

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2007

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were, Chairman Steve Horrocks, Andrew Hoover, Robert Brancato, Fred Lightfoote, Gene Hermenet and Nancy Hollenbeck.

The meeting was called to order. The minutes of the July 10th meeting were approved by a motion by Mr. Hermenet, seconded by Mr. Brancato. Motion carried.

The Board had expected Maria Rudzinski this evening. It appears that she will not be here. Mr. Hermenet will contact her tomorrow.

The application of Montebella Estates for a subdivision on County Road #1 was discussed. Water pressure in the area was briefly discussed as was the possibility of a new water tank in the future. Adequate water for the subdivision and the area will be reviewed by the Planning Board, the Town Engineer, etc. The application is still in front of the Planning Board who are waiting for further information on various items. The public hearing has been adjourned twice. They are still accepting input from the community while they await any outstanding items to be addressed. The parcel is fairly flat. Chairman Horrocks stated that there are limited hardwoods on the parcel, there are not any exceptionally old trees maybe 25 years or so. The parcel is not identified as a scenic viewshed. There are no streams. The soil is fairly poor. There are two small parcels within the proposed subdivision that are owned by other people. The status of these parcels will need to be addressed by the developer to the satisfaction of the Planning Board. Those two lots have access to the Crystal Beach Park and lake. What they own is not large enough to build a house on. The newly created lots will not have lake access. These items will be addressed by the Planning Board. Access to the Mastin property which is accessed by a private road was briefly discussed as was dedication of the roads, etc. These items will be addressed by the Planning Board and the Town Board. Chairman Horrocks stated that from this Board's position, he has no problem with the proposed subdivision.

Mr. Brancato stated that he would compose a recommendation to the Planning Board and send it to Conservation Board members for their review. The recommendation would include statement that this board did not identify any conflicts or issues of the categories outlined in the Town's Open Space Index. There was a mix of larger trees and hardwood trees located in the area of the proposed development and we would recommend preservation of as many of the trees as possible.

The new winery on East Lake Road was briefly discussed, it officially opens later this month.

Mr. Hermenet reported on his meeting with Supervisor Calabrese regarding this Board's thoughts about moving forward trying to purchase development rights on a property. This Board is not ready to move in that direction yet. There are many things that need to be done before we can apply for grant funding and we need that funding to make future projects viable. The Town has limited resources and we need to get as much as we can for each expenditure.

Maria Rudzinski had indicated to this Board at a previous meeting that this Board is about a year away from being ready to apply for any grants. It may be helpful for this board to meet with and/or observe another Conservation Board to see what they do and how they do it. It was also suggested that maybe Board members would want to go on line to the New York State Agriculture and Markets website and check out an application for a grant to get an idea what is involved. It is sure to be quite informative and educational. The grant applications are filled with information that this Board will need to be familiar with.

Mr. Hermenet will meet with Maria to see what we should be doing next and also check to see if there is another local Conservation Board that we could meet with or have a speaker from.

The next meeting will be September 4th, 2007 at 7:00 PM. The schedule for future meetings is as follows: October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th, all at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM by a motion by Gene Hermenet, seconded by Bob Brancato.

Nancy Hollenbeck
Secretary