SELECTBOARD MEETING

MINUTES

June 11, 2026

I. OPEN MEETING – Walkthrough of Flether Park – 5:00 P.M. – The working session of the board commenced at 5:00 P.M. at Fletcher Park in Canaan. Those present included Dillon Begin, Alfred Buckley, Alan Leigh, Zachary Brown, and Vernon Crawford (Tree Warden). No members of the public, contractors or other, attended the working session. The following recommendations were made to the board, however, no action or discussion was had regarding the recommendations at this working session. The trees were listed in a numerical order with tree number one beginning at the end of the park next to the Essex North Supervisory Building and working counterclockwise.

1. All Good, no needed maintenance.
2. All Good, no needed maintenance.
3. Few limbs will need to be removed, removal of deadwood.
4. All Good, no needed maintenance.
5. Few limbs will need to be removed, removal of deadwood.
6. Few limbs will need to be removed, potentially this tree will need to be removed.
7. Few limbs will need to be trimmed back, crowing, removal of dead wood or limbs that lean towards the center of the park or towards Gale Street.
8. Fairly Stable & Healthy, potentially crown trees to remove weight from the top.
9. Fairly Stable & Healthy, potentially crown trees to remove weight from the top.
10. Few limbs will need to be removed, removal of deadwood.
11. All Good, no needed maintenance.
12. Poor Condition, the tree may need to be removed in the near future. No imminent danger.
13. All Good, removal of deadwood if found and potential crowning.

Vern recommended to the board that they focus on removing deadwood from the trees and any large limbs that pose immediate danger to occupants of the park. He then suggested that the next focus would be on crowning the trees to remove weight from the top. The final priority would be to remove any trees that are dying or have died. Zach asked him what his opinion would be on where to plant the new Liberty Elm the town is receiving. Vern suggested either back at the Town Office or between trees 10-13. Vern suggested that any quote should be for removing the dead wood first, compare that to the budget and see where that takes it. He will discuss the project with a few contractors, and the board will do the same. The working session adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

I. OPEN MEETING—Chairman Begin called the June 11, 2026, meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Those present included Dillon Begin, Alfred Buckley, Alan Leigh, April Busfield, Jason Busfield, and Zachary Brown. Dennis Johnson, Kevin Thibeault, Kevin McKinnon, Diana Rancourt, Georgiana Carr, David Begin, Richard Marchesseault, Krista Rodrigue, Daniel Johnson and Jason Belknap joined the meeting in person. Jason Belknap would later join the meeting via Zoom. No other members of the public joined via Zoom or in person.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 25 & 29, 2026, Meeting Minutes –

a. The May 25, 2026, meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed by board members before and at the meeting. Al made a motion to approve May 25, 2026, meeting minutes, and Alan seconded. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative.

b. The May 29, 2026 special meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed by board members before and at the meeting. Al made a motion to approve the May 29, 2026 special meeting minutes, and Alan seconded. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative.

III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA—Zach made the following additions the agenda, the 2026 NEMRC assessing contract, a discussion on cemetery policies/ordinances, a request from Canaan Fire District 2 and correspondence from them, and a request to attend the July 17th meeting with the State of Vermont and taxpayers. No further additions nor deletions were made the agenda. The board were fine with the additions and will discuss them under new business.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

a. Daniel Johnson and Krista Rodrigue – A lengthy discussion was had between the board, members of the public, and Daniel and Krista (Representing the Canaan Border Rider), regarding police coverage at softball tournaments, delinquent bills, and correspondence sent to the club. A summary of the discussion resulted in the admission that there was confusion around billing and number of hours worked, that there are benefits to the Town of Canaan with the tournaments but that not everyone benefits, and that better communication is needed. Daniel Johnson will work with Trevor to see what the hours were and if there needs to be a correction. Zach noted that if the Border Riders pay the bill and later find out hours have changed, he would write them a refund . The board discussed the issues further under old business.

V. ECONOMIC DEVLOPMENT COMMITTEE – David Begin and many other members of the public were in to express their interest in forming an economic development committee. David spearheaded the discussion and the idea. Ideally he would like to form a committee with townspeople, taxpayers, town employees, and town officials. The priorities of the committee would be to investigate the purchase of the Ethan Allen finishing building and surrounding lands, the vacant land in Ethan Allen Park, and the Johnson's Field next to the treatment plant. These would all focus on bringing infrastructure, employment, and housing opportunities to the Town. The committee would work closely with the selectboard and state partners to accomplish this. A short discussion was held on how a committee such as this could be founded and what rules they would have to follow. Zach told the board that he would be happy to draft bylaws for their next meeting. He also noted that if incorporated into Town governance they would need to follow all open meeting law requirements. He also noted, which Kevin McKinnon agreed, that there would be far more funding available for these projects if it ran through the Town. The following people expressed interest in joining this committee: Dennis Johnson, Kevin Thibeault, Kevin McKinnon, Diana Rancourt, Georgiana Carr, David Begin, and Richard Marchesseault.

