

# Dalton Conservation Commission

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Tuesday August 15, 2023 Draft Minutes

6:30PM

Members in Attendance: Jon Swan, Mike Carrier, Ernie Hannaford, Miriam Caldwell, Carol Sheltry, Ruth Duval

Members Absent: Nancy Comeau, Gina Daimano

Members of the Public: Vic StCyr

Call to Order: 6:30PM

1. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes – July 18<sup>th</sup>. Jon Swan motioned to approve, Miriam 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor.
2. Mike Carrier approved as voting member for meeting due to absences, Miriam motioned, Carol 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor.
3. DCC Conservation Fund Balance, as of June 30, 2023: \$24,324.47
4. Change meeting time to 6PM? Everyone present at August 15<sup>th</sup>, is ok with 6pm. Need to check with Gina and Nancy on their schedules. Jon will email all to confirm if 6pm is ok.
5. NRI Draft: Town Forest, cooperative work with neighboring CCs. Elise to present NRI Draft at the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, Jon to film presentation to post to town website.  
\*\*Lots of potential land for future town forest, possibly identify and talk to the town residents if any are willing to put land into a conservation easement or even donate land for community use, hiking, public education.  
Jon to reach out to Whitefield Conservation Commission to collaborate, share NRI, research, information, work together on shared resources.
6. Conservation-Chase Bog- Reach out to property owners to discuss
7. Water testing-outreach to NHDES (Whitefield CC-Mirror Lake) Jon Swan will reach out to Whitefield CC to see if they tested Mirror Lake and then reach out to NHDES. Ernie motioned, Ruth second. All in favor.
8. Protect Dalton Water Sources-Forest Lake, private well testing for PFAS. Educate the public about how to go about getting their wells tested, assist them. Help with the sampling collected as needed. Post on the DCC website for residents to be able to reach out. (Lab and Well testing information) Miriam motioned, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.
9. Update: Community Garden/Greenhouse-Ernie. No update yet. Jon will stop by and see if he can find any information.  
Dalton Garden/NH State Nursery: <https://www.nh.gov/nhnursery/> Potential community donations of plants?  
Budget For A Pollinator Garden Order-Spring 2024? Fire Dept/Old Town Hall area? Possibly locate the garden there. Jon will ask Jeanette about the gardens and the new Dalton group having potential interest in.. Also ask Ron about the Fire Dept area since there may be plans to renovate or tear down the existing municipal building.

## Dalton Conservation Commission

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- Think about the potential size of the plot(s) and type of plants for the pollinator garden
10. Update: Nancy-Potential Junkyard Issue? – talk in future meeting if needed
  11. Fall Roadside Cleanup-November 18 (Meeting Tuesday Nov 14 due to Thanksgiving)
  12. Adopt A Highway RT135 Turnoff Litter signs-NHDOT document review. \*\*Selectboard needs to reach out to the state for the sign. Town needs to adopt an ordinance first.\*\* Carol to look into.
  13. CRC Source To Sea CT River Cleanup-September 22-23. Jon will reach out to for potential involvement by DCC and Dalton area cleanup of the Connecticut River.
  14. Member Recruitment – Terms ending in January. Possibly reach out to anyone interested in joining.
  15. 2024 calendar of DCC events. 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays still work. Post any known event dates in town report at March Town Meeting..
  16. Fall BioBlitz-October 21. Back section of David Dana Forest. Forest Lake State Park as well (Gina to reach out to the state to see if its ok to). (Use iNaturalist App, plus Seek App).
  17. Future guest speakers-2024? Budget For? UNH List Review \$100 suggested donation per Speaker – Growing a Pollinator Garden (January 2024 meeting). Next meeting in September, discuss 2<sup>nd</sup> option for February speaker. Jon Swan to reach out to surrounding Conservation Commissions to see if they want to collaborate for the UNH Speakers. Jon will check with UNH to see if there is a limit of # of attendees for speaker event.
  18. Other organizations to possibly present: ACT, CRC
  19. Casella Mailer to Dalton residents-July 24, 2023-add to the record. Casella also submitted an Air permit to NHDES on July 5, 2023. Nothing to act on for now.
  20. Adjourn: 7:28PM – Jon motioned, Ernie 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

### **Please mark your calendars for the following:**

September 19, 2023: Next Meeting 6:30PM, NRI Presentation by Elise Lawson

\*Public Meetings: Anyone, not just local residents, may attend, take notes, record and photograph the meeting. However, except as required in a public hearing, the public has no guaranteed right to speak. RSA 91-A:2

[https://www.nhmunipal.org/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/public\\_meetings\\_governmental\\_records.pdf](https://www.nhmunipal.org/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/public_meetings_governmental_records.pdf)

*\*In order to save time during public meetings, and to ensure accuracy in response, the Dalton Conservation Commission requests that all comments and questions from the public be submitted to the DCC email address*

