

TOWN OF GORHAM  
CONSERVATION BOARD  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2009

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were, Andrew Hoover, Bob Brancato, John Foust, John Frank, Bill Johnson, Gene Hermet, Steve Horrocks, and Nancy Hollenbeck.

The minutes of the August 4, 2009 meeting were approved by a motion by John Frank, seconded by Bob Brancato.

Mr. Brancato gave an update on the consolidation of the two Canandaigua