VI. REPORT FROM HIGHWAY –

a. Gravel Road Repairs – Jason stated that most major gravel roadways have been graded, at least once. Jason noted that some of the roadways, especially Canaan Hill, need some more attention. He will be re-grading the roads and would like to have gravel delivered when he does. This way he will ensure all potholes are filled in. He reported that he with the help of Cunningham Logging has completed a culvert and ditch project on Upper Canaan Hill Road. This went very well, two new culverts were installed with a headwall and erosion stone being placed and the ditch line was re-dug. Jason said this should help the road stop washing out. Jason asked the board to consider what it would like done with Class IV roads that need some maintenance, especially Hudson Road. Jason told the board that Hudson Road does need some gravel and maintenance. The board is fine with him ensuring it is passable. He will work on maintaining it, once the logging operation on it ceases. Jason also noted that School House Brook Road needs to be graded but it is still too wet. Jason reported that Dubois Road needs ditching work. He stated that much of the material has washed into the ditches. He intends to dig out the ditches and return the material to the roadway, prior to grading.

b. Mowing – Complaints regarding the condition of the Rec Park were discussed. Primarily the concerns on Facebook related to the alleged lack of mowing and excessive height of dandelions. Jason asked the board what he should do, as mowing it once a week is about all that the department has time for. The board backed Jason stating that once a week is fine. The Town will try and contact the leagues, school, and other participants to see if a different day to mow would be preferable. The board encouraged anyone who wished to volunteer to mow to do so. Mike Daley has offered to mow the fields if needed, the board was fine with this.

c. Grant Updates – Jason reported that the Grant In Aid work on Judd Road would start soon. They will be looking at segments to ensure that they are able to re-ditch, crown, and replace multiple culverts along the entirety of it.

d. Annual Ride Around – The ride-around will be scheduled some time in June. Zach reminded the board that it is a requirement that this be done, as the board is the official road agent. He also reminded them that they cannot take any action during the ride around.

VII. REPORT FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – No action or discussion.

VIII. SOLID WASTE –

a. General Updates & Price Review – Zach distributed the price schedule for the transfer station and asked the board to review it for the next meeting. Zach noted that many of the prices have not changed. He stated that refrigerators and tires were the most recent to be updated, as they are in line with what the Town is being charged to dispose of them. The board will review the prices and update them as necessary. As far as the attendants go, Zach said that both Danny and Dennis are doing very well. They both are going above and beyond what they are asked to do. He did note that there were a few hiccups but nothing serious. Zach noted that the signs are up for the time change and he says it is being received well. Zach told the board that he contacted four electrical contractors and had only heard back from one. Hopefully, he will hear back from others, and this project can be awarded at the next meeting.

b. Solid Waste Ordinance Revision + Subsequent Policies – Al made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Ordinance Revision as written. Alan seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. All selectmen executed the ordinance. Zach will work on getting this posted. At this time Dillon asked that all letters and papers created for the board display all three selectmen's names instead of just his as the chair. No objections were made.

c. Food Drive Donation Box – Al brought up an idea to place a food drive donation box down at the transfer station. His thought would be to have a required donation, with a minimum of two items a week. A discussion was had. The other board members felt like this was a good idea but it should just be donation, no requirements. The board will work on implementing this.

d. Supervision of the Transfer Station – A heated discussion was held on the duty of supervising the transfer station. Dillon asked Al if he volunteered his time to go down and train the new hires or if he was being paid for it. Al responded that he was being paid for it. Dillon disliked this as two meetings prior the board discussed having April and Zach train the new hires. Al stated that he was not in favor of this idea, as the selectboard is paid to oversee it. Dillon agreed and saw no issue with that but the training was to be done by April and Zach.

e. Dispatch Board – A short discussion was held on the representative to the Northern Borders Dispatch Board. Al stated that he no longer wants to be a representative. Alan and Dillon stated that they would do it jointly, one

IX. NEW BUSINESS –

a. 2026 Appointments – Zach noted that Michael Daley has expressed interest in being appointed to two boards in town: The Rec Park Commission and the Zoning and Planning Commission. Alan made a motion to appoint Michael to the vacant two year Rec Park Commission position and the vacant four year Zoning and Planning Commission position. Al seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. Chairman Begin signed the appointment forms. Zach also noted that the board should interview or move forward with the two animal control applicants. The board discussed it and felt that it should be offered to the Town resident first, as they both have experience and seem like great candidates. The board instructed Zach to invite the applicant and Wayne Washburn to the next meeting.

b. Policy/Ordinance Review –

   i. ATV Ordinance – Zach distributed the ATV Ordinance back to the board for review. He told the board to review it and bring up your ideas for the next meeting. He will review it as well against its governing statute and see what changes can be made. Zach noted that he has had a long conversation with Sheriff Colby about this ordinance, as it stands and without better signage it is extremely difficult to enforce. A lengthy discussion ensued.

