

Town of Canterbury, NH  
Board of Selectmen  
Date: 2024 March 4  
Location: Meeting House

Selectmen: Cheryl Gordon (Chair), Kent Ruesswick, Scott Doherty

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

Others Present: Edgar Rivera (Libertad Press NE), Jim Miller (Moderator), Lois Scribner (PB Secretary), Lisa Carlson (ZBA Secretary), Kelly Short (Conservation Commission Chair)

1. Call to Order
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. Administration
  - a. The Selectmen signed:
    - i. Kent made a motion to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$453,428.97. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
    - ii. Kent made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$56,006.53. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
    - iii. The Selectmen signed a Yield Tax Levy for Map 204 Lot 11 in the amount of \$1,980.03.
    - iv. The Selectmen signed a Warrant for Land Use Change Tax for Map 248 Lot 25 in the amount of \$1,875.
    - v. The Selectmen signed the deed for sale of Map 102 Lot 36 for the amount of \$2,500 to Sandra Steenbergen. See Selectmen's Minutes 2/5/24 Section 5.c. for previous discussion.
    - vi. The Selectmen signed slips to appoint Howard Moffett and Tim Meeh to the Community Power Committee.
    - vii. The Selectmen signed a Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Map 263 Lots 53/54.
    - viii. The Selectmen signed a letter regarding the Windswept Farm Trailer.
      1. See Selectmen's Minutes 1/8/24 Section 5.a. for previous discussion.
      2. The property owner parked their trailer in the right of way. Ken drafted a letter to request they remove it.
  - b. Previous Minutes Approval
    - i. Kent made a motion to approve the public minutes for the Selectmen's meeting on February 20, 2024. Scott seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
    - ii. Scott made a motion to approve the executive session minutes for the Selectmen's meeting on February 20, 2024. Cheryl seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
    - iii. Scott made a motion to approve the public minutes for the Selectmen's meeting on February 22, 2024. Kent seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
3. Moderator Jim Miller
  - a. Jim discussed preparations for the election and Town Meeting next week.
  - b. He will be moving Article 15 before Article 13 during the Town Meeting.
  - c. Highway will set up the Town Hall for the election on Monday morning, so Jim will do the posting and walkthrough mid-afternoon.
  - d. The Planning Board's request to have information in the Town Hall hallway regarding the zoning ordinance warrant articles was denied because that would be considered electioneering within the voting area.
4. Land Use Administrator Position

- a. Scott made a motion at 5:06 p.m. to enter into Non-Public session as per RSA 91-A: 3 (a) to discuss a personnel matter. Kent seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
  - b. Scott made a motion at 5:52 p.m. to exit the Non-Public session and to seal the minutes. Kent seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
5. Kelly Short for Conservation Commission (CC)
- a. Trails Committee
    - i. CC would like to create a Trails Committee to manage the organization and maintenance of trails in the Town. They would like to gather local trail experts together to form this committee. They would like it to be a separate entity so that trails don't become the main topic at CC meetings.
    - ii. The question is whether this committee should be formal or informal and whether it should report directly to the Selectboard or be a sub-committee of CC.
    - iii. Kelly and the Selectboard discussed what duties this committee would have and what projects it would prioritize.
      1. They would determine their own prioritization, but would likely start with maintaining existing trails on Town-owned property.
      2. Potential projects include adopting existing trails, working with private land-owners who have trails open to the public, ensuring trails are safe and marked, publicizing trails, recreating the snow mobile trail network, creating other trail networks, working with Shaker Villages on their trails.
    - iv. Liability was also discussed. Using nationally recognized trail standards would ensure consistency and legal defensibility. In NH, private land-owners who allow their land to be used for public recreation cannot be sued if there is an accident.
    - v. The Selectboard's representative has not been attending CC meetings.
    - vi. The Selectboard decided to table this matter until the new Selectman is elected and can weigh in on how they think this should be organized.
  - b. Riverland Conservation Area
    - i. The existing signage is confusing and has conflicting messages. CC is drafting new signs and will circulate the language with Highway and Police before posting.
    - ii. CC would like to change the open dates from "Memorial Day to Columbus Day" to "May 15 to November 15".
    - iii. A previous Selectboard decided on the current dates to keep the parking lot closed during wet weather and to prevent illegal dumping that occurs when the area isn't consistently populated.
    - iv. CC has heard concerns from abutters that people are hunting in the area. There are signs that say "no hunting", but the area is not posted. They believe that posting the entire area is unrealistic, so working with NH Fish and Game to create safety zones would be more efficient.
    - v. They would also like to get feedback from the local hunting community to see if there are better conservation areas that hunters could be directed to.
  - c. Meadowsend Property Conservation
    - i. See Selectboard Minutes 12/4/24 Section 4.a. for previous discussion.
    - ii. Kelly needed to discuss the negotiation with the land-owner.
    - iii. Scott made a motion at 6:18 p.m. to enter into Non-Public session as per RSA 91-A: 3 (d) to discuss acquisition of property. Kent seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
    - iv. Scott made a motion at 6:24 p.m. to exit the Non-Public session and to seal the minutes. Kent seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
6. New Business
- a. Election Signs Complaint

