

Town of Canaan
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 13, 2026 – 6:00 PM
Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, Connecticut
In Person and via Zoom

Members Present

In Person: First Selectman David Barger; Selectman Christopher Kinsella; Selectman Judy Jacobs

Via Zoom: None

Absent: None

Also Present: Treasurer Michelle Hansen; DPW Manager Tim Downs; members of the public

1. Call to Order

First Selectman Barger called the Regular Meeting to order at **6:00 PM**.

2. Additions to the Agenda

Add under Item 7 – First Selectman’s Report: 7.G – Registrars applied for a \$5,000 state early voting grant.

Motion: Jacobs moved to add Item 7.G to the agenda. **Second:** Kinsella **Vote:** Unanimous

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. **June 8, 2026 – Regular Meeting** Motion: Jacobs; Second: Kinsella; Vote: Unanimous
- b. **June 17, 2026 – Special Meeting** Motion: Kinsella; Second: Jacobs; Vote: Unanimous
- c. **June 25, 2026 – Special Meeting** Motion: Jacobs; Second: Kinsella; Vote: Unanimous
- d. **July 8, 2026 – Special Meeting** Motion: Kinsella; Second: Jacobs; Vote: Unanimous

5. Treasurer and Tax Collector Reports

(Reports attached to 07.13.26 Board of Finance)

- a. **May 2026 Treasurer's Report** Motion to accept: Jacobs; Second: Kinsella; Vote: Unanimous
- b. **June 2026 Tax Collector's Report** No report presented.

6. Communications

- a. Written: None
- b. Oral: None

7. First Selectman's Report

STEAP Grant Updates

- Low bid secured for the compactor; awaiting state approval.
- RFPs issued for Senior Center painting.
- Architectural drawings received for Assessor's Office roof.
- Oil/water separator permitting backlog continues; project may proceed to bid while awaiting permit.

July 4 Celebration / America's 250

Successful event with strong turnout.

Falls Village Car Show / Western New England Greenway Bicycle Ride

- Car show hosted **700+ registered vehicles** and approximately **1,000 spectators**.
- Bicycle ride relocated to HVRHS due to scheduling conflict; approximately **40 riders** participated.

Inland Wetlands Commission Letter – Rt. 126 / Tinker Brook

- Culverts clogged due to beaver activity, raising the water table.
- Barger forwarded the Commission's letter to Stephen Moran (CTDOT).
- CTDOT acknowledged and will investigate; water has since receded.

Municipal Solid Waste – NRRA

Trash continues to be transported to Torrington, then to the Bridgeport waste-to-energy facility.

July 4th Weather Event

- Extensive response from DPW, Fire Department, and EMTs.
- Eversource municipal hub used effectively; all outages reported.
- Town unlikely to qualify for state or federal aid. One home was a total loss; several others sustained damage.

G. Early Voting Grant

Registrars applied for a **\$5,000 state early voting grant**. Funds must be used exclusively for early voting. Reporting due **June 2027**.

8. Selectmen's Reports

No additional reports.

9. Old Business

- **35 Railroad Street:** No updates.
- **Affordable Housing Plan Task Force:** Meeting scheduled for July 29.
- **Cobble Road Culvert & Bridge:** Slightly ahead in the design phase.

10. New Business

a. Tax Rebates and Suspension List

None presented.

b. Letters of Resignation

- Motion to accept the resignation of **Republican Registrar Susan Kelsey**, with regret: Jacobs; Second: Kinsella; Vote: Unanimous
- Motion to accept the resignation of **Deputy Republican Registrar G. Tracy Atwood**, with regret: Kinsella; Second: Jacobs; Vote: Unanimous

c. Blue Ribbon Committee on Economic Development (open-ended term)

Motion to appoint **Tom Wilson, Peter Jensen, and Hazel McGuire** as committee members, with **Selectman Judy Jacobs** as BOS liaison: Kinsella; Second: Barger; Vote: Unanimous
Charge: Produce ideas within **6–12 months**.

d. David M. Hunt Library Appointments/Resignations

- Motion to accept the resignation of **Barbara Deinhardt**, with regret: Kinsella; Second: Jacobs; Vote: Unanimous
- Motion to appoint **Mark Gozonsky** (replacing Deinhardt), **4-year term** beginning from the Library's annual meeting date: Jacobs; Second: Kinsella; Vote: Unanimous

- Motion to reappoint **Henry Todd, 4-year term** beginning from the Library's annual meeting date: Jacobs; Second: Kinsella; Vote: Unanimous

11. Other Business

A formal complaint from Cemetery Sexton **Tracy Wilson** regarding treatment at Town Hall was read. The First Selectman will schedule a meeting to review conduct and procedures.

