

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
JULY 7, 2009

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

Chairman Hermenet introduced Supervisor Calabrese who has some exciting news and will open the meeting.

Supervisor Calabrese stated that he is aware that this board over the last year and half has worked on a lot of things and looked at a lot of things and there has been frustration at times. You are headed in the right direction. You have to get the information out to the people. They will come to you if they have an interest in preservation of their land. Make the program accessible, it may take a few years, but they will come to you.

Supervisor Calabrese further stated that he has held back for a couple of years, mainly because some people, especially with regard to land preservation or sale of land, they don't want publicity until the proper time and we have to respect their wishes. We have a couple of deals in the works. One is a done deal which he will explain, the other is to be kept under your hat for the time being.

At a previous meeting someone mentioned that wouldn't it be nice if Dr. Martin's property could be preserved? Well, Dr. Martin has been talking to Supervisor Calabrese about this for the last several years. At first he was not interested. There are two parcels of land that involves 360 acres. We have a tentative agreement with the intent to preserve it. Supervisor Calabrese' part will be applying for and securing a grant. The grant would cover 75% of the cost; the Town will be asked to cover 12.5% of the cost and Dr. Martin will donate 12.5% of the cost back. The unfortunate part of this whole thing is state of New York State. Grant applications should have been announced two weeks ago, but this has not been done, nothing has been done in Albany. We hope that when they announce the grants, that the deadlines will be extended. Usually they are due by September 30th. Supervisor Calabrese will be asking the Town Board to hire a company to prepare the grant. Two companies have been interviewed and we are recommending that John Behan Planning of Saratoga Springs be hired to prepare the grant. John Behan did the initial start up of the Comprehensive Plan some years ago. Then Stuart Brown Inc. implemented it. Behan Planning has experience and success with other grant applications, including the Pittsford plan as well as a couple of parcels in Canandaigua. A map showing the parcels was shown and briefly discussed.

Dr. Justin (Jake) Martin was present and gave a brief history of his property., there have been five owners since the Civil War. The two parcels go from Route 364 to Middle Road. Dr. Martin stated that he purchased the property in 1975 with the intent of becoming a big developer in the Town of Gorham. His daughters talked him out of developing the land and as a result they were all brought up here. Two daughters live on the property and a third wants to return and live on the property when she can retire. Two other daughters live in the area as well. He moved out of Penfield because of all the

roof tops, now as he looks across the lake, all he sees is roof tops in the Town of Canandaigua. If you go over to the west side of the lake and look over, it's a nice stretch of green and he would like to see it stay green. He has talked this over with his family and they all agree. The land would stay in farming. Dr. Martin stated that he has been to East Lake View Estates, the subdivision just north of his property and it is very nice. The residents take pride in their property, it looks very nice. The proposal for a development between East Lake View and the Martin property has seemingly stopped. Dr. Martin stated that he would like to do this because he would like to stay on the property for the rest of his life.

Supervisor Calabrese stated that the process will take a couple of years. We need to get the grant writer on board. He will get an appraisal of the property. We will need letters of recommendation from this Board, the Finger Lakes Land Trust, the County Agricultural Board, etc. The Conservation Board will need to score the parcels, etc.

Chairman Hermenet thanked Supervisor Calabrese and Dr. Martin.

The Board discussed the scoring process, the need to possibly walk the property, soil maps, etc. Also talked about streams and gullies.

All agreed to meet next Tuesday, July 14, 2009 to get started on this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM

Nancy Hollenbeck
Secretary