

Dalton Conservation Commission

DCC Minutes February 2 2023

Call to order: 6:05PM

Members in attendance: Ernie Hannaford, Jon Swan, Tamela Swan, Miriam Caldwell

Mike Carrier arrived late, motion made by Jon Swan, seconded by Miriam Caldwell, to make Mike a voting member for the meeting due to the absence of Ruth Duval. Motion passed unanimously

New Business

1. Dalton NRI update: Attached is the invoice from Elise, and as she states, we can pay her to continue and finalize her work, or not. We have paid her \$1000 so far, with \$4000 due, to finish. Jon Swan recommended we authorize payment of \$4000 from the DCC trust fund so she can deliver an updated NRI to the Town of Dalton, despite our potential dissolution. – **Miriam motioned to pay Elise to finalize the NRI update. Ernie Hannaford seconded this motion. Unanimous vote to pay the invoice.**
2. Wetlands Scientist Jim McClammer is still owed \$1870.00 from previous work on the Casella wetlands permit application. **Jon Swan motioned to pay remaining balance owed. Miriam Caldwell seconded. Unanimous vote to pay invoice for remaining balance owed.**
3. Jim McClammer, Wetlands Scientist: Jim McClammer sent a proposal letter for services that can be provided (services attached) should the abolishment of the DCC occur in March, 2023. **Miriam Caldwell motioned to agree to the proposal and to authorize payment of \$15,000 to Jim McClammer to represent the Town of Dalton in the next round of permitting for the proposed GSL Landfill project. Ernie Hannaford seconded. Unanimous vote to pay.**
4. Dalton Conservation Commission Trust Fund Statement was reviewed, account balance of \$79,729.74

Other Business

Non – Public Meeting: 6:19PM-6:37PM

Jon Swan motioned to seal the non-public meeting minutes. Miriam Seconded. Unanimous vote to seal minutes

DCC members signed papers for check requests

Public comments: None

Meeting Adjourned: 6:39 PM

Approved 4-0

Jon Swan
Tamela Swan

Miriam Caldwell

**PROPOSAL/CONTRACT
FOR A TOWN-WIDE NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
FOR THE
DALTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

April 2022



Chase Bog Brook – photo taken September 2003

**Proposal submitted by:
Watershed to Wildlife / Elise Lawson
507 West Darling Hill Road
West Burke, VT 05871**



Watershed to Wildlife / Elise Lawson
507 W. Darling Hill Rd., W. Burke, VT 05871
Phone: (802) 473-8188
ejlawson9@gmail.com

**PROPOSAL/CONTRACT FOR A TOWN-WIDE NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
FOR THE DALTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**
April 21, 2022

Elise J. Lawson of Watershed to Wildlife, located at 507 West Darling Hill Road, West Burke, VT 05871, proposal to the Town of Dalton Conservation Commission located at 756 Dalton Road, Dalton, NH 03598 to complete a town-wide Natural Resource Inventory in the Town of Dalton, New Hampshire.

INTRODUCTION

Watershed to Wildlife (WTW) understands that the Dalton Conservation Commission (DCC) desires to identify, inventory, assess, and map the natural resources throughout the Town of Dalton, NH. New Hampshire State Law (RSA 36-A:2) states that Natural Resource Inventories (NRI) are one of the important duties of municipal conservation commissions. WTW understands that the goals of the NRI established by the DCC are to:

- List and describe natural resources throughout Town
- Identify highly ranked wetlands throughout town that merit protection
- Prioritize areas for conservation by easements or other means, as well as areas that would benefit from site reclamation.
- Identify areas of undeveloped habitat to maintain as wildlife travel corridors

WTW will use a combination of field work, updated mapping, and existing data from previous studies completed throughout Town, to complete an overall inventory of natural resources.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

1. Compile existing data and studies: NRCS soils, USGS topographic maps, aerial photos, existing town-wide GIS (NH GRANIT), previous Natural Resource Inventory, and any ongoing work throughout Town. Previous studies used for this report include the following:
 - a. Town of Dalton 2011 Master Plan (this NRI can be used for future updates)
 - b. 2006 Town of Dalton, NH Natural Resource Inventory
 - c. 2006 Town-wide wetland study and functional ranking
 - d. 2003 study of Chase Bog Wetland Complex

