**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH & GREEN DALTON COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
CALLAHAN ROOM, DALTON TOWN HALL
February 14th, 2019
10:00 A.M.**

**Members present:** Edward Gero

**Health Agent:** Edward Fahey

**Also present:** Brittany Miller, Recording Secretary
 Kenneth Walto, Town Manager
 Jenny Gitlitz, Green Dalton Committee
 Veronique Blanchard, Municipal Assistance Coordinator
 for Massachusetts DEP

**Members excused/ absent:** Richard O’Brien, Chairman
Drew Finn, Vice Chair
Alyce Kendrick
Daniel Doyle

Mr. Gero opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

**SPECIAL MEETING:**

**Continuing Issues:**

* **Waste Management**The purpose of this meeting is Covanta not being able to accept recyclables due to their contract with Pittsfield. Green Dalton Committee/ Waste Management leader, J.G. asks BOH if modifications can be made to Dalton’s Transfer Station – not just physically, but also the contract with Republic Services (which expires in June) that enables recyclables to be dumped here. J.G.: “They have annual increases built into the contract, Republic protects themselves really well, it seems to be set up that way primarily instead of to encourage recycling. In my opinion there are three ways we can go: accept recyclables at our Transfer Station and work out other towns; second is a washed hands approach in which haulers take it wherever and increase rates to users; and thirdly the Town takes over vs. contracting out.” Mr. Walto replies, “We’re more likely to succeed if we can help the haulers with their concerns; and in my opinion make work of what we originally set up with recyclables arriving at our Transfer Station and then hauled to the MRF. The problem is it comingling with other towns’ waste- perhaps the solution is a tipping fee.” About 10-12 years ago Petricca’s scales were used. J.G.: “They do already pay tip fees when they drive up to Pownal, VT. What we don’t know is how much Republic is making in profit. While all of this was attempted before, it was done informally and no one ever notified us that things were being welded shut or that scales had stopped being used upon company shut-down.” V.B. states education will be very important, for people to know ahead of time. E.G.: “It has to be a different set-up. There has to be a whole new dry system, with covered compactor containers re-configured. One that the haulers can dump into vs. by hand. I know they tried an open container the other day, half of it froze and they only came back with a half of a load.” V.B.: “Moisture is a hazard now, with everything going on with national storage and China, moisture in paper is considered a contamination.” Covanta is not a role model as their system is flawed in this way- their container does not keep the elements out. E.G. suggests a sealed horizontal compactor and an extra box for cardboard. E.F. & E.G. agree that Dalton should take care of their own waste, and not take on other towns’; as well as limit haulers to a specific day separate from residents. Members will pursue the hauler’s tonnages so they know what to expect; and begin talking to Republic regarding a modified system which would be new revenue for them. K.W.: “This was put out to bid once, and the responses were horrible. The only other bid we got was sky high.” J.G.: “Contracting with a single hauler is ideal, as well as having some control.” In consideration of costing tax payers more and what’s going on with the school build and waste water, K.W. states: “Let the private market operate vs. creating new municipal service.” V.B.: “Two accomplishments in the next year would be big.” Upon questioning Gero on his own practices, it appears the lawn and leaf area of the Transfer Station is still attractive as E.G. enjoys delivering his own recyclables vs. curb side pickup. E.F.: “I would like to see the Transfer Station modified to help the haulers out.” V.B.: “The MRF *is* changing, so any prices negotiated will change with them.”

**Adjourn:**The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.
E.F. made the motion to adjourn, E.G. seconded; this was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Miller
Recording Secretary

*The next regularly scheduled BOH meeting will be Monday, March 4th, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Callahan Room of Dalton Town Hall.*