   ii. Traffic Ordinance – Zach distributed the Traffic Ordinance and asked the board to review it. Dillon asked Zach to make sure Jason puts up the Yield sign back on

c. Municipal Ethics Complaints – Four Pending – The board discussed email correspondence they have received. The board discussed the continued objection to Alan Leigh being appointed as selectboard designee to investigate the four pending complaints. The complainant does not believe Dillon or Al should make the appointment. The complainant also does not feel that Alan is a true disinterested third party. The board discussed the lack of response from disinterested third parties, and the reason for the lack of a timely response. Al made a motion to reaffirm the designation of Alan as the designated reviewer for these complaints. Dillon seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed in the affirmative, Alan abstained from the vote.

d. Alice Ward Library Renovations– Minimal discussion was had about next steps and what may be done to correct this change. Zach did note that they are attempting to work with Daniel Heberts to see this project through.

e.

f. Budget & Financials – Zach presented the board with rates and his recommendations for funds to be deposited into certificates of deposit. He also gave the board an overview of where the funds are kept now, and what interest rates they are receiving. Zach also distributed the Town's investment policy for the board to review.

g. Sidewalk Concerns – These concerns have been dealt with. No action. The board will review the rest of the sidewalks and inventory what repairs need to be done.

h. Trees in the Park – The board discussed the working session they had prior to the meeting. The board were in agreement that the priority will be to remove the dead wood prior to removing other limbs or trees. The next priority if money is available will be to take weight off from trees to prolong their lives and reduce potential hazards. The board will work on getting this work contracted out. Zach will have the highway crew trim the tree that is currently blocking the school sign in the park.

i. Beecher Falls Park Picnic Table – Dillon will look at it and repair as needed.

j. Tax Sales – Zach and Dencie are working to get these scheduled. It may not happen in July.

k. Meadow Lot Camping – Al would like to see if businesses in Town would like to sponsor signs and camping lots in the meadow lot. This would require them to donate a sign with their logo on it. The other two board members were fine with Al looking into this.

l. Essex County Sheriff Contract – Zach told the board that both he and Sheriff Colby remember signing the fiscal year 2026 policing contract but cannot find it. Alan made a motion to approve the contract up to $50,000.00. Al seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. Chairman Begin signed the contract.

m. MERP Grant Bids and Updates – The board decided to hold off on opening the bids until their next meeting (June 25, 2026). They have only received one bid, and the grant requires at least three bids, with a waiver for two if the Town can prove they have tried to get more. They have one contractor who has requested more time, and they have given him until the next meeting. They held off on opening Belknap Electric bids to avoid conflicts or issues and ensure both compete on the same playing field. When reviewing the envelopes, they noted that Belknap Electric had a bid for the solar panel and batteries. While they didn't formally put these projects out for bids, the board will review them and, if finances allow, move forward with them.

n. Revolving Loan Meeting – The board will set up a meeting in the near future to discuss the additional funding request.

o. Quechee Farms – 2nd Class Liquor and Tobacco License – Alan made a motion to approve the two licenses upon payment of all necessary fees. Al seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative.

p. The Local Scoop/Border Jumpers – Outside Consumption Permit – Al made a motion to approve the license. Alan seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative.

q. Fire District 2 Request and Correspondence – Zach distributed a letter to the board regarding the board's request to work together to consolidate the fire districts. The Fire District 2 prudential committee politely declined the request, stating that they would like to finish out the water line project before taking this on. The prudential committee has also requested the Town submit a grant application to the Vermont CBDG grant program on behalf of the district. Al made a motion to approve the Town being listed as the applicant for this grant. Alan seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. The board also asked Zach to coordinate a tri-board meeting to discuss consolidation further.

r. July 17th Meeting – A representative of the Town will attend this meeting.

s. NEMRC 2026 Assessor Contract – The contract was distributed to the board for review. Zach noted that although some of the wording and duties changed the price did not. Al made a motion to approve the contract as written. Alan seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. All board members signed the contract.

X. OLD BUSINESS –

a. Softball Tournaments Police Coverage Billing – The board discussed the issues further. Al made a motion to contribute 24 hours of police coverage to both tournaments but to have all additional time billed directly to the leagues/organizations that put it on. Alan seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. Alan made a motion that the Canaan Border Riders are allowed to use the Transfer Station to get rid of all refuse from the tournament but that they pays as they throw, using the system in place for everyone else. This would mean that all MSW bags thrown away would need to be paid for. Dillon seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed in the affirmative, Al voted against it. He feels the Canaan Border Riders should just be charged a flat fee of $250.

b. Policy/Ordinance Review – No action or discussion.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Updates and Issues – Al made a motion to enter into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313(3) at 7:06 P.M. Alan seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. The board entered into executive session at 7:06 P.M. April, Jason, and Zach were invited to stay. Al made a motion to exit executive session at 7:51 P.M. Alan seconded the motion. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. The board exited executive session at 7:51 P.M. No action was taken.

XII. SORT MAIL/SIGN WARRANT—The board signed and executed Warrant 12-26 for $46,541.07. Dillon signed the warrant with reservations as it included time paid to Al to train the new transfer station attendants.

XIII. ADJOURN MEETING—Alan motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, and Al seconded. Chairman Begin asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. Chairman Begin adjourned the June 11, 2026 meeting at 9:19 P.M.