**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
Monday, December 14th, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

**Members present:** Robert W. Bishop Jr., Chair
 Joseph A. Diver, Vice Chair
 John F. Boyle
 Daniel Esko
 Marc E. Strout

**Also present:** Brittany Miller, Recording Secretary
 John Ostresh, Dalton Cable Television Cameraman
 Sandra Albano, Interim Town Manager
 Rebecca Slick, Dalton Town Planner
 Jayne Smith, Dalton Health Agent
 Brian Duval
 Rebecca Whitaker
 Anthony Riello
 Deanna Strout
 John Roughley, 127 Pleasant St.
 Daniel Filiault
 Pat Pettit
 Kelly Pizzi, Council on Aging
 Kathleen Sturm, 7 Hemlock Hill Rd.
 Joseph Fish, Green Dalton Committee
 Richard Hall, Green Dalton Committee
 Wendy Brown, Green Dalton Committee
 Cheryl Rose, Green Dalton Committee
 Jenny Gitlitz, Green Dalton Committee
 Douglas Boyle

**Absent/ excused members:**

**Call to Order:** Chair Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by J.Boyle

**Intro.**  “Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12th, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20 and the Governor’s March 15th, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Select Board will be conducted via remote participation. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the open session portion of the meeting may do so by viewing on Dalton Community Television on one of the three channels: 1301, 1302 or 1303. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the open session portion of the proceedings in real-time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.”

**Minutes:**

* **10/26/20** J.Diver motioned to accept the minutes as presented, J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.
* **11/9/20** J.Diver motioned to accept the minutes as presented, J.Boyle seconded, M.Strout abstains. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**Public Address to the Board:**

* Joe Fish- Item #9
* John Roughley- Item #9
* Dan Filiault- Items 7, 9, 10, 11
* Rebecca Slick- Items 9 + 10
* Richard Hall- Items 7 + 9
* Cheryl Rose- Item #9
* Jenny Gitlitz- Item #9
* Wendy Brown- Item #9

**Appointments:**

* Dalton Council on Aging- J.Diver motioned to appoint Kathleen Sturm of 7 Hemlock Hill as a member of the Dalton Council on Aging Board, J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**Police Dept. JAG Grant Acceptance:**

* The Dalton Police Department has received a grant of $40K from the Commonwealth of Mass. Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Offices of Grants and Research for the purpose of Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program (JAG). The grant is to replace an outdated recording system throughout the Police Department, and security cameras throughout the Department as well as Town Hall.
J.Diver motioned to accept the $40K resolution, J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

