

Canterbury Historical Society

Minutes – October 6, 2025

Elkins Memorial Building

Trustees Present: Bill Adams, Fred Brewster, Anne Emerson, Pam Jackson, Mary Kerwin, Jeff Leidinger, Sandy Scripture, David Tirrell-Wysocki, Mary Ann Winograd. Also present: Naomi Scanlon, Alan Stone, Lydia West, Paul Lepesqueur, Jacob Murch

1. **Meeting called to order** at 4 p.m. by Fred Brewster.
2. **September meeting** minutes approved. **Motion to approve passed unanimously.**
Move - Pam Jackson. Second – Anne Emerson.
3. **Minutes placed on file.**

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

Mary Ann Winograd presented the September 2025 report. It is **attached**. As of 9/30/2025, total assets: \$7459.01.

Tricentennial Committee finances. **Report is attached**. As of 9/30/2025, total assets: \$ 1199.10.

Motion to approve both reports passed unanimously. Move – Mary Kerwin.
Second – Anne Emerson.

5. **Archives Report:** no report
6. **President's Report:** Paul Lepesqueur, who volunteered to photograph town committees and departments, reported he is making contacts to schedule photos.

Fred reported that former CHS President Bob Scarponi contacted him about ensuring the CHS website posted information about the Canterbury Players theatrical group that performed in town in decades past. Alan Stone reported he has posted some of the information and is standing by to post more. Bob also suggested the modern history of Canterbury - *Staying Small in a Century of Growth, Canterbury, New Hampshire, 1900-2000* - should be available for purchase on the site. Alan will post the information when he receives it. As an aside, Anne Emerson reported the Shaker Village is sold out of the books. She will deliver more and inquire about payment to CHS for previous sales.

Fred reported that Shirley Wajda, Shaker Village's curator of collections, will be the guest speaker at CHS's Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. on Nov. 13 at Town Hall. She will address "War and Speech," a program about propaganda and free speech during WWI. CHS trustees were asked to arrive early for a photograph.

Also at the Annual Meeting, trustees plan to elect Jacob Murch to a newly created student trustee position. Lydia West and Sue Russell, who have expressed interest in filling board vacancies, also will be elected. They will fill spots opening by the appointments of Anne Emerson and Chuck Sanborn as trustees emeritus. Bill Adams, David Tirrell-Wysocki and Alan Stone also will be elected to full terms as all three entered the board to complete terms from previous vacancies.

After a report from Fred about a Shaker Village project to interview townspeople and others about their memories of the Village, there was a consensus that a similar CHS effort should not be pursued at this time. The Village has hired a respected interviewer to conduct interviews for its archives. Fred met with interested parties, including CHS Trustees Bill Adams, Anne Emerson and Mary Kerwin, and Paul Lepage, and reported he and the group concluded it was not practical to duplicate the effort. Fred will investigate whether the Village would provide CHS access to the archived interviews. Fred raised the possibility that the extensive introduction already written by Daryl Thompson and provided to CHS might be used as a CHS website Feature Story of the Month. David Tirrell-Wysocki, who is coordinating the features, will contact Daryl to discuss.

By consensus, the board agreed that Fred should pursue securing speakers from the NH Humanities' "Humanities to Go" program for two presentations in 2026: Afro-American soldiers and sailors in the Civil War and Family Stories, how and why to keep them.

7. Programs and Committees

Programs Committee: No report, as information was included in the President's Report.

Exhibits Committee – Pam Jackson reported the Summer Boarders exhibit remains on display. A possible future exhibit was discussed as part of the Cellar Hole Committee report below.

Sign Committee – No report.

Old House Book Committee – Jeff Leidinger reported he has drafted a template to help gather information and stories about Canterbury's old homes. He will send it to trustees for review. **Attached**

Oral History Committee – As the committee continues researching the issue of consent for use of oral histories, Mary Kerwin reported she has

been in touch with oral history experts at Baylor University and the University of Tennessee about formulating appropriate consent forms.

Treasurer Mary Ann Winograd reported that she and CHS archivist Sam Papps have submitted some completed oral history interviews to be transcribed.

One Room Schoolhouse Committee – Anne Emerson reported that Karen Gingrich, who coordinates the program for the school district, will continue in her role for the current school year.

Maintenance Committee – Jeff Leidinger reported that Town Manager Ken Folsom entertained bids for a project to run an underground cable to extend power from Town Hall to the CHS Houser Museum. The estimate was exorbitant, ruling out the project for now.

Cellar Holes Committee – Bill Adams continues uncovering and documenting historic cellar holes and their contents. He showed trustees a brass buckle from Canterbury's early days that was found just the previous day on the property of Jeff and Claudia Leidinger. Bill agreed that the buckle and other artifacts he's discovered would be an interesting future CHS exhibit.

CHS Website Development and Maintenance – Alan Stone reported he continued regular site maintenance during the past month, including removing CHS committee pages that don't yet have any content to display, while updating with information such as the Canterbury Players history, Feature Story of the Month, minutes, etc.

Tricentennial Committee – Naomi Scanlon said Tricentennial subcommittees are more active, working on details for donations, items that might be sold to finance the celebration (mugs, stickers, t-shirts, hats, etc.) and possible events (a historical play, softball game and bean supper). The committee also has reached out to groups including the Friends of Canterbury Center, Sherwood Forest residents, gardeners and quilters for possible partnerships. The committee received a \$500 grant from the Canterbury Fund. **See attached committee report for more detail.**

8. Other Business – none

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm. **Move – Jeff Leidinger. Second - Pam Jackson.**

Respectfully submitted,

David Tirrell-Wysocki

Recording Secretary