12. Public Comment

None.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at **6:30 PM**: Jacobs; Second: Kinsella; Vote: Unanimous

Attachments

- Inland Wetlands letter re: Rt. 126 / Tinker Brook
- CTDOT response re: Rt. 126 / Tinker Brook
- Resignations: Susan Kelsey and G. Tracy Atwood
- Blue Ribbon Committee appointments
- David M. Hunt Library resignations/appointments
- Letter from Tracy Wilson

Respectfully Submitted, Patti Fife, Recording Secretary

MOTION / ACTION

Item	Motion	Second	Action / Result	Vote
Add Item 7.G to Agenda	Jacobs	Kinsella	Added to agenda	Unanimous
Approve Minutes – June 8 RM	Jacobs	Kinsella	Approved	Unanimous
Approve Minutes – June 17 SM	Kinsella	Jacobs	Approved	Unanimous
Approve Minutes – June 25 SM	Jacobs	Kinsella	Approved	Unanimous
Approve Minutes – July 8 SM	Kinsella	Jacobs	Approved	Unanimous
Accept May 2026 Treasurer’s Report	Jacobs	Kinsella	Accepted	Unanimous
Accept Resignation – Registrar Susan Kelsey	Jacobs	Kinsella	Accepted w/ regret	Unanimous
Accept Resignation – Deputy Registrar G. Tracy Atwood	Kinsella	Jacobs	Accepted w/ regret	Unanimous
Appoint Blue Ribbon Committee (Wilson, Jensen, McGuire) + Jacobs as liaison	Kinsella	Barger	Appointed	Unanimous
DM Hunt Library – Accept Resignation (Deinhardt)	Kinsella	Jacobs	Accepted w/ regret	Unanimous
DM Hunt Library – Appointment (Gozonsky)	Jacobs	Kinsella	Appointed – 4-yr term	Unanimous
DM Hunt Library – Reappointment (Todd)	Jacobs	Kinsella	Reappointed – 4-yr term	Unanimous
Adjourn	Jacobs	Kinsella	Adjourned at 6:30 PM	Unanimous

APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

Name	Position	Type	Effective Term / Notes
Susan Kelsey	Republican Registrar	Resignation	Accepted with regret
G. Tracy Atwood	Deputy Republican Registrar	Resignation	Accepted with regret
Tom Wilson	Blue Ribbon Committee	Appointment	Open-ended term; 6–12 month charge
Peter Jensen	Blue Ribbon Committee	Appointment	Open-ended term; 6–12 month charge
Hazel McGuire	Blue Ribbon Committee	Appointment	Open-ended term; 6–12 month charge
Judy Jacobs	BOS Liaison – Blue Ribbon Committee	Appointment	BOS liaison
Barbara Deinhardt	DM Hunt Library	Resignation	Accepted with regret

Name	Position	Type	Effective Term / Notes
Mark Gozonsky	DM Hunt Library	Appointment	4-yr term from annual meeting date
Henry Todd	DM Hunt Library	Reappointment	4-yr term from annual meeting date

FOLLOW-UP CHART

Topic	Required Follow-Up	Responsible Party	Notes
Inland Wetlands – Rt. 126 / Tinker Brook	CTDOT investigation	CTDOT	Water has receded; awaiting DOT review
Oil/Water Separator Permit	Proceed to bid while permit pending	First Selectman / DPW	State backlog continues
Cemetery Sexton Complaint	Schedule meeting to review conduct/procedures	First Selectman	Formal complaint read into record
Affordable Housing Plan Task Force	Meeting scheduled July 29	Task Force	Update expected after meeting

UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS CHART

Meeting / Event	Date	Notes
Affordable Housing Plan Task Force	July 29, 2026	Scheduled meeting

Town of Canaan
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031

MEMO

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Canaan Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
Date: June 10, 2026

At the Commission's meeting of May 18, 2026, it was voted to send the Board of Selectmen a memo to share its concern regarding the increased beaver activity associated with the two watercourses (Tinker Brook #1 and Tinker Brook #2, as known by locals) that flow under CT Route 126 between Amy Road and Johnson Road. Currently, both culverts are currently outfitted with exclusion grates but are completely clogged, resulting in no water flow through the culverts and a marked increase in the watertable on the south side of Route 126. In this location, standing water at times can reach within a foot of the edge of the blacktop; the road has been known to flood during significant rain events. Watertables of properties abutting this swamp are notably rising.

