

TOWN OF GORHAM  
CONSERVATION BOARD  
MINUTES  
April 7, 2009

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were, Gene Hermenet, Bob Brancato, John Foust, John Frank, Andrew Hoover, Fred Lightfoote, Bill Johnson, and Nancy Hollenbeck.

The minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting were approved by a motion from Bill Johnson, seconded by John Foust. Motion carried. John Frank abstained, he was not present at the December meeting.

Mapping was discussed. It has not been completed because funding is necessary to have Dr. Bruce Gilman review the Natural Resources Rating Summary map. Mr. Foust stated that he has talked to Maria about the mapping and she has indicated that she needs Dr. Gilman to look at the Natural Community map to make sure that it is accurate. The three of them had a meeting a while back, Dr. Gilman is interested in doing the job and knows what needs to be done. It was thought that Maria was going to look for funding sources and indicated to Mr. Foust that he should go back to the Town to see if there was a way that they could chip in since it is to our benefit in some capacity. No dollar amount was discussed. Dr. Gilman needs to give a proposal to Maria before we can proceed. He is looking at this as a summer project. This was discussed at great length as was whether or not this is needed before we can apply for grant funding for any upcoming project.

Mr. Foust explained that Maria has taken our publication, The Farmland, Open Space and Resource Conservation Plan, and is teasing out all the data to make a better comprehensive matrix for scoring or parcels. She is hung up on the Natural Resources portion. She is not confident that the information is accurate. She wants to make sure that they are good and that they are properly assessed and properly scored. She is looking to have Dr. Gilman put more of his expertise on as to how this natural community should be scored.

Mr. Frank asked what would another community do that may not have a Dr. Gilman or FLCC group to have data that is sufficient to go forward with a grant application. Are we getting tied up in the bureaucracy of government. At some point maybe we have to say enough is enough and go on to the next step.

Again, it was questioned if this is something that we need to go forth for grants. Mr. Foust stated that it appears that whoever did the first mapping was knowledgeable and it is better than what most towns have already.

After a lengthy discussion, all agreed that Mr. Foust will meet with Maria and discuss the need for further mapping. If it is necessary, we will work toward getting a quote and request the funding.

Bill Johnson provided copies of a scenic tour through a portion of Gorham. The tour could be done on bicycle, hiking or automobile. It begins at the FLCC parking lot

on County Road #18, goes down Middle Road, Turner Road, Route 364, Kipp Road, County Road #1, Lake to Lake Road, Conklin Road, Baldwin Road, etc. The full tour is 26 miles, has several points of interest and many scenic vistas. Bob Brancato and John Foust also worked on this project. John Foust took the tour map to the Finger Lakes Visitor Connection office in Canandaigua and they were thrilled! They loved it and would like to print it. They would like to put the information and map on their website at [visitfingerlakes.com](http://visitfingerlakes.com) and will also add it to the next printing of "Let's Go Hike and Bike" trail cards. We could do other maps for other routes and sites.

The State land on County Road 11 was discussed. Talked about having some signage on that parcel so that bikers or walkers would know that it is State land. After a brief discussion, it was suggested that Supervisor Calabrese be contacted to see if there is a way that the signage can be addressed.

Fred informed the Board that in the coming months, there will be discussions regarding changes to the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance. There may be issues that the Conservation Board should address and possibly make recommendations. Fred will prepare information for the Board to review and discuss within the next couple of months. The Conservation Board may look at some things differently than the Planning Board or Town Board. Your comments and suggestions would be appropriate and welcome.

Discussed at length how various zoning changes can impact land conservation as well as agricultural uses.

Board members are encouraged to keep informed about what is going on with the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Town Board. Agendas and minutes are on the website. Nancy will make arrangements to have these items emailed to you as well.

John Frank stated that he recently met Mr. Ken Smith, Executive Director of the New York Agricultural Land Trust. This is a fairly new agency specializing in agricultural conservation, geared toward the farming community. After a brief discussion, all agreed that it would be good to schedule him to come and talk to us at his earliest convenience. John Frank will make arrangements and let Nancy know.

Mr. Frank also informed the Board that he has been thinking about putting his property into a conservation easement and the CB can use him as a practice application. He is not requesting reimbursement, just protection for the property. Maybe this would encourage others to do the same.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

Nancy Hollenbeck  
Secretary