

## HCA Meeting Minutes 2/2/2026

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

All committee members were present with the exception of Wendy Roberts (out of the country)

Paul motioned for a vote on approving the meeting minutes from 11/3/25. Eric seconded. All voted to approve with the exception of Tom who abstained.

Paul motioned for a vote on approving the meeting minutes from 1/12/26. Eric seconded. All voted to approve with the exception of Tom who abstained.

Paul shared a revised draft update for the annual town report. Paul motioned for a vote with a second from Eric. All approved the revised committee update. This update will be submitted electronically to the town on 2/3/26.

Tom motioned to begin immediate discussion with Casella. Eric seconded. Eric and tom voted for with Paul, Jo Beth, and Mike voting against. Karel abstained. The motion did not pass.

This motion triggered a deeper discussion about the select board authority in the process. Tom believes, and stated he had reached out to legal, that the warrant article that passed in January 2025 still allowed for the select board to move forward without the committee. His belief is that the committee was to just do the research and help the selectboard.

This point was further solidified when Mike asked about who had authority to approve an agreement and Tom stated the select board.

Paul called out that he would investigate the warrant article further but did not believe Tom's statements to be accurate. Upon further investigation the warrant article clearly states "It shall be the policy of the Town of Dalton that the select board may not enter into any agreement with Granite State Landfill, LLC..." which Paul read into the record during the select board meeting that followed at 8:06 pm.

Paul articulated that the committee is working towards the goal of being able to sit with Casella/GSL and negotiate but that taking the step now would still be premature. Paul reiterated the goals of 1. Due diligence phase, which has been completed. 2. Work with a skilled attorney to craft our wishes and desires for the agreement and then 3. Meet with Casella/GSL for meaningful discussions.

Tom was concerned that using an attorney outside of the town attorney would incur cost to the town that would not be covered by the agreement with Casella to compensate us for up to \$25,000 in attorney fees to review the existing agreement. As this had been raised as a potential issue prior, the committee authorized and Paul volunteered to reach out to Marc and Rebecca from Casella to have the document amended slightly to ensure the town would not incur any expense. Paul will follow up with the committee when this is accomplished. Tom agreed to not move forward with any further action until this was completed by Paul.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm

DRAFT