- i. A resident mailed a complaint to the Selectboard about the safety of the intersection at Kimball Pond Road and 132. There are a number of local election signs and a Budget Blinds sign placed there currently, and they refer to other signs placed there throughout the year (Farmers Market in summer, and other elections). They believe the signs impact visibility and cause dangerous driving conditions.
- ii. They included several photographs of the area in their letter.
- iii. The Town has had signs removed for safety before, but that is usually the purview of the Road Agent or Police Department. Signs that are on private property cannot be removed.
- iv. Some of the signs mentioned in the letter are in the State's right of way and would need to be removed by the state. The Town only has the authority to remove signs on municipal property.

## 7. Old Business

### a. Wyven Road

- i. See Selectboard Minutes 2/20/24 Section 4.a. and Planning Board Minutes 2/13/24 Section 4 for previous discussion.
- ii. Alfred Nash of Wyven Road is trying to subdivide his property. The initial issue was trying to figure out if Wyven Road is discontinued or Class VI. It was determined that Wyven Road is a private road.
- iii. Currently Mr. Nash is looking at upgrading the north end of Wyven Road with [thermally treated non-hazardous soils](#) which are created using [thermal desorption](#).
- iv. The Selectboard and Planning Board received 5 letters from residents concerned about the material that Mr. Nash intends to use for the road upgrade.
- v. The NH DES says that the material is fine to use on roads.
- vi. The Town has road specifications, but they don't discuss material besides saying what size it needs to be. Road Agent John O'Connor has not encountered this issue before.
- vii. Ken will contact the Town's counsel to find out if the Selectboard can or should weigh in on this issue.

### b. Old Schoolhouse Road Bonds

- i. The notice of intent to cut signed above (Map 263 Lots 53/54) is for property on Old Schoolhouse Road. This road is currently posted, restricting the weight of vehicles during mud season.
- ii. Eversource has already offered the Town a \$30K bond to continue using the road while it is posted. If they damage the road, the Town will keep the money and use it for repairs.
- iii. The loggers would also like to give the Town a bond so they may use the road.
- iv. If two bonds are held for this road at the same time, it will be difficult/impossible to attribute damage to one party or the other. This would lead to a dispute about who should pay for the repairs and could result in litigation.
- v. The Selectboard decided to not accept a second bond.

## 8. Adjournment

- a. This is Cheryl's last regular meeting. Ken, Kent, and Scott thanked her for her service.
- b. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Cheryl seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Next Meeting:            Working Session on 2024 March 5, 5:00 p.m. at the Sam Lake House  
                                   Town Meeting on 2024 March 15, 7:00 p.m. at Canterbury Elementary School  
                                   Regular Meeting on 2024 March 18, 5:00 p.m. at the Meeting House

Minutes submitted by Kathleen McKay, Administrative Assistant