

SELECTBOARD MEETING

MINUTES

August 19, 2025

- I. OPEN MEETING—Chairman Daley called the August 19, 2025, meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Those present included Michael Daley, Dillon Begin, Alfred Buckley, Richard Thibeault, April Busfield, and Zachary Brown. No one attended the meeting either in person or via Zoom.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –The August 5, 2025, meeting minutes were distributed and reviewed by board members before and at the meeting. Al made a motion to approve August 5, 2025, meeting minutes as written, and Dillon seconded. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed in the affirmative.
- III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA—*To be addressed under new business.* Zach added three items to the agenda: a concern with the electricity at Fletcher Park, a Dog/Public Health issue on East Street, resident complaints from VT Route 253. The board was fine with the additions
- IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – No comment from the public was made.
- V. REPORT FROM HIGHWAY –
 - a. Roadside Mowing – Richard reported that roadside mowing was completed. Richard told the board they went over budget, but the original quote was not taken into account all of the town roads. Last year, which is the year the quote was created from, several roads were washed out and therefore did not require mowing. This year all roads were mowed, except for a few class IV roads and Todd Hill. The board were fine with the overage. Richard also told the board they did more debris brushing than they have in the past few years which takes time but benefits the roads.
 - b. Rec Park Field Mowing – Mike asked if the school had begun mowing the fields yet. Richard told them that they had not. Mike told everyone that he has yet to speak with Jenn regarding the mowing, but plans to soon. A short discussion was held on the logistics of mowing. At this point in time Richard and Jason would prefer to just mow it all. They have been doing it all year and to have the school just mow the soccer fields and nothing else would be a headache. The board thought this made sense and would like to revisit the school paying a portion of the mowing, instead of mowing it themselves. A short discussion was had on the repairs needed for the mower. Richard Poulin will be ordering the parts and getting this fixed.
 - c. Speed Radar Signs – Zach informed the board publicly that there was an issue with the speed radar signs regarding permitting. Zach explained that all of the speed radar signs have been installed on State Highways and as such were required to have permits. Zach told the board, which Mike and Richard, agreed that they were under the impression that they were given forbearance. Zach explained that this was a misunderstanding from all involved. The State was under the impression we were installing radar carts not permanent signs. Zach told the board he would be happy to fill out Permit 1111 for the signs as he had already started, but scrapped it as soon as he heard the town didn't need them. He told the board that on September 6 representatives from the permitting division of VTrans would be up for a meeting and inspection of the signs. The board is hopeful that this will be a paperwork issue. Dillon added that the residents in Beecher Falls were wondering where their sign was. The board had a lengthy conversation on potential locations, but stated a new sign was not budgeted for. No action was taken.

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- d. Grant Monies – Richard gave a brief update on grant projects and monies he was working on.
- e. Part-Time Highway Department Assistant – Five applicants have applied and currently three of them had requested interviews.
- f. Penn Road – Richard told the board that him and Jason has been working on Penn Road to fix some damage made by the grader in the spring. He also told the board that they were actively ditching several town roads. He reported that he had graded Serge Lemay's road and Mike asked if he could grade Brendon Cote's. Richard said he would need to look at the road, as he has never been on it. All highway services are billed to the property owner.

VI. SOLID WASTE –

- a. Issue with C&D Dumpster – Zach reported that a large garage door was returned to the transfer station from JK Lynch as it was thrown in the C&D dumpster and should have been placed in the metals container. AVRROD refused the door and made JK Lynch pick it back up and haul it to Canaan. This will come at an extra charge. Al to speak with Marc about this.

