

Monday, August 18, 2025 6:30 PM

Regular Session

Dalton Select Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by Jo Beth. Select Board members Jo Beth Dudley and Thomas Dubreuil were physically present. Town Admin, Jeanette Charon present and note taking. Meeting available for public viewing via Zoom.

Public attendees: Kris Ennis, Karel Bean, Robin Pilotte, Pam Kathan, Michael Carrier, and Michael Ryan. Via zoom: Carol Sheltry and Cathy's iPad.

Karel Bean provided backup deeds and drawings showing the deeded water rights to the Grange Hall property. The Beans are requesting the water rights be included in the deed for the ~1/2-acre property being purchased by the Town, later to be merged with the Grange property lot. Tom asked if repairing the dug well, discussed from the drawings, will give them the water they need at the Grange. Karel believes it will. Previous quit claim deeds from the school district to the Town did not refer to the water rights. Legal counsel stated the deeds do transfer all rights and services, which include the water rights. Karel agreed it would be fine to proceed without the specific wording. He will re-dig the water line and tap into the spring fed well. He will cover the well head once he has everything connected. An additional title search, as offered by legal counsel, is not necessary. Kris Ennis, from the planning board, did review the documents regarding water sources and was in agreement with the opinion of the Board and Karel Bean. The Beans are in agreement with the quit claim deed and purchase agreement wording. Once the final costs for the purchase are determined, the documents can be executed by both parties. The anticipated close date is September 15, 2025.

The Board signed payroll and AP checks.

A driveway permit was reviewed and signed by the Board for 54 Landry Road. Jo Beth motioned with a second from Tom and approval via roll call vote.

Jeanette provided the Health Officer Nomination Form for Ron Sheltry's renewal to the position. Tom asked for clarification. Jo Beth provided explanation. Jo Beth motioned for approval of the form with a second from Tom and approval via roll call vote.

The Board signed a pistol permit and two (2) timber intents to cut.

The Board sign one (1) land use change tax (LUCT) warrant. Jo Beth motioned with a second by Tom and approval via roll call vote.

The meeting minutes from July 21, 2025, were approved. Jo Beth motioned with a second by Tom and approval via roll call vote.

The meeting minutes from August 4, 2025, were approved. Jo Beth motioned with a second from Tom and approval via roll call vote.

Nonpublic minutes #1 for August 4, 2025, were discussed. Jo Beth stated that she needed further input from Tom as she could not select a reason for the nonpublic meeting nor a reason to seal the minutes. Tom claimed the meeting was personnel. Tom stated it was nonpublic and is sealed. Jeanette asked if she was discussed in the nonpublic session. Tom stated he wasn't answering that question. Jeanette stated that it is a valid question and asked it again. Jeanette asked Jo Beth and she read the minutes and stated no. Tom read the minutes and stated they were accurate and should be sealed. Jo Beth motioned to approve the incomplete minutes. Tom provided a second and approval was made via roll call vote.

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Returned checks were discussed. The NH State Police confirmed certified letters are required to be sent to the resident who wrote the returned check. Return receipts are required in order for the police to pursue theft of services charges on behalf of the Town. The Board motioned to increase the returned check fee to \$35. Additionally, the 1st notice will go out regular mail. Lack of response to resolve the issue within two weeks will result in a certified mail letter with return receipt. Jo Beth motioned for the changes with a second from Tom and approval via roll call vote.

