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## Fun Facts For Everyone - Pamela Kathan

Aug 18, 2021

### ***Fun Facts For Everyone***

#### **To the Editor:**

Last month I attended the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services public hearing held for Casella’s Dalton landfill wetlands permit, At the hearing and since, I continue to hear project opponents and others spread bad facts, use scare tactics and overall misinform my Dalton neighbors and others in the North Country that want to learn more about Casella’s plan. Facts and good information matter.

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I support Casella’s plans to build a new landfill in Dalton – it would be a huge benefit to Dalton which is a starving town – and I would respect someone who doesn’t support, as long as they have the correct info! In addition, I am getting fed up with local newspapers that are basically a

mouthpiece for the loudest and meanest of opponents. One of the reporters covering the project is a known opponent that cannot look past his bias to provide good info and both sides of the story! Whatever happened to factual, non-biased reporting?????

Here are some facts, not speculation or fabrication. The review of the project is based on science, not emotion. The process is open and public and everyone can participate, no matter how rude they are to NHDES folks that are just trying to do their job or folks that don't agree with them.

The actual footprint of the landfill is not 180, 189, 200, 500 or 1900 acres, the actual footprint is 137 acres, within a 1900-acre parcel of land, built in phases over many years. It will not expand beyond the 137 acres. It will be done in phases, the first one will be about 60 acres with additional phases after that. This was stated as fact in the hearing and part of the application.

While the wetlands are very important, so is responsible growth in Dalton. It was stated that the landfill footprint actually changed many times as Casella prepared their wetland permit to minimize those impacts. I believe Casella is responsible and they have the rules of the permitting process to go by. 17 acres of wetland will be taken, but Casella will have to lessen the severity of that take with a much greater, larger area of wetlands. There was an offer of 244 acres of highly valued wetlands offered to the Dalton Conservation Commission for the taking of 17 acres of wetland, yet they turned it down, why? 244 acres in return for 17 acres seems like a very generous offer. Not to mention the community assistance Casella is willing to provide to Dalton.

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The property that the landfill would be sited on already includes industrial uses and, has been logged for generations. I'm curious as to how the opposition feels about the 150 acres being logged by the State at Forest Lake. Certainly, there are lots of wetland there and yet no comment

by them, personally I feel very comfortable with the rules and regulations that the State mandates for protection.

In-state waste disposal is going up. Due to the increase of people moving to this State, the rising cost of fuel, and diminishing landfills.

This new landfill would be state of the art. Their responsibility is to put as little as possible into the ground. Recycling, repurposing and creating fuels out of materials produced by the waste breakdown process are some of the ways they will accomplish this huge task.

Until packaging manufacturers change their ways, where will you put your garbage? The opposition does have one good point however, recycling is important, not an overnight process for sure, but you know, Casella has the same thought: they are proposing to build a new recycling processing facility in NH, we don't have one in our state at all.

Finally, we all know that there was a leachate spill at Casella's landfill in Bethlehem, unfortunately it was made out to have contaminated rivers, ponds, etc. The truth is it did not! A landfill has multiple backup plans to ensure that if there is a leak it will be detected and contained before it really goes anywhere. So please stop with the scare tactics. This is why this project has the expertise and the opposition does not. Go on the NHDES website and look at the reports about the spill. Do your homework, read about the fact that the experts reported. There was no, repeat no, contamination of the ground or water or impacts to human health or the environment. Better yet, check out the opponents preferred landfill, their track record is not so good.

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