

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
January 26, 2010

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were, Andrew Hoover, Bob Brancato, John Foust, John Frank, Steve Horrocks, Fred Lightfoote, Betsy Landre and Nancy Hollenbeck.

Betsy Landre Senior Field Rep for the Finger Lakes Land Trust was introduced. Mr. Brancato stated that we had talked at our December meeting that we would like to educate the community in regards to conservation, the benefits of it, etc. We talked about doing something in March, prior to the farmers getting out in the fields again. We also talked about targeting key landowners with almost personal invitations and a general invitation to the community.

Talked about the recent seminar held in Geneva and the format. A panel type discussion with landowners who have been through the process. At that session, a majority of the attendees were municipal officials with a very few landowners.

We would like to reach landowners primarily to educate them and maybe excite some with the possibilities or maybe benefits such as tax relief, without actually receiving a monetary amount. We would like to target the Town of Gorham landowners, but open it to the public as well.

Mrs. Landre talked about Ag and Mkts involvement in land preservation, as well as some of the other projects in the region. Also talked briefly about some of the projects that have been done and some that are in the process.

After a lengthy discussion, all agreed to set up an educational session on Tuesday or Wednesday, March 30 or 31st. Nancy will confirm arrangements with the Gorham Fire Department. This session will be co-sponsored by the Town of Gorham Conservation Advisory Board and the Finger Lakes Land Trust. Refreshments will be available.

Mrs. Landre agreed to contact a speaker from Ag and Mkts, the Finger Lakes Land Trust and a farmer who has been through the process. She also stated that she could provide information on the properties larger than 69 acres within the Town. She suggested that it may be helpful to have maps up for viewing that show some of the resources in the area. We are in the heart of the Finger Lakes Region. Almost all of the land is privately owned. There are many options for landowners to preserve land, to make a difference for themselves and the area.

This Board will put an ad in the newspaper to advertise the session and do a mailing to a target group, with possible telephone call follow up.

Mr. Brancato will work on an agenda and advertisement for the session.

Mr. Lightfoote informed the Board that the Town Planning Board will be working on regulations regarding gas well drilling. DEC will have most of the environmental regulations in place, but the Town may want to have setback requirements as well as protections for erosion control, as well as safeguards for the roads in the town that could be damaged by heavy truck traffic. It is requested that if this board has any information to please pass it on to Tom Harvey or to Nancy who can forward the information. He also stated that there is a 30 acre parcel for sale that abuts the Martin property. It is a brush lot, no trees. There is potential for 3-5 houses on the parcel if a road is put in, but it would be expensive to bring the sewer and water in as well as a road.

Briefly talked about the application for the Martin property. A letter of recommendation and scoring are needed.

This Board will meet again on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM by a motion by Mr. Foust, seconded by Mr. Brancato. Motion carried unanimously.

Nancy Hollenbeck
Secretary