Record retention and disposal was discussed. Jeanette referred to RSA 33-A. A municipal record retention committee will be formed. Per RSA 33-A:3, this committee shall include select board members, town clerk, tax collector, treasurer, and an assessor. Tom believes the Board determines the committee and stated that the select board is accountable. Tom voiced his opinion that removing the boxes from the vault should have been approved by the Board and that it was unethical to leave them in the gymnasium. He asked why Jo Beth felt she could act alone in the process. Jo Beth stated she did not act alone and made no decisions. Jeanette confirmed that she removed the boxes from the vault because we are out of space and the files aren't needed anymore, by state statute. None of the files contained confidential or sealed information. Jeanette provided a signed document from Richard Dorsett, our independent assessor, providing his approval of disposing of the PA-28 files in the vault for 2011 through 2019. State statute requires municipalities to save these for a minimum of five (5) years. Tom stated he wants more time to research. Jo Beth stated that we should follow the state statute. Jeanette suggested setting up the first meeting of the committee so we can move forward with the process. The boxes are locked in the office. If he wants to go through each box and each file, that's fine with Jeanette. Tom stated that he doesn't think the election ballots should be destroyed. Jeanette stated that as the town clerk, she is responsible for the election materials. She will dispose of the ballots per state statute and instruction. Tom asked why now? Why has this not come up before – as he has been here for 3 years. Jeanette stated that we have limited space for file storage and it needs to be addressed since it wasn't prior to her arrival. Jo Beth wants the committee members to be able to work independently with select board oversight. Tom wants to wait. The committee will meet at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Jeanette will send a notice to Nancy Crosby and Richard Dorsett to request they attend in person or via zoom.

Tom had no updates for the Dalton Conservation Commission. Jo Beth spoke about several DCC issues, including the railroad work that was being completed. Both NH DES and VRS (Vermont Rail Systems) are unable to attend the DCC meeting on August 19, 2025, to discuss the return of train operations through Dalton. The DCC did request information regarding the work, required permits, notification to town residents, etc. The DCC Chair, Jon Swan, asked the Board if they would be willing to reach out to town counsel for guidance. Tom stated that he will attend the meeting and bring information back to the select board. Additionally, Jon asked the Board if they would submit a request for reimbursement from Casella for the work completed by the commission in regards to the proposed GSL landfill project. Jo Beth motioned to submit a reimbursement request to Casella, noting it is common for companies to reimburse towns for costs related to potential developments. Tom said no. Lastly, there is an opportunity for Dalton residents to get free private well water testing through a grant made available from NH DES. The DES meeting on well water is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 6pm in the municipal building in Dalton.

Jo Beth provided Planning Board updates. The Bean update was previously discussed. Additionally, the Keats subdivision was discussed at the last planning board meeting and preliminarily approved. Jeanette will send letters to abutters and post the meeting notice for the public hearing to be held on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 7pm.

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The next Host Community Committee meeting is Monday, September 22, 2025 at 6:30pm. Postcards for the survey are going out to Dalton residents. A public meeting is being held on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 10am to noon at the municipal building. Casella has also scheduled an informational open house at their Bethlehem facility on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 9am.

The solar array is ready to be installed once Eversource provides the transformer information to Barrington Solar. The highway garage will need a new breaker box installed as the existing box is outdated and needs cleaning up.

The hazard mitigation plan is near completion with one more meeting taking place on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, from 2-4pm, as required. The meeting is expected to be short as we are just reviewing the plan that has been developed throughout all of the meetings.

Smith Road construction is due to be complete on Friday, August 22, 2025. There were some questions/issues surrounding the fence, anchors, etc. at the brick walls. The fencing contractor is proposing a different anchor design. The engineer was ok with the change. Jeanette asked for additional information on the items that were not available and asked why they hadn't been ordered when the project started. She also asked about a credit for the town since the labor would be much less for the alternate installation of the poles for the fence.

The geocell work has been removed from the mitigation plan for Blakslee Road. A virtual meeting with FEMA took place to discuss the system and why it was proposed and included in our plan. Jeanette explained the benefit of the system in our sloped areas, and that it had been recommended by FEMA. While FEMA understood the benefit, they didn't fully understand the purpose. Additionally, we were informed that the available mitigation funds were miscalculated by FEMA and the amount we had proposed for mitigation was now too high. Jeanette expressed her concern over this issue just now coming to fruition with FEMA since the Blakslee project had been in and out of mitigation multiple times. Jeanette stated that there wouldn't be enough time for the work to be completed at this point with FEMA reviews taking so long. In interest of getting the project pushed along in the lengthy review process, Jeanette removed the geocell work completely. This decreased mitigation award was substantial, but the project was pushed through mitigation in the FEMA process shortly thereafter.

