

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were, Chairman Steve Horrocks, Andrew Hoover, Robert Brancato, Fred Lightfoote, Gene Hermenet, John Foust, Bill Johnson, Maria Rudzinski and Nancy Hollenbeck.

The meeting was called to order. The minutes of the August 7th, 2007 meeting were approved by a motion by Mr. Brancato, seconded by Mr. Hermenet. Motion carried.

Boardmembers talked about the Montebella Estate project. Mr. Hoover gave an update on discussions at a recent Planning Board meeting.

Mr. Hermenet met with Maria Rudzinski after the last meeting. She had suggestions for tasks to be completed by the end of the year and she will discuss these at the October meeting. A written outline, guideline for the tasks to be completed through December was provided to all Board members, it included Project Mission Statement/Goal; September Meeting or Task, October Meeting, November and December meetings. If this outline is followed the end point would be that the Town Board could give direction for the next steps for the Conservation Board.

Maria stated that she has been consulting with Tom Harvey regarding issues, etc. This Board should focus on agricultural, primarily the current Agricultural Zoning. She will prepare an analysis of the current agricultural zoning district addressing its strengths and weaknesses from the perspective of maintaining long term economic viability of agriculture and meeting the non-agricultural development objectives of farmland owners. This will be a summary of all our work and discussions to date. She will prepare a list of next steps or recommendations for the Conservation Board to consider making to the Town Board. This could include creation of an Ag Advisory Committee.

Maria has spoken to Kevin Schultz about the maps from Gorham Open Space Plan and what this Board can do. Ground truthing the viewsheds element is necessary. Primarily of Canandaigua Lake, but also the rural landscapes. The viewsheds are already identified on the maps, personal visits to each site need to be made to evaluate its critical value.

John Foust volunteered to talk to Kevin Schultz about using GPS coordinates when evaluating identified viewsheds so that the information can be mapped. Board members will get together and visit each site and evaluate them.

The next meeting will be October 2nd, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by a motion by Gene Hermenet, seconded by Bill Johnson.

Nancy Hollenbeck
Secretary