VII. REPORT FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT –

- a. Sewer Leak – April reported that the Town had a sewer leak on the force main next to the Houle Pump Station. She distributed a report to the selectboard, which they read. April did not add much to the report, other than stating the fix is well underway and should be done on Wednesday. The board thanked her for her diligence in this.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. 2025 Town Officer Appointments – The board reviewed the upcoming appointments. No new appointments were made.
- b. VLCT PACIF Inspection Report – The board reviewed the inspection report. Zach told the board that all issues pertaining to the Rec Park and Library have been forwarded to the respective boards. Zach told the board that Jason and Richard would be painting all of the uneven floor at the garage with yellow paint. The board discussed the main issue with the highway garage which was no potable water and no restrooms. The board authorized Zach to purchase a portable toilet for the garage and to have it locked, so that only town employees may use it. Dillon believes he has a mini fridge that he would donate to the town for the potable water. This would keep the drinking water from freezing in the winter.
- c. Fletcher Park Electric – Zach informed the board that he has heard from both Bob Lee and Dennis Fuller that the electric outlets and panel keeps tripping and shutting off the statue. He also informed them that he talked with Shellie Bresnahan from the Grace Community Church to see how the electric was for their event. Shellie said they did have to run an extension cord for the bouncy house over to the library but everything else ran fine. The board discussed next options, as they have no money in the budget for this fix, due to other items being purchased earlier in the year. Mike will talk with Jeremy Labrecque or Robert Roy to see if they can look at the panel.
- d. Dog/Health Issue on East Street – Zach distributed a letter from Susan Lepine and Renee Marchesseault. The board reviewed the letter. Zach urged them that something needs to be done as this has been going on for a few years now and there has been no resolutions. Mike will speak with the accused and or his mother to get this situation resolved. If

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nothing happens the board will speak with Wayne Washburn to ensure the situation is resolved.

- e. Resident complaints from VT Route 253 – Zach shared with the board complaints he had been receiving from a resident on VT Route 253, citing issues with the ATV traffic, speeding, and trash in the community forest. Zach told the board that he had been handling most of these complaints but wanted to loop the board into them as well. A lengthy discussion was had. Mike will speak with Trevor Colby to see if more enforcement can be done of Vermont Route 253.

IX. OLD BUSINESS –

- a. 2025 Junky Yards –No action taken.
- b. Regular Meeting Schedule – Zach reminded the board that the meetings would be shifting back to Mondays after this meeting. He did note that with the next meeting falling on labor day it would be moved to the following Tuesday.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION –

- a. Personnel – 1 V.S.A. § 313 (A) 4 – A motion was made by Al to enter into an executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313 (A) 4 at 6:37 P.M. to discuss personnel matters. Dillon seconded the motion. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed in the affirmative. The board entered into executive session at 6:37 P.M. April and Zach were invited to stay. A motion was made by Al to exit an executive session at 7:00 P.M. Dillon seconded the motion. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed in the affirmative. The board exited the executive session at 7:00 P.M. No action was taken.

- XI. SORT MAIL/SIGN WARRANT—The board signed and executed Warrant 17-25 for \$46,407.83.

- XII. ADJOURN MEETING—Al motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, and Dillon seconded. Chairman Daley asked if there was further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. Chairman Daley adjourned the August 19, 2025 meeting at 7:02 P.M.

Fw: Canaan Untreated Discharge HQE-VZR5-MYBYR

To Zac Brown <clerktreas@canaan-vt.org> • Michael Daley <mikedaley1494@icloud.com> •
Dillon Begin <begindillon@yahoo.com> • Susan Buckley <buckleys46@yahoo.com>

I wanted to give you a heads-up before the meeting on Tuesday but instead of rewriting I have attached the report from our state inspector regarding the issue. Houle station is actively leaking sewage into the brook and therefor the river by default even though it is a small amount it is a huge issue. I met with Greg Stone yesterday who constructed most of our upgrade through AB Logging, but he is unavailable to help so recommended Carigan out of Gorham who he works with. This is an issue of a forced main leaking which need experience, and a crew so did not reach out locally. Repair is starting Monday and if needed i feel this is Capital Reserve appropriate. I am very lucky we were able to leave it as is over the weekend and we did not have to hire Bolens and probably one more Haulter to haul in order to keep up and it is a dangerous spot

From: Bates, Jamie <Jamie.Bates@vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 2:53 PM
To: April Busfield <45thwaterandsewer@gmail.com>
Cc: Krymkowski, Aaron <Aaron.Krymkowski@vermont.gov>; Walsh, Garrett <Garrett.Walsh@vermont.gov>
Subject: Canaan Untreated Discharge HQE-VZR5-MYBYR

Good afternoon, April,

Thank you for notifying me within 24 hrs of detecting the untreated discharge you observed from the force main located "approximately 691 Rte 253 i", submitting the public alert, posting the sign at an access point ~1 mile downstream, and submitting the incident report HQE-VZR5-MYBYR timely.

As I mentioned over the phone, I will return to the office from my vacation in Scotland on 8/28. Aaron is my out of office buddy for this time and why I am carbon copying him on this follow up to inform him of the incident and corrective action plan. I also included Garrett Walsh who is the next person in charge while the Direct Discharge Section Supervisor and Program Manager are also out on vacation over the next couple weeks.