The Commission acknowledges that the transition of a wooded swamp with a watercourse to a beaver pond in the presence of beavers is a natural ecological process. However, the construction of Route 126 and installation of the culverts to accommodate the flow of the transecting watercourses, presents an unnatural scenario and requires human intervention.

The Commission acknowledges that our concern should be directed to the State of CT DOT as the aforementioned issue involves a state highway. It is the Commission's hope that your Board would forward this concern to the DOT.

It is the Commission's understanding that this portion of Route 126 is scheduled for significant upgrades in 2027, including the replacement of the compromised culverts. It is our request that these culverts be installed with devices that will ensure continual waterflow through the culverts, even in the continued presence of beaver; grates alone obviously have proven to be ineffective.

In the interim, the Commission requests that these culverts be considered by the State for regular monitoring and maintenance to ensure the watercourses continue their natural flow into the Hollenbeck River.

The Commission thanks you for your consideration in this matter and respectfully asks you to share our concerns with the DOT.

Susan Kelsey,

Susan Kelsey
Secretary



First Selectman <firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>

RE: Culverts on Rt. 126, Falls Village

1 message

Moran, Stephen P <Stephen.Moran@ct.gov>

Wed, Jun 24, 2026 at 9:12 AM

To: firstselectman <firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>

Good morning First Selectman Barger,

Thank you for sending the letter from Canaan's Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission regarding beaver activity on RT 126.

The District Drainage Engineer will investigate the concern identified by the Commission.

You will receive an update when the investigation is complete.

I apologize for the late response.

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen P. Moran

Transportation Maintenance Director

Connecticut Department of Transportation

Bureau of Highway Operations / District IV

Phone: 203-591-3605

stephen.moran@ct.gov



From: First Selectman <FirstSelectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Moran, Stephen P <Stephen.Moran@ct.gov>
Subject: Culverts on Rt. 126, Falls Village

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Mr. Moran,

Please find the attached letter from the Town of Canaan's Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission detailing their concerns regarding the culvert under Rt. 126

(Tinker Brook #1 & 2).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best,

Dave

David R. Barger
First Selectman
Town of Canaan
108 Main St., PO Box 47
Falls Village, CT 06031
(860) 824-0707

 **1923_001.pdf**
52K

Susan J. Kelsey
124 Route 126
Falls Village, CT 06031
860.824.5832 (home)
860.480.6826 (cell)
scottishthistle54@gmail.net

June 24, 2026

Town of Canaan
Republican Town Committee
c/o Carol Staats

Dear Members of the Canaan Republican Town Committee,

It is with ambivalent feelings that I am writing this letter to advise you that I have decided to resign from the position of Canaan Republican Registrar of Voters as of June 30, 2026. I had decided several months ago to not run for re-election in November. However, both Pat Fife, the current Canaan Democrat Registrar of Voters, and I, feel that it would be in the best interest of the Town and the registrar's office to bring on a new registrar at this time to allow for my successor to become familiar with the new voter registration system prior to its projected "roll-out" date of mid-December.

While my tenancy as registrar of voters has certainly had its challenges, I am sincerely grateful for the experience. I feel fortunate for the relationships I have developed over the years with numerous registrars throughout the state and for the opportunity to be a part of the staff at the town hall. Indeed, I will miss the Wednesday morning camaraderie and the feeling of being an integral part of the town offices...