## UNH Extension Master Gardener Speakers Bureau Programs

Updated 6/19/23

**Composting**  
**Container Gardening**  
**Dividing Perennials Hands-on Workshop**  
**Gardening in a Changing Climate**  
**Getting the Garden Ready for Spring**  
**Go Native! Incorporating Native Plants into Your Landscapes**  
**Growing a Pollinator Garden**  
**Herb Gardening**  
**Invasive Plants**  
**Putting the Garden to Bed**  
**Raised Bed Gardening**  
**Seed Saving**  
**Seed Starting and Propagation**  
**Vegetable Gardening**  
**Winter Seed Sowing of Native Perennials for Your Garden**

***Note:** Time frames are approximate, and depend largely on the size of the audience. The greater the number of attendees, generally the greater the number of questions, which can take more time.*

**Composting** – Can be given any time of year

Approximate time: 70-90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

If you aren't already composting, come find out why you should be and how easy it is to get started. If you're already composting, come learn some new tips and tricks. This presentation is geared for both beginners and experienced composters alike. Attendees will learn what compost is and why composting is important; about the various organisms that make compost happen, what materials are required for a successful compost, the many different methods for constructing a compost pile and which is best for their individual situation, and finally, how to resolve any issues that might arise.

*Note:* The presentation does not cover vermicomposting (worm composting).

**Container Gardening** – Best given April to June

Approximate time: 60-90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

During this presentation, attendees will learn the benefits and drawbacks of gardening in containers, the different types of containers and how to select the proper size and type for various situations, the proper way to assemble a container garden, the various factors to consider (such as environment, plant types, design characteristics, etc.), proper care and maintenance of container gardens, and finally, how to troubleshoot and solve problems from pests and diseases.

**Dividing Perennials Hands-on Workshop** – best given in May, but also could be done in September

Approximate time: 30-60 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

This is an outdoor workshop that is done on a site that you provide where there are several varieties of perennial plants to be divided. Attendees will learn why dividing perennials is important, how often different plants should be divided, which plants should never be divided, and the critical do's and don'ts of dividing plants to ensure successful transplanting.

**Gardening in a Changing Climate** – Can be given any time of year

Approximate time: 60-75 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

Later frosts in the fall, earlier planting times, heavier rain events and longer stretches of drought. Gardeners are on the front line as witnesses to the changes in climate that have been occurring in recent years. This presentation provides a brief look at the science of climate change and the impact it has on our daily lives while also offering ideas about how we can adapt our growing strategies and habits to both reduce our impact on climate change and keep growing the plants we enjoy.

**Getting the Garden Ready for Spring** – Best given March/April or early May

Approximate time: 75-90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

In this presentation attendees will learn some best practices for getting their vegetable and flower gardens ready for Spring, ensuring that both plants and planting areas are properly prepared for a bountiful harvest. In addition to covering the vegetable and perennial gardens, attendees will learn best practices on how to bring the lawn out of hibernation, how to care for trees and shrubs, dealing with aggressive weeds, the benefits of composting, managing pests and diseases, and tending to tools and supplies.

**Go Native! Incorporating Native Plants into Your Landscapes** – Can be given any time of year, though best in spring. In person presentation only.

Approximate time: 60 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults

Learn what native plants are and why they are important to add to your landscapes. Photos of native plants appropriate for various growing conditions will be shown as well as photos of native garden examples. Attendees will learn where to buy natives and how to use them successfully in their new and existing gardens. Ideas for creating a container native garden will be discussed. The instructor hopes to inspire the attendees to make small changes in their gardens with native plants.

**Growing a Pollinator Garden**– Can be given any time of year

Approximate time: 60-90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages, high school age, or youth groups (such as 4H, Scouts, science clubs)

Insects such as bees and butterflies are helpful, and in some cases, essential, in pollinating many of our food crops such as apples, berries, and vegetables. In recent years, there has been a significant decline in the populations of these wild pollinators. Planting patches of flowers, wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and flowering trees with an emphasis on the use of native plants can encourage and support natural pollinators as well as enhance backyard landscapes. Recommendations will be presented on creating a pollinator habitat in your yard.

**Herb Gardening**– Can be given any time of year

Approximate time: 60-90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

This presentation is for those at any level of gardening who are interested in incorporating herbs into a new or established space or in containers. Attendees will learn about the propagation and growing habits of readily available herbs, as well as some which are harder to find. An overview of environmental conditions necessary to grow herbs will also be addressed. The use of culinary herbs is included in the presentation; the medicinal usage of herbs will not be addressed.

**Invasive Plants** – Can be given any time of year

Approximate time: 60-90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

Attendees will learn the official definition of invasive species and what differentiates an invasive from a native species. The concerns surrounding invasive plants and the ecological characteristics common to invasive plants will be discussed. To assist attendees that have invasive plant issues, a number of practical control strategies will be presented, including helpful resources.

**Putting the Garden to Bed** – Best given August to October

Approximate time: 75--90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

During this presentation attendees will learn the steps necessary to properly prepare their gardens for winter, including: finishing off annuals and vegetable beds, preparing perennial beds to reduce pests and disease, overwintering non-hardy plants, readying ornamental shrubs and evergreens to survive various winter conditions, and tending to tools and supplies.

**Raised Bed Gardening** – Can be given any time of year

Approximate time: 45-60 minutes

Audience: Adults of all ages.

