

TOWN OF CANAAN (FALLS VILLAGE)
FALLS VILLAGE RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 6:30 PM
Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT
In Person and Via Zoom
[Join Zoom Meeting Here](#)
Meeting ID: 962 0947 9431
Passcode: 864114

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Chairperson Melissa Lopes, commissioners; Dan Carr, Matt Gallagher, Chris Wadsworth and Catherine Wales. Absent members: Lauren Killawee

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 6:40pm by Chairperson Melissa Lopes
- II. Amendment to Agenda – Chair proposed the following amendments to the agenda:
 - a. Melissa Lopes made a motion to add, under X New Business, the application for swimming pool registration. Dan seconded. Vote unanimous.
 - b. Melissa Lopes entertained a motion to remove XI - C Finance / Budget subcommittee from the agenda. Dan seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.
 - c. Melissa entertained a motion to amend the agenda XI – A2 community Ester egg hunt to say, community easter egg hunt April 4th 2026 1pm event at LHK. And A3 change it to say Falls Village Community Earth Day, April 18th. All were in favor. Motion Passed
- III. Public Comment – No public comment was offered.
- IV. Communications to the Commission (Written and Oral). The Chair reviewed recent communications received, including:
 - a. As requested by North Canaan Youth Softball to post a flyer online. Also sent to Laurie Wadsworth for digital sharing.
 - b. Allstar invoices x2 had been received for ski club. A total of \$400
 - c. Received an email form POCD implementation sub-committee. They requested to attend an FVRC meeting to discuss plans.
 - d. Received a letter from Torrington Area Health District containing a swimming pool registration form for 2026 with payment request.
 - e. Melissa Lopes attended a meeting, held by the Historical Society, regarding the 250th celebrations that will be held during this year. A discussion was entertained by Melissa Lopes on how the Rec Committee should and could be involved in the events. Although no schedule has been provided, it was noted that there will be a parade on July 4th, opening the schoolhouse, a historical festival on the green in August. Melissa shared that Judy Jacobs invited the FVRC to participate in the August event on the green.
 - f. Donna Heinz enquired about the Creative Kids club and the possibility of reinstating it.
- V. Reports
 - A. Secretary’s Report – Melissa Lopes made a motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings:
 1. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of February 11, 2026
 2. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting of February 24, 2026
Seconded by Matt Gallagher. Melissa discusses and requests that the meeting notes from February 11, 2026 are adjusted to reflect February 11th, not February 14th and requests the amendment is made. Melissa made a motion to amend the date. Matt seconded. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.
 - B. Town Treasurer’s Profit/Loss Report – Melissa Lopes made a motion to accept:
 1. Receive July 2025 - Jan 2026
 2. Receive July 2025 - Feb 2026Seconded by Dar Carr. Vote unanimous. Motion Passed
 - C. STEAP Grant Sub-Committee Report
 1. Pool House Staining & Window Project- update: It was noted that the invoice received from Lindels had already been directly passed to the Treasurer and no action from FVRC was required.

2. Pavillion Project- no further update

D. Hiring Sub-Committee Report – A letter has been sent to all applicants that were interviewed to advise that the process is taking longer than anticipated. FVRC has provided the BOS with their recommended candidate and awaiting next steps.

VI. Old Business / Ongoing Business

A. Membership – Melissa Lopes made a motion to nominate Elizabeth “Sis” Rhoades as a member of the Commission for a 3 year term, beginning April 8th 2026 and ending on April 8th 2029. Seconded by Dan Carr. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

2. Alternate Vacancy – no update and request that people help spread the word.

B. Winter Activities - Cross-Country Skiing – Melissa made a motion to postpone this matter to next meeting. Seconded by Matt. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

~~C. Finance/Budget Sub-committee~~

D Secretary Position – Melissa made a motion to appoint Catherine Wales as secretary. Seconded by Dan Carr. Vote Unanimous. Motion Passed.

E. FVRC Proposed Spending Plan FY 26-27 – Melissa Lopes has submitted the FVRC spending plan to BOS. Expect to hear further information in April.

F. Town of Canaan - Falls Village Capital Projects Request Form – no further updates

VII. Commission Finances

A. Monthly Financial Review

B. Invoice and Reimbursement Requests (if any) -Dan Carr made a motion to approve the following invoices totaling \$500.

1. All-Star Transportation 1/16/26 Invoice \$200.00

2. All-Star Transportation 1/20/26 Invoice \$300.00

Seconded by Matt Gallagher. Vote unanimous. Motion passed

VIII. Town Farm Property

A. Pool & Facilities

1. Pool House Cupolas – Melissa Lopes will invite Lou Timolat to a FVRC meeting to discuss work on the cupola and how we can support or provide information.

B. Commission Capital Plan

1. Maintenance schedule and responsibilities – Melissa made a motion to postpone this topic to next week. Seconded by Catherine. Vote unanimous. Motion passed

X. New Business

A. POCD Implementation Sub-Committee

POCD was reviewed and there are questions that FVRC would like to discuss further with POCD Sub-committee. Melissa will invite the members of the POCD sub-committee to attend a FVRC meeting for further discussion.

XI. Events

A. Upcoming 2026 Events

1. Ongoing discussion of 2026 Events - Community Maple Sugar House Visits (3/21 10 AM - 2 PM) – Matt Gallagher forwarded the request from the Maple Sugar House Community that people share the event information through FVRC digital and social network.

2. Ongoing discussion of 2026 Events - Community Easter Egg Hunt (4/4/26 @1pm LHK) – Now called Annual Egg hunt. This will be held at Kellogg

3. Ongoing discussion of 2026 Events - Falls Village Community Earth Day (4/18) – FVRC will arrange trash pick-up around various streets. Meet at the library to assign people to certain locations.

4. Ongoing discussion of 2026 Events - Community Maple Sugar Community Party (4/25 Time TBA) – A spearheading team for the MSCP (maple sugar community party) consists of 4 members. Matt Gallagher (representing the FVRC), Jody Bronson (representing GMF) and Bill Beebee / Judy Jacobs (representing Historical Society). As a representative of the MSCP, Matt requested that the FVRC collaborate with both DM Hunt library and Historic Society during this event. Matt shared information that the Historical Society will host an event with photos and exhibits on display in the town green where Judy Jacobs will give a talk about sugaring. The café will support the maple season in their menu. Matt Gallagher requested that the FVRC review available funds and possible consideration of supporting the

costs involved in such event. To be discussed further in next month's meetings when more detail and event scheduling is available.

5. Dan Carr made a motion to allocate funds in the amount of \$200 to TAHD – to pay for the registration and inspection of the swimming pool for 2026. Seconded by Chris Wadsworth. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

XII. Any Other Business Properly Come Before the Commission – none

XIII. Public Comment - none

XIV. Dan made a motion to adjourn at 9:10pm; seconded by Chris Wadsworth; Vote Unanimous. Adjournment

Minutes Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Wales