Again, it is with a sense of sadness that I submit this letter and I thank the Republican Town Committee for its past endorsements and faith in my ability to be fair and non-partisan in fulfilling my role as Registrar of Voter. I leave the office with great confidence in my counterpart and know she will facilitate a smooth transition. It is my understanding the Republican Town Committee will need to appoint a replacement, who will then need to register with the State as a "write-in" candidate in order to be elected in the November election.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Kelsey
Republican Registrar of Voters

Cc: Board of Selectmen
Pat Fife, Democrat Registrar of Voters
Johanna Mann, Town Clerk
Tracy Atwood, Deputy Republican Registrar of Voter

G. Tracy Atwood
22 Prospect Street
PO Box 281
Falls Village, CT 06031
860 824-7258
tracyatwood@gmail.com

June 29, 2026

Susan J. Kelsey
Town of Canaan
Republican Registrar of Voters

Dear Susan,

Please accept my resignation as the Deputy Republican Registrar of Voters for the Town of Canaan. It has been both a learning experience and a pleasure to have worked with you for several years as a deputy registrar. Being a registrar is certainly more complicated today with more regulations, more electronic devices and reporting systems than when my mother was the registrar.

Your imminent departure as the Republican registrar has prompted my decision to resign. This will allow your replacement to select his or her deputy registrar.

Sincerely yours,



✓ G. Tracy Atwood
Deputy Republican Registrar of Voters

Cc: Pat Fife, Democratic Registrar of Voters
Johanna Mann, Town Clerk



First Selectman <firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>

Fwd: Bd of Selectmen Library Bd appointments

1 message

david barger <davidbarger77@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 8:28 PM

To: Selectmen Selectmen <FirstSelectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Barbara Deinhardt** <bdeinhardt@aol.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 6, 2026, 16:24

Subject: Re: Bd of Selectmen Library Bd appointments

To: david barger <davidbarger77@gmail.com>

Cc: David M. Hunt Library <dmhuntlibrary@gmail.com>, Rusty Tunnard <rustytun@gmail.com>

Hi Dave. Hope you are holding up OK after this terrible storm. I wanted to follow up to see if the BoS voted on Henry and Mark as Board of Selectmen nominees for the Library Board. Thanks.

Barbara C. Deinhardt

Arbitrator & Mediator

PO Box 114

Falls Village, CT 06031

917-763-0906

bdeinhardt@aol.com

Member National Academy of Arbitrators

On Friday, May 8, 2026 at 05:26:30 PM EDT, david barger <davidbarger77@gmail.com> wrote:

I will include this in Monday's Agenda.

Thank you for your service to the library board and our community.

Best,

Dave

On Fri, May 8, 2026, 16:55 Barbara Deinhardt <bdeinhardt@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Dave. Henry Todd, who is one of the Board of Selectmen appointees to the Library Board, is in a term that expires this summer. The Library Board recommends that the Board of Selectmen reappoint Henry. Also my term is up and I have chosen not to seek renomination. The Library Board recommends that the Board of Selectmen appoint Mark Gozonsky as a Board of Selectmen appointee. Please advise. Thank you.

Barbara C. Deinhardt

Arbitrator & Mediator

52 3rd St.

Brooklyn, NY 11231

917-763-0906

bdeinhardt@aol.com

Member National Academy of Arbitrators



First Selectman <firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>

incident

1 message

Tracey Wilson <traceymcwillson@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 10, 2026 at 2:40 PM

To: First Selectman <firstselectman@canaanfallsvillage.org>, Selectman Chris <selectmanchris@canaanfallsvillage.org>, Selectman Judy <selectmanjudy@canaanfallsvillage.org>

Board of Selectmen,

I am writing to file a formal complaint regarding my experience with the town clerk at Town Hall yesterday, July 9th 2026, while attempting to conduct sexton business.

The purpose of my visit was to submit the required monthly state sexton report which requires the town clerk's signature. Despite waiting respectfully, I was ignored. The town treasurer recognized what was happening and stepped in to help.

Professionalism, respect, and timely communication are essential in local government. Being disregarded while attempting to carry out state required sexton duties is unacceptable.

I understand that Town Hall staff may be busy. However, acknowledging visitors, providing an estimated wait time, or simply communicating when assistance will be available would have demonstrated basic courtesy and professionalism.

I respectfully request that this incident be reviewed and that appropriate steps be taken to ensure that all individuals conducting business at Town Hall are treated with respect and receive timely assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tracey Wilson

Town of Canaan Cemetery Sexton