintenance along the roadways in Canterbury, including 4 scenic roads (Clough Pond Road, Baptist Hill Road and Hackleboro Road) if approved by the Board of Selectmen. Their goal is to remove as many of the hazardous trees (mainly dead ash trees) with landowners' permission.

Scott explained that one time, the Fire Department cut, split, and donated firewood to residents in need. Scott will take to Chief Gamache to see if the wood was brought to a site behind the Municipal Building if he would be willing to have volunteers do that again.

Kent made a motion to approve the removal of the dead ash trees as outlined by Brian Salas. Scott seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Conservation Commission Co-Chair Kelly Short attended the meeting.

Kelly reported that Deepwood Trust has put almost 400 acres into a conservation easement. The Canterbury Conservation Commission voted to spend \$36,943 out of the land use change tax to 5 Rivers Trust to assist in preserving the land. The total cost of the easement is \$286,943. The land will be open to the public, the landowner has created trails throughout the property. Kelly reported that a public hearing was held. Kent asked Kelly to have this type of hearing publicized a little better as he wasn't aware of the project.

Kelly reported that Eversource had contacted the Conservation Commission asking permission to access the power lines through the town's property on Sawyers Ferry Road. Eversource asked for a 20' wide by 100' long access easement. The Conservation Commission approved but it's the Selectmen's responsibility to give permission to allow access over town land. The Selectmen agreed to the easement and asked Ken to contact Eversource.

Kelly reported that the Conservation Commission has been in contact with Doug Cygan from the State of NH to discuss the management of invasive species in various locations in town.

Kelly explained that the Conservation Commission had been contacted by the Martins on Kimball Pond Road. Their property abuts conservation land. There are very large pines bordering the Martins property and they asked to have the Conservation Commission have them removed as they could hit their house if they should come down. Kelly did receive a quote from Magoon Tree Service. Because of the location of the trees and difficulty getting equipment to them, he estimated \$3,500 per tree. Kelly and the Board discussed various ways to fund having the trees removed. Kelly suggested that they propose a cost share on the project. Ken will reach out to the Martins to discuss a reasonable plan.

Kelly reported that for the first time in 50 years, Bob Fife will not be a member of the Conservation Commission.

Cemetery Trustees Sam Papps and John Goegel attended the meeting. The Trustees have worked on the Shell Meetinghouse cemetery, laying out new grave sites to sell. The Trustees have chosen to sell spaces at the Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery that the \$400 fee be split two ways: \$100 of the fee would be deposited to the General Fund and the remainder of the fee (\$300) would be a donation to the Canterbury Cemetery Association, the 501c3 non-profit association, to be used to continue the preservation projects at the cemetery. The Selectmen approved the proposal. Ken suggested that the Trustees submit an annual report to be included in the town report to show the number of plots sold and the revenue received.

New Business

Ken distributed a spreadsheet outlining the times and money spent on administrative duties of various boards and committees for their review.

Ken updated the Selectmen on the letters he had sent out to all our State Representatives, State Senator, Executive Council, and the Governor. He received responses from all except for the Governor. Everyone is still waiting for the Federal Government to finalize their permanent rules to be used for the grant. The interim rules will expire on July 4, 2023.

Ken reported that the Hazardous Mitigation Plan has been approved and bound copies will be sent to the Town.

Ken updated the Board on the new baler at the Transfer Station. The baler is up and running and has produced bales. Ken updated the Selectmen on changes to the cost vs. revenue using the new baler. Ken mentioned that a discussion should be had with various vendors for pricing to accept large truck tires.

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Ken updated the Selectmen on the concern Rachel Baker had with the door at the back of the library. Rachel had received an estimate of \$7,800 to replace. Ken and Joel French looked at the door, instead of a full replacement, the issue could be corrected with minor repairs. Joel also suggested minor changes to correct the heat issue in the Historical Society office in the library.

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Ken explained that part of the grant he applied for requires a letter to NH the Beautiful with pictures of the baler in operation before funds are distributed. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the letter.

Ken stated that Assessor Mandy Irving notified him that under RSA 72:23c any organization that has not filed their tax-exempt paperwork by April 15th will be receiving a tax bill. There are 3 properties that are affected by this. Ken asked the Selectmen if he could contact the property owners and let them know that the tax bill will be coming.

Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. Cheryl seconded the motion.

The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting will be held on May 15, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the Meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant

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