

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2007

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were, Chairman Steve Horrocks, Andrew Hoover, Robert Brancato, Fred Lightfoote, John Foust, John Frank, Bill Johnson, Maria Rudzinski and Nancy Hollenbeck.

The meeting was called to order. The minutes of the September 4, 2007 meeting were approved by a motion by Mr. Hoover, seconded by Mr. Foust. Motion carried. Mr. Frank abstained, he was not present at the last meeting.

John Foust stated that he contacted Kevin Schultz and talked about the ideas for documenting the viewsheds. With GPS and digital compass, etc. It was agreed that this will work fine. Pictures would also be a good addition. There are forty documented view points in the Open Space Plan. It was suggested that these be prioritized.

Documentation of these viewsheds can only be done from public lands, such as roads, etc. It was brought to our attention that there is a 95 acre parcel on southern County Road #11 that has just recently become “public” land. There may be significant views from this parcel. It was also stated that the views should be documented from “near”, “middle” and “far” aspects of the views. Field notes are highly encouraged.

Mr.Brancato stated that he drove around recently and found several more possible view points to be considered.

Boardmembers who are available are to meet at 7:30 AM on Saturday, 10/6/07 at FLCC parking lot off County Road #18 are encouraged to do so. We will begin to survey the viewpoints and document them so that they can be mapped.

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

Maria Rudzinski reviewed the Draft Status Report on Agriculture in Gorham, copies were given to all for review. Much of the work is complete such as Section 1: Status of Agricultural Land. This Board has identified agricultural lands, profiled farmland ownership patterns, whether farmer-owned, rented by a farmer-friendly owner, or rented from an owner with an intention to develop, etc. Section 2: Agriculture Operations and Infrastructure needs more information regarding identifying existing agricultural infrastructure in the Town if any, or within close proximity, such as mills, processing facilities, equipment dealers, etc. Section 4: Development Patterns and Zoning Analysis, the initial analysis is complete. Section 5: Critical Issues Threatening the Long Term Viability of Agriculture, this is partially complete. Section 6: Findings/Recommendations, not complete.

The document was discussed at length. It is possible that this document could be the Ag Component of the updated Comprehensive Plan, it could be an addendum to the Comp Plan. When the document is completed it will be given to the Gorham Town Board.

Board members discussed at length whether some of this work is really the work of the Conservation Board or if it should be passed on to an Agricultural Board. Whether a recommendation should be made to suggest to the Town Board that an Ag Board be created was discussed.

Also discussed were possible zoning changes and whether or not this Board should be working in this area.

The next meeting will be November 6th²⁰⁰⁷ at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM by a motion by Bob Brancato, seconded by Bill Johnson.

Nancy Hollenbeck
Secretary