 **Green Dalton Committee:
 Presentation by Joseph Fish**

* The Green Dalton Committee was developed in 2013. They work with Town departments to pursue goals established in The Green Communities Act: reduce energy use & transition to renewables. GDC has additional sustainability goals: recycling, environmental conservation, clean air and water. The Green Dalton Committee’s mission is to identify, investigate and recommend to the Select Board various initiatives which protect the community’s natural resources and enhance environmental health and sustainability in Dalton.
-The Chair, Joseph Fish has engineering and business degrees; member Wendy Brown is an architect focused on climate resiliency/ deep energy retrofits/ and net zero energy homes; member Richard Hall is an energy broker with expertise in regulatory energy affairs in Mass.; member Jenny Gitlitz holds an energy and resources degree/ is a consultant in recycling-related research, analysis, education and advocacy; member Cheryl Rose is a community organizer/ advocate in renewable energy and sustainability issues with grant and science writing experience; and member Joseph Diver is a Selectman with 20+ years executive level experience in health care I&T operations, projects and grants.
-MA Green Community Designation – 5 criteria met: Pass zoning policy to ease permitting of renewable energy facilities (Select Board ruled on this). Adopt expedited permitting for renewable facilities in designated zones (Select Board ruled on this). Pledge to cut municipal energy use by 20% over 5 years (GDC used Eversource “insight” tool to determine baseline municipal energy usage). Commit to purchase fuel-efficient Town vehicles (Town Manager secured DEP funding to buy 2 vehicles). Adopt “Stretch” building code to minimize energy use in newly constructed buildings (approved at annual Town meeting, GDC developed educational materials for booklet).
-GDC benefits the Town by securing grant monies: $565,000+ to date; enables energy savings (through lower energy bills); plans and implements other sustainability initiatives; provides education and outreach to Town residents. In 2015 they worked to get energy efficient lighting installed in the library, energy controls and water heater in the Senior Center, two energy efficient vehicles for the Police, audits on the streetlights, and office insulation installed in the Cemetery office. 2018 brought LED conversion to streetlights. $12,500 for vehicles, $105,212 in lighting incentives, $16,890 MAPC grant for streetlights, Recycling grants/ technical assistance for by-law development and $20K for the recycling regulations Education & Enforcement Coordinator. The total number they have come up with in grants and savings at no cost to the Town is $820,358.
-GDC feels their combined knowledge and passion for energy efforts is not optimally utilized. And their exclusion of previewing contracts has created missed opportunities to save more for the Town including the new high school design (which will have a gas boiler vs. clean energy). GDC claims $500,000 was missed out on.
-Presently, “the ask” is to have our future new Town Manager engage with the Green Dalton Committee more and include them in decision-making.
C.Rose comments, “We felt that we didn’t get what we needed/ information back when Ken Walto was the Town Manager. We want to partner with the Town and feel respected.”
J.Gitlitz clarifies that to get another Green Communities grant for more funding - you need to first spend the money you have before you can apply again. GDC has felt that Mr. Walto lacked in action, costing us more grant money. Looking to have our value seen/ utilized.
J.Boyle points out that Advisory Boards that make recommendations to the Select Board are not meant to be equals to the Select Board. And Mr. Walto had responded with reasoning for any missed opportunity referred to, he should be able to defend himself. Moreover, updating the out of date zoning bylaw is commended upon.
J.Diver motioned to get updates quarterly within the year from the Green Dalton Committee in collaboration with the Select Board Chair and Town Manager, J.Boyle seconded. Discussion:
D.Esko concludes that no one has done any wrong and there’s no need to point fingers; we’re on the same team and need to move forward/ do what we can to benefit the Town.
R.Bishop and J.Diver thank the Green Dalton Committee for all they do.
R.Slick added that the PowerPoint slides were inaccurate. And does not agree with disparaging our prior Town Manager when he is not here. As the Town Planner and one who does the reporting/ applying for grants, R.Slick requests a copy of the slideshow presentation to cross reference stats/ numbers beginning with the correct percentages to do with Green Community Designation criteria as we are actually at 23.8% thanks to streetlight conversion; and correcting the zoning to 43D expedited permitting – which was not for Select Board approval.
J.Roughley agrees to communicate better; and will later share an audio recording to refer to.
Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, J.Boyle “no”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**Board of Health Updates:
 Reported by Jayne Smith**

* **COVID-19**-Policies were approved at the last Select Board meeting however our Governor changed the quarantine requirements again. It now includes a symptoms log; and the 2021 program ready Family First COVID Relief Act. This is part of the CARES Act and means employees can receive sick time outside of what is normally accrued; even part time employees can be reimbursed their rate of pay if they have COVID/ under quarantine or lose their childcare; 80 hours maximum; 10 week extension for 2/3 pay. J.Diver suggests employees sign an acknowledgment of the policy. J.Smith thinks this would fit in well under employee training.
-Dalton is still in yellow- we are better this week than last week. There were approximately 25 cases in the last 2 weeks in Dalton; we are trending low. Pittsfield is doing worse. The hospital rates are the highest that they’ve been; we’re paying for Thanksgiving and we’re worried about Christmas, New Year’s, etc.
-Flu clinic in schools should see 400+ kids come through. We are in contact with schools 4-5x per week. Public health graduation students from Boston are expected to help.
J.Diver motioned to have employees sign an acknowledgment of the COVID-19 policy following training, D.Esko seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.
J.Diver moved to authorize our Health Agent, Jayne Smith, to update the policy as the State guidelines change, J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

 **Shared Streets Grant/ Crosswalk Project Update:**

* J.Roughley- With engineering all set, the advertisement for construction bids is going in the paper tentatively January 5th. Bid opening January 21st, upon that success there will then be a 30 day turn-around for contract. Construction to begin early spring for both locations.

 **Town Manager Updates:
 Report by Sandra Albano**

* Approval of public notices for inclusion with property tax bills- S.Albano read the language of including public notices of Dynergy Energy 3 year fixed rate program with residents’ property tax bills in the mail. It will also be on the Town website and is an announcement on the Select Board’s agenda tonight.
R.Bishop comments that this is a good idea; it will save extra mailing and get the word out.
J.Boyle- inquires if this is the 3rd installment due February 1st; and whether the bill reflects the new evaluations based on 2020 reassessment of property values in Dalton. S.Albano- “Yes”.
J.Diver moved to accept the Town Manager recommendation of including the notice with residents’ tax rate, D.Esko seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.
* Finalized Reimbursements:
$76K Corona Relief Fund relates to PPE & employee’s time.
$9K FEMA relating to labor.
* Update to Town letter head:
MUNGEE created a draft, coming soon.