Simon Berrio sent an email concerning the abandoned turn around on state road 135, Dalton Road. He voiced some concerns about using cameras in the area and gave feedback from his experiences with various camera system outcomes. Additionally, he offered his services and boulders to assist with closing off the area to traffic, if needed. Jo Beth will work on drafting a letter to the state requesting the state close off the turnaround for the property owner to sign. Once that is signed by the owner, the select board can execute a letter to accompany the property owner's request and send it to the state.

Sansoucy provided their utility assessment report for the town. Jeanette provided a copy to our assessor for the MS-1 report process.

Revised meeting dates were discussed due to upcoming holidays. The September 1, 2025, meeting has been moved to September 2, 2025 @ 6pm. The October 13, 2025, meeting has been moved to Thursday, October 16, 2025 @ 6:30pm.

Budget and Tax working sessions have also been added to the calendar. They are as follows: Monday, September 8, 2025 @ 5:30pm; Monday, September 22, 2025 @ 5pm; Monday, October 6, 2025 @ 5:30pm; and Monday, October 20, 2025 @ 5:30pm.

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Public Comment:

Pam Kathan asked about the Dalton Conservation Commission's request to bill GSL. She asked if that wasn't two years prior to Casella's offer to pay for costs. Jo Beth explained that Casella offered to pay for costs related to the host community agreement, and noted she thought the town should at least put in a request for reimbursement. Additionally, Pam Kathan asked about the boxes left unattended in the gymnasium. She asked why they were pulled and left in the gym. Jo Beth, Tamela and Carol were on the board back then and there has been an admin for 3 years. Why now? She also stated that there have been issues with voting in two others states and it's her opinion that ballots shouldn't be disposed of.

Michael Ryan asked about cameras at the turnaround. Why not place a guardrail and have the state pay for it? He thinks a sign warning of a \$500 fine for littering should be posted high up on a pole so it can't be stolen. Cameras should be put up on the pole to catch the violators so they can be fined. Jeanette asked what we would do when they don't pay the fine. Mike suggested liening their property. Jeanette stated that isn't possible according to state statute. Mike believed otherwise. Since the property is actually private, there should be no reason for the town to do anything. People will still litter and then the town will have to pay to clean it up. A camera should be placed with a sign and that will take care of it. Tom agreed this was a good idea and thinks the turnaround should be left open. Jo Beth stated that we are dealing with private and state property here and we can't just do what we want. Jo Beth asked who would set the fine for littering. Mike Ryan believes the town would. Cameras may not be the answer.

Mike asked about the Dalton Conservation Commission wanting to test everyone's water. He asked who is paying for it. It was explained to Mike again that the testing is being provided for free due to a grant from NH DES. He said it was ok to proceed since it's free.

Kris Ennis stated that while she may not always agree with Jon, he is looking out for the best interest of the town and she appreciates that. He continues to share information to the town and board (e.g. regarding the railroad issues); otherwise, we are just ignorant to what's going on.

Pam Kathan asked what if the shoe was on the other foot.

Jo Beth stated it's good to be informed.

Jeanette stated it's important to remember what the DCC is supposed to do for the town.

Robin Pilotte asked about the record retention RSA 33-A. She asked how long businesses are supposed to keep records. Jo Beth offered her a copy of the RSA. She accepted it.

Jo Beth motioned to enter nonpublic at 8:26pm for welfare. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth motioned to re-enter public session at 8:34pm. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth motioned to seal nonpublic minutes #1. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Jo Beth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm. Tom provided a second with approval via roll call vote.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Charon.

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Minutes Approved On: _____ (date)

Jo Beth Dudley

Thomas Dubreuil

Eric Moore

DRAFT