

SELECTBOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 25, 2026

- I. OPEN MEETING—Chairman Begin called the May 25, 2026, meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.
Those present included Dillon Begin, Alfred Buckley, and Alan Leigh. Michael G. attended the meeting via Zoom but did not speak. No other members of the public joined via Zoom or in person.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes – The May 11, 2026, meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed by board members before and at the meeting. Al made a motion to approve May 11, 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.
- III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA—No additions or deletions were made.
- IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – No member of the public made any comments.
- V. REPORT FROM HIGHWAY –
 - a. Gravel Road Repairs – No action or discussion.
 - b. Mowing – No action or discussion.
 - c. Grant Updates – No action taken. Dillon commented that the Grant In Aid project for FY27 was approved for \$8,000. A discussion on what the project would entail occurred.
 - d. Fund Road/Canaan Hill Road Intersection Box Culvert – No action or discussion.
 - e. Annual Ride Around – Dillon stated that no one from the highway department was present to set up the date and time. Alan asked for clarification on what this was. Dillon let him know that every year the board and the road foreman ride around to check on the conditions of the roads.
- VI. REPORT FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – No action or discussion.
- VII. SOLID WASTE –
 - a. Solid Waste Ordinance Revision + Subsequent Policies – Action will take place at the next meeting.
 - b. Transfer Station Attendant – Al stated that they will start on Wednesday and both accepted the position. He stated that Dennis had all of his questions answered and was happy to continue. The transfer station will be open until 6 P.M. on May 29, 2026.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS –
 - a. 2026 Appointments – The board discussed the two letters of intent for the animal control officer positions. One is from a past animal control director and one from a past veterinarian technician. The board commented about applications or resumes.
 - b. 2026 NEKCV Governing Board Appointments – Zach told the board that the two appointees from last year will accept the term again. Al seconded a motion to appoint A. Morgan Wade and Zachary Brown to the NEKCV governing board for 2026. 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 form.
 - c. Policy/Ordinance Review –
 - i. Canaan Sewer Ordinance – No action or discussion.
 - ii. Snowmobile Ordinance – No action or discussion.
 - iii. Investment Policy – No action or discussion.
 - iv. Personnel Policy – No action or discussion.

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- d. Municipal Ethics Complaints – Two Pending – The board discussed email correspondence they have received. Including an open meeting law complaint that was received. The board discussed the continued objection to Alan Leigh being appointed as selectboard designee to investigate the two pending complaints. The complainant does not believe Dillon or Al should make the appointment. The board discussed the lack of response from disinterested third parties, and the reason for the lack of a timely response. The board will reach out the Town counsel.
- e. ATV Complaints – Resident Letter – The board reviewed the two letters from Kevin Eldred Sr. The latter of the letters, Mr. Eldred asked to be read aloud. Chairman Begin read the letter. (See attached). The board discussed it minimally. The board stated that they only asked the sheriff's department to talk with the person subject of the complaint. The board feels that from now on, ATV complaints be directed directly to the Essex County Sheriff's Department and not the Town Office. The board discussed the possibility of opening up all Town roads for ATV travel, requiring that they are registered with the Town Office.
- f. Economic Development Board – Dillon addressed the board and brought up his idea to implement an economic development board. He will discuss it further with board member and with Zach. Once finalized an ad will go in the paper seeking participants. Al made a motion to approve the idea and preliminary steps to get an industrial/economic board started.
- g. Summer Meetings – June through August – Dillon and Alan brought up their confusion on why the meetings have not been changed already. Al stated that he talked with Zach and did not feel that a change to the date is a good idea. He felt that taxpayers are used to the Monday meeting. Alan made a motion to change the meetings from June through August as described in the attached. 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. Zach will warn this.
- h. Alice Ward Library Renovations – Dillon told the board that Breadloaf has closed and he is not sure how that will affect the library project. Minimal discussion was had about next steps and what may be done to correct this change.
- i. Budget & Financials – The board did not discuss this at length. Zach will continue to work on these.
- j. Sidewalk between Power House to Timeout Tavern – Dillon stated that there is some roughness on this section of sidewalks but is not sure why it is on the agenda. Alan stated that we may need to discuss it with the highway department.
- k. Trees in the Park – The board will move forward with scheduling a preliminary walk through with interest tree maintenance companies/individuals.
- l. Beecher Falls Park Picnic Table – No action or discussion. The board was not sure why it was added.
- m. Open Meeting Law Complaint – See "*Municipal Ethics Complaints – Two Pending*" The board once again commented that they will need to seek advice from counsel.
- n. Tax Sales – No action or discussion.