**Items for Future Agendas:**

* J.Diver- Town Manager Search Committee update.
* D.Esko- Green Dalton Committee slideshow stats cross referenced through R.Slick
* J.Boyle- Invite John Roughley to play the recording of Green Dalton Committee’s full meeting deliberations in advance before the January meeting.

**Remarks of the Select Board & Chair:**

* D.Esko- A stop sign at the corner of Central and 2nd Streets is needed after observing 40 mph in a 25 mph zone. (A little girl, possibly others were killed at the intersection a block down in the 80’s, which is the reason for a 4 way stop sign there.)
D.Filiault shares the procedure.
D.Esko will write a formal letter.
* M.Strout- “The Santa Wave Parade went great, the Townspeople loved it; these sorts of things make Dalton special. Thank you to those who put it on.”
* R.Bishop/ John Roughley- Effective tomorrow, J.R. is resigning from Tree Warden position. Faded road lines on Dalton Division Rd. will be painted first thing this spring (typically done every fall by a contractor but scheduling prevented that this past season.)

**Announcements:**

* **The Town Hall, Senior Center and Highway/ Cemetery Offices** are now closed to the public effective Monday, 11/16/2020. All offices will remain staffed and will be available by phone or email during their normal business hours. Please see the Town of Dalton website for departmental information.
* **CRA Winter Wonderland** will take place on December 19th through January 31st. This event is a fun, safe, outdoor walk allowing families to celebrate the beauty of the holidays. Opening night will be a socially distanced event requiring pre-registration and masks. Visitors will pick up a CRA property map listing location of trees sponsored and decorated by local businesses. Mixed throughout the trees will be sponsored stations for kids to pick up goodies and crafts to go. You can call the CRA for details at 1-413-684-0260.
* **Significant drought** for Massachusetts regions in level 2remains unchanged from the previous month’s declaration.
* **Town of Dalton’s Community Choice Power Supply Program Consumer Notification**Dynegy Energy Services is the Town’s new supplier for its Community Choice Power Supply Program. The Town’s new aggregation rate is fixed at $0.09603 per kWh for all rate classes for 36 months (January 2021 to January 2024). You will see Dynegy Energy Service named as the supplier of electricity on your Eversource bill, unless you use another supplier. All accounts currently enrolled in the program will be switched to Dynegy Energy Services as of the January 2021 meter reads and will be seen on the February 2021 bills. To opt-in or opt-out if the program or for more information about the program go online to: <https://colonialpowergroup.com/dalton/>. Or call Dynegy at (866) 220-5696.
* **The Transfer Station New FY21 Prices:**sticker price 1st vehicle $115.00
2nd vehicle $40.00
Bags price 30 gal. bag (large) $4.00 – package of 10 $40.00
15 gal. bag (small) $3.30 – package of 10 $33.00
For a complete price list go to Dalton-ma.gov and click on the Transfer Station button.
**New hours for** **compost and brush area:**
Tuesday/ Wednesday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday/ Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Brush hours will remain open until January 2nd, 2021 for Christmas tree disposal after that time, the brush area will close until April 2021 or until further notice.
* **The Dalton Police Department is now open to the public.**
The Dalton Police Department lobby is now open to the public. Please feel free to stop in and see an officer. Social distancing and masks are required and only two (2) people area allowed in the lobby at a time.
**Processing of Firearm Permit:**
Firearm permits are processed between the hours of 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. by appointment only, please call 1-413-684-0300 to schedule your appointment. No walk-ins are being accepted at this time. A check or money order for $100 made payable to the Town of Dalton. Renewals over the age of 70 are free.
* **2020-2021 Winter Parking Ban**The Dalton Police Department is reminding the citizens of Dalton of the Winter Parking Ban which goes into effect on November 15th, 2020, and will be in effect until April 15th, 2021. There will be no parking allowed on the streets between these dates.
* **The Dalton Library** is now open 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Thursday & Friday; 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday; and 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Anyone in a high risk population may schedule a time in the AM to come in by themselves with no questions asked. Lobby pickup continues for anyone who would rather not enter the building. Call 413-684-6112 for more information.
* Please note that **Dalton’s Official Meeting Postings, Agendas and Minutes** can be viewed at *mytowngovernment.org/01226*.

**Executive Session:**

R.Bishop declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating of the public body. J.Diver motioned to move to Executive Session to discuss the Building Commissioner/ Zoning Officer; to conduct strategy to determine wages paid in the event of closure due to COVID-19 regulations; and Police Chief Search Committee candidate update/ next steps; and not return to open session. J.Boyle seconded. Roll call vote: J.Diver “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, D.Esko “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**Adjourn:** Open session adjourned at8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Miller
Recording Secretary

*The next (specially) scheduled meeting will be held on January 6th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.*