During this presentation attendees will learn how raised bed gardening can provide solutions where traditional garden beds are not an option, the advantages and disadvantages of raised beds, what options are available for different site applications, what soil to use in a raised bed, and how to deal with problems such as pests and pathogens that can present themselves in raised beds.

**Seed Saving** – Can be given any time of year

Approximate time: 90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

During this presentation attendees will learn why saving seeds is important, what kinds of seeds to save and when to harvest them, the different methods for processing seeds and preparing them for storage, and several tips and tricks to ensure successful germination.

**Seed Starting and Propagation** – Best given January to March

Approximate time: 60-90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

During this workshop, attendees will learn the benefits and best practices for starting plants from seeds and cuttings. Attendees will learn about how to get started, successful germination requirements, different growing methods and mediums, light and temperature requirements, overcoming common problems, hardening off seedlings for transplanting into the garden, and best practices to ensure seedlings successfully grow into healthy mature plants. *Optional:* Generally, when children are attending, participants will have the opportunity to start their first seeds in a container to take home.

**Vegetable Gardening:** – Best given January to early May

Approximate time: 75-90 minutes, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

During this workshop, attendees will learn principles and practices for successful vegetable gardening. Attendees will learn how to plan a garden to produce lots of high-quality vegetables, how to expend less energy on maintenance of the garden and how to use fewer chemical inputs. In addition, attendees will learn how to choose the ideal location, how to prepare the garden site, what and how much to grow, the timing of planting, as well as harvesting and storage of the vegetables.

**Winter Seed Sowing of Native Perennials for Your Garden** - Best given November to February

Approximate time: 60 minutes\*, including Q & A

Audience: Adults of all ages

*\*If your organization wishes to plant native seeds after the presentation, a list of supplies to be provided by your organization will be made available. An additional 30-45 minutes will be needed for the planting of seeds.*

Winter is a great time to sow native seeds. Many native seeds need to be exposed to prolonged cold and moist conditions to break their dormancy and germinate. Join us as we introduce you to native plants and guide you through this six-step process. *Optional:* Each attendee will plant a small pot of native seeds to overwinter at home with supplies to be provided by the organization.

**2024 DCC Meetings, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays**

January 16, 2024

February 20, 2024

March 19

April 16

May 21

June 18

July 16

August 20

September 17

October 15

November 19

December 17



ESTABLISHED 1975

**GRANITE STATE LANDFILL, LLC**

581 Trudeau Road • Bethlehem, NH 03574 p. 603-869-3366

July 24, 2023

Dear Residents of Dalton,

Following three years of research, community and regulatory input, and project development, Casella Waste Systems, Inc. (Casella) and its subsidiary Granite State Landfill, LLC. (GSL) are working on a revised landfill development layout and will submit the necessary permit applications in the coming months.

We've often said that the permitting process for this kind of facility is long and includes many opportunities for all stakeholders to provide meaningful input at the federal, state, and local levels, which has been the case. We remain within the initial timeline presented and we are pleased with the level of engagement with the Dalton community and beyond.

The revised project design will reduce the original proposed footprint by nearly half (from 135 acres down to approximately 70 acres) and reduce the landfill's final height by up to 20 feet. The redesign will remove the landfill from view of many surrounding areas, reduce the area of impacted wetlands by more than 40 percent, and nearly triple the setback to Alder Brook, while still providing nearly two decades of much-needed disposal capacity to New Hampshire residents.

Throughout the process we have listened to and evaluated feedback from countless stakeholders, worked to meet the requirements of multiple regulatory agencies, and feel strongly that the proposed project is consistent with the feedback we've received. This will allow us to position the entire permitting process to run concurrently and allow for each regulatory agency to work uniformly with one another.

We have every intention to continue to engage with local community leaders regarding an appropriate host community benefit package that will support the long-term goals of Dalton residents. We feel that our relationship with the town should be collaborative and a benefit to its citizens for years to come.

In addition to significant annual payments, free trash and recycling service to every resident, and other financial benefits, the proposed host community benefit agreement is the best opportunity for Dalton residents to provide input that will help shape operations at the facility.

Solid waste facilities in the state are already taking the maximum amount of waste they are allowed to take under their permits, and so, it is unclear where the waste now going to Casella's NCES facility will be managed. Currently, over 85 percent of the household waste accepted at NCES comes from New Hampshire residents. Without the disposal capacity at GSL, more than 50,000 customers throughout the State will need to find an alternative site for their waste, resulting in significant environmental and economic impacts to the entire state of New Hampshire.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our local team at [daltonfacts@casella.com](mailto:daltonfacts@casella.com).

Sincerely,  
CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.

John W. Casella  
Chairman & CEO



# GRANITE STATE LANDFILL

## REVISED PROJECT DESIGN

	<u>Original Design</u>	<u>Revised Design</u>
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Lined Footprint	135 acres	70 acres
Wetland Impacts	17 acres	10 acres
Alder Brook Setback	910 feet	2,700 feet

Landfill height lowered by up to 20 feet, further removing it from view of many surrounding areas.



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