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IX. OLD BUSINESS –

- a. Softball Tournaments Police Coverage Billing – No action or discussion. The board did not think any payment has been made.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – No action or discussion.

XI. SORT MAIL/SIGN WARRANT—The board signed and executed Warrant 11-26 for \$40,129.84.

XII. ADJOURN MEETING—Al motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, 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. Chairman Begin adjourned the May 25, 2026 meeting at 6:28 P.M.

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To the town of Canaan Vermont selectmen

05/20/2026

I am requesting this letter to be read aloud in the selectmen meeting and its contents in its entirety be recorded and disclosed in the minutes of the next selectmen meeting

I am requesting that the Town Of Canaan Vermont disclose for reason of full transparency the name (s) of the individual (s) who make a written complaint or verbal complaint to the Town Clerk, Selectmen or any town employee against another town resident.

The board in recent years has made a decision to no longer except anonymous complaints from individuals concerning junky yards and other types of complaints. And I request that any and all accusations /complaints made to the town of Canaan concerning another town resident will be disclosed including the complainants name as the accused has the legal right to know the person accusing them. The Selectmen and town clerk need to understand that it is possible that the individual (s) or the accuser(s) may be fabricating fictitious false accusations because of "personal dislike" or "Grudge" they have for the person (s) and before action is taken by town clerk or selectmen to involve law enforcement, fines or other repercussions the facts need to be proven and the accused given the right to make his/her case before the town.

The Town clerk Zack Brown himself stated he was a victim of this a while ago where he stated on the Canaan Vermont town Facebook page that an anonymous person (s) emailed him complaining and making false accusations against him as town clerk and it was met with many town residents agreeing whoever it was should be known and "Not hide" and referred to the person (s) and his/her/their actions as a "Cowardly"

Under the full disclosure law in Vermont the town records and minutes are to be made public upon request, the town removing / withholding the names of the person(s) who complain to the town against another in the town minutes is not being transparent and needs to be.

Any and All town residents making a complaint in writing or verbally to the town or its selectmen/ town employees where the town or its selectmen take action against the recipient of the complaint needs full disclosure to the town residents as well as the accused.

This will also hold the individual(s) accountable in the case of a false report whereby the accused suffers slander/ defamation of character/ law enforcement actions against them in the event of such false reports or defamation of character that can result from such accusations and or complaints. I would add that if a person feels their complaint is genuine and warranted than that same person should not have an issue with the disclosing of their name in such a report or complaint. The board may state that they refuse due to "protect" the identity of the person

who made the complaint but where is the protection for the person being complained about? If NO threats were made than there is no reason to "Safe guard" a name of a complainant. Full transparency and full disclosure help keep a town clerk, its selectmen and its residents honest

Lastly The Town of Canaan selectboard , its Town clerk and town employees are obligated to serve all its town residents with fairness, respect and transparency regardless of their personal indifferences and evident dislike of any such town residents.

Kevin Eldred Sr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KEVIN ELDRD", written in a cursive, stylized manner.

Selectboard's Summer Meeting Schedule

June - August

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87591784837?pwd=bFM2bHlwTzRidFdmbWhWVFVOOHBodz09>

Meeting ID: 875 9178 4837

Due to Federal Holidays falling on Selectboard's meeting nights,
the Selectboard's meeting may be rescheduled to the following Tuesday at the same time.

The Tuesday meeting dates are indicated above with an *.

All meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:00 P.M. unless otherwise posted.

Notice is hereby given that the official newspaper for the Publication of Legal Notices for the Town of

Legal Posting Sites are:

Canaan Town Office

Canaan Post Office

Beecher Falls Post Office

Alice Ward Memorial Library

Canaan Recreational Park

Town of Canaan, VT Selectboard