April's phone number: +1 603-331-1898
Aaron's phone number: +1 802-490-6184

April, please reply all if I got anything wrong in my notes below from our phone call at 1:08 PM, so Garrett and Aaron stay in the loop. Also, please share any photos taken with Aaron and me.

- The ductile iron force main connection/fitting to the pump station located on the bank of a brook was observed to have a trickle of untreated wastewater flowing from the force main, on the pressurized side, along the brook flow path. This brook is dry (all month)

for the first time in a long time due to drought conditions and a main reason why this leak was detected.

- April was away for two days with the VRWA board conference. She was made aware of the leak from a homeowner video showing the leak. Her part time assistant operator typically checks the pump stations weekly. She mentioned over the phone she plans to do what she can to provide more training to the assistant operator, who's been there about a year.
- The flow path goes under the highway through a culvert before reaching the bank of the Connecticut River. The flow path consists of steep slopes large rock/boulder and riprap which makes it challenging to capture/prevent the flow before it reaches the brook or river. She mentioned she would need big equipment to do that.
 - April will share photos.
- This pump station collects wastewater from the north which has 4 pump stations. It was decided in consult with Phil Laramie to continue pumping from the pump station / force main leak due to no haulers being available to pump and haul from the 4 pump stations to the north. April has increased the pump run times by changing the float level in an attempt to reduce the leak volume in the interim. When she can get a hauler this plan may change. I explained how preference would be to contain the flow and pump and haul if possible to stop the discharge to the brook and Connecticut River.
- The manufacturer/consultant who constructed the pump station will visit the site tomorrow, Saturday 8/15/2025, to evaluate the issue. PNR consultants will be visiting on Monday to begin the repair, dependent of the outcome with the evaluation tomorrow. April, also is in contact with Wayne with VRWA for technical assistance and advice.
- Lime will likely be applied after the repair and in areas that make sense. There would be concerns about applying lime directly in the brook bed, in the event it rains and eventually discharges to the Connecticut River.
- Once the repair is complete April will update the ANR Online form to include the event end date, end time, total volume estimated to discharge, and the description with the corrective actions taken and there is no longer a discharge occurring.
 - Because this discharge is reaching the brook first, this should also be listed as a receiving water.

April communicated she is doing the best that she can with the resources she has and hopes the meeting tomorrow will kick-start the repair. I hope for the same.

Thank you,

Jamie Bates (she/her) | Environmental Analyst
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Watershed Management Division | Wastewater
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Renee Marchesseault
835 VT Rte 114
Canaan, VT 05903

Susan Lepine
53 East St.
Beecher Falls, VT 05902

Date: 18 August 2025

To:
Canaan Selectboard
PO Box 159
Canaan, Vermont 05903

Subject: Ongoing Health and Sanitation Concern at 53 East St – Beecher Falls, VT

Dear Members of the Canaan Selectboard,

I am writing to bring to your formal attention an ongoing and increasingly serious health and sanitation issue affecting my parents' residence in Beecher Falls. Her neighbors own two dogs and have failed to clean up after them for what appears to be several years. As a result, there is a significant accumulation of dog excrement built up directly along the property line shared with my parents.

The stench from this waste is overwhelming and has made it impossible for my parents to open any windows facing that direction throughout the entire spring and summer or enjoy their back deck, they have not been able to use for years. Beyond the odor, the accumulation presents a serious health hazard and greatly diminishes their ability to enjoy and maintain their home.

In the spring, my parents reached out directly to the homeowner to address the issue. He acknowledged the problem, apologized, and assured them it would be taken care of. However, no attempt has been made to clean the area since that conversation.

In addition to the unsanitary conditions, weeds and plants, reaching nearly four feet in height—have grown unchecked out of this mess and are now encroaching onto her property. My mother has made efforts to cut back the growth that crosses onto her land, but the underlying problem remains unaddressed.

I have reached out to Zachary, who has been very helpful and supportive in contacting the Sheriff's Department and animal control on our behalf. However, despite his efforts, there has been no resolution or visible attempt by the neighbors to clean up the waste or maintain the property to a basic standard of health and decency.

This situation is not only a personal nuisance; it raises serious public health concerns and constitutes a likely violation of local ordinances or public health codes. We respectfully request any help that the Selectboard can give to investigate and compel remediation of the conditions at the neighboring property as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would be happy to provide additional details or photographs if needed.

 Renee Marchesseault

Susan Lepine