2. Develop a preliminary map displaying areas of interest for field work. This will be reviewed by the DCC. Alternatively, if the DCC has identified preferred areas for field work, WTW will visit them before any GIS-identified areas.
3. Rely on the assistance from the DCC to contact all pertinent landowners seeking permission to perform fieldwork, where deemed necessary, on private property.
4. Field work for three days on areas identified by WTW and the DCC. Members of DCC are welcome to join for some, all field work as convenient and desired. Field work will assess and document important natural resource features with an emphasis on ecologically significant areas.
5. Process field work and existing data using GIS mapping software (ArcMAP). Integrate attribute data from previous studies.
6. Write a draft NRI with associated maps for review by the DCC. The report will include recommendations for further studies and conservation planning. The DCC shall be given a month to review and comment on a draft NRI Report.
7. After receiving feedback from the DCC, produce 2 copies of a final report with maps.
8. Provide the DCC with all digital data collected for this project: written documents, pdf files, photographs, GIS data in shape and attribute files compatible with the DCC's existing GIS. All data is the property of the Town of Dalton, NH. WTW will not distribute data to anyone outside of the Town unless given written permission from town officials.
9. Public presentation at the end of the project to share the project results with town officials and residents. Date and time of the meeting will be determined by the DCC and WTW.

DALTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES

1. DCC members are welcome but not required to include any data pertinent to this NRI that will enhance the final product. Examples of data that can be included in the report are:
 - Archeological sites
 - Historical and cultural features
 - Scenic features
 - Wildlife sightings
 - Rare plant and plant communities
2. If necessary, the DCC shall contact landowners seeking permission to walk on private property to visit and evaluate Natural Resources for this study. WTW will not trespass on

private property without landowner permission. Public rights-of-way, town-owned property, and public trails will be used as much as possible.

3. DCC members will assist in notification of final public meeting, including space reservation for the public presentation.

TIMELINE FOR PROJECT COMPLETION

Item	Approximate time to complete	Task
1, 2, 3	1 month	Review all existing mapping, digital data, GIS data Submit a map of field work areas for DCC to review. At this time DCC will contact any landowner to seek permission for going onto their property for NRI data gathering if necessary.
4	3 days – but spread out if possible although not necessary	Field Work – I recommend spreading out field days to see different plants and plant community types. Field work is generally done during the growing season (May – September). But field work can be done until Early November.
5	2 months	Compilation of data into GIS format, create maps
6	1 – 2 months	Write draft report and deliver to the DCC for review, comments, and additions.
7, 8	2 weeks	Final report due Delivery of all data – 2 hard copies and all digital data
9	1-2 hours	Public meeting to present results from study to town officials and residents

All digital data will be the property of the Dalton Conservation Commission. All digital data will be delivered on a thumb drive or via Google Drive, including reports, databases, photographs, and maps. All GIS data will be in a compatible format to the existing town-wide GIS. WTW will also have and retain copies of all data.

DETAILED COST

Item # from Scope of Services	Description	Cost
1, 2	Review existing digital data and produce field map for DCC review	\$500.00
4	Field work – 3 days	\$1,000.00
5	GIS processing and mapping	\$1,500.00
6	Draft report with maps	\$1,500.00
7, 8	Final report, maps and digital data given to DCC	\$250.00
9	Public presentation	\$250.00
	Total Cost	\$5,000.00

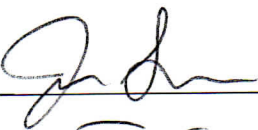
COST AND PAYMENT TERMS

The price quotation for the project as described herein is Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). The quote is an all-inclusive maximum price for performing these services. Hourly rate is \$50.00/hour or \$400/day for extra services.

The DCC will pay invoices within 60 days of invoicing as tasks are completed and documentation is received. An initial payment of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) shall be made to Elise Lawson within 60 days of execution of this contract.

Customer Acceptance:
Town of Dalton

Watershed to Wildlife

Signed: 

Signed: Elise J. Lawson

Print name: Jon Swan

Printed Name: Elise J. Lawson

Date: Feb 2, 2023

Date: April 21, 2022



INVOICE

INVOICE #:DCC-NRI 2022-2023

DATE:1-25-23

Elise Lawson / Watershed to Wildlife
507 West Darling Hill Rd
West Burke, VT 05871
Phone:802-473-8188

TO:
Jon Swan
Town of Dalton
Dalton Conservation Commission
756 Dalton Road
Whitefield, NH 03598

Invoice to complete the Natural Resource Inventory in the Town of Dalton, New Hampshire

CONTRACT ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1,2	Review existing digital data and produce field map for DCC review	\$500.00
4	Field work – 3 days total	\$1,000.00
5	GIS processing and mapping	\$1,500.00
6	Draft report with maps	\$1,500.00
7,8	Final report, maps and digital data given to Dalton Conservation Commission	\$250.00
9	Public presentation	\$250.00
TOTAL NRI PROJECT COSTS		\$5,000.00
AMOUNT PAID BY DCC		-\$1,000.00
TOTAL DUE THIS INVOICE		\$4,000.00

Make all checks payable to Elise Lawson
Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional details.

Thank you!

Dalton Conservation Commission

756 Dalton Road

Dalton, NH 03598

Date: February 2, 2023

To: Treasurer, Town of Dalton

The Dalton Conservation Commission requests a check be issued as follows:

Pay to: Elise Lawson / Watershed to Wildlife

Payment for: \$4000 NRI Update

Invoice #:: DCC-NRI 2022-2023

Payment due no later than: ASAP

Requested by: Jon Swan, Chair

Sincerely,

Dalton Conservation Commission

Madison Caldwell
Erin [Signature]
Tony [Signature]
Michael Q. Carver
[Signature]

Connecticut Valley Environmental Services, Inc.

391 River Road
Charlestown, NH 03603
603-826-5214
McClammer@aol.com

STATEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

To: Dalton Conservation Commission
c/o Mr. Jon Swan,
Dalton, NH

Re: NHDES Permit Review
Wetland Application #2020-02239
GRANITE STATE LANDFILL LLC (GSL)
Subject Property: Douglas Dr., Dalton, Tax Map
#M405/406 Lot #33/1, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3 and
Bethlehem Tax Map #406, Lot# 1, 2

via email: conservationchair@townofdalton.com

February 2, 2023

DATE	SERVICES RENDERED
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Aug 10, 2021- Feb 1, 2023	Review Granite State Landfill LLC (GSL) submissions in support of their wetland applications; phone consultations and coordination with Nancy Comeau (NC), DCC chair; participate in drafting DCC comments on application; attend various meetings related to the state and federal application processes and procedures, review miscellaneous documents, and coordination with regulatory agency personnel and interested parties.
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Significant chronological events and details are appended.

22 Hours @ \$85/hour		\$1,870.00
		PAYMENT DUE \$1,870.00 Payable Upon Receipt

Thank you for your business!

Significant chronological events and details:

8/16/21-Edit Draft Landfill Comment Letter; 8/20-DCC will review letter and will provide comments;

8/26/21-NHDES requests that GSL submit an amendment to their pending application; it is my opinion that correcting design deficiencies, especially base grades of the liner systems will affect the footprint of the landfill and likely change the square feet of wetland impact; I believe the correct procedure is for GSL to 1) withdraw the pending wetland application, 2) make the significant necessary changes to comply with a design deemed complete by the Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD,) and then 3) submit a new application; I think it may be prudent for the Town of Dalton to file an open records request for all communications between the DES and the applicant to find any evidence of improper (even if just from an optics standpoint) coordination regarding the permit process;

8/31/21-Review Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) comments on <http://indepthnh.org/2021/08/31/state-seeks-amendment-to-casella-wetlands-application/>;

9/1/21-Participate in Army Corps of Engineers WebEx meeting; raise awareness of cumulative impact issues, consistency with the NH Solid Waste Plan, and treatment of previously unauthorized wetland fill; and, provide a summary of the meeting to NC;

9/8/21-Email DES with concerns that amended impacts are likely to be significantly different from those that were presented at the Public Hearing on July 14, 2021; therefore, it is my opinion that comments submitted at this time are generally irrelevant;

9/29/21-Participate in Online DES public informational meeting (PIM); Phil Trowbridge, DES Administrator, acknowledged that the proposed landfill is the most complicated permitting process ever for the DES. It is my opinion that this meeting was useful as it provided an informal opportunity to discuss aspects of the permitting process. Formal comments on "revised" applications cannot occur until they are submitted, probably late in 2022. In the interim, I believe the DCC should ask the DES to compel the landowner to resolve unauthorized wetland violations that have no nexus to the landfill. I referred to these violations in Item #5 of my draft August 16, 2021-comments. I raised this issue during the PIM and Mary Ann Tilton, Wetlands Assistant Bureau Administrator, confirmed that the landowner intends to retain roads which previously impacted wetland. I believe there is no basis for the landowner to defer seeking an after-the-fact (ATF) permit for these impacts. And submission of an ATF application now should make the landfill application slightly less complex. Once an ATF application is made it should also provide the DCC with an opportunity to conduct a site visit, hopefully during the growing season.

12/8/21-Casella discusses Dalton landfill at Plymouth meeting;

12/10/21-Casella withdraws the NHDES Standard Dredge & Fill application for the proposed project (File #2020-02239);

4/16-20/22-Suggest Casella allow a site visit on any day from April 28 to May 2. NC indicates the wood frogs are singing! DCC formally requests access to the project site on these dates to verify resources, including Rare Threatened and Endangered species, vernal pools and wetlands. Joe Gay responds on April 20th that "Upon resubmission of an application, all parties entitled to a site visit by law, will be accommodated."

Dalton Conservation Commission

756 Dalton Road

Dalton, NH 03598

Date:

To: Treasurer, Town of Dalton

The Dalton Conservation Commission requests a check be issued as follows:

Pay to: Connecticut Valley
Environmental Services, Inc.

Payment for: \$1870, Wetlands Scientist Contract


Invoice #: NHDES Permit Review
Wetland Application #2020-02239


Payment due no later than: ASAP

Requested by: Jon Swan, Chair

Sincerely,

Dalton Conservation Commission


Miriam Caldwell


Jon Swan


Michael R. Swan

~~Connecticut Valley Environmental Services, Inc.~~

Charlestown, New Hampshire

February 2, 2023

Mr. Jon Swan, Conservation Chair
Dalton Conservation Commission
Dalton, New Hampshire

via email: conservationchair@townofdalton.com

~~Proposal to the Town of Dalton Selectboard and Conservation Commission to Provide Environmental Consulting Services~~

Dear Mr. Swan:

Connecticut Valley Environmental Services, Inc. (CVES) is pleased to provide the following services to review natural resource applications that may be submitted to local, state and federal resource agencies by a project proponent in order to permit a new solid waste landfill within the Town:

1. Review and comment on applications and supporting documents to permit the construction of a landfill. These include New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Wetlands applications, NHDES Alteration of Terrain application, and NHDES Water Quality Certification application.
2. Conduct site visits, if authorized, to identify protected resources, including Rare Threatened and Endangered species, vernal pools and wetlands.
3. Attend and participate in meetings and hearings on behalf of the Town where the design and permitting of the solid waste landfill is discussed.
4. ~~Coordinate with regulatory agency personnel, local river advisory committees, natural resource experts, and other stakeholders, as needed.~~
5. Retain subconsultants (e.g., drone operators, wildlife experts), if necessary, to confirm information submitted by the applicant.
6. Provide periodic reports to the Town.

The services will be provided for a fixed fee of \$15,000.00, which includes the costs for subconsultants, travel, and any other incidental expense. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at McClammer@aol.com.



Sincerely,

James U. McClammer, Jr.
NH Certified Wetland Scientist #003
President & Senior Environmental Scientist
Connecticut Valley Environmental Services, Inc.

Dalton Conservation Commission

756 Dalton Road

Dalton, NH 03598

Date: February 2, 2023

To: Treasurer, Town of Dalton

The Dalton Conservation Commission requests a check be issued as follows:

**Pay to: Connecticut
Valley Environmental
Services**

**Payment for:
\$15,000, for
environmental
services**

Invoice #: Retainer

**Payment due no later than:
ASAP**

**Requested by:
Jon Swan, Chair**

Sincerely,

Dalton Conservation Commission

Jon Swan
Miriam Caldwell
Eric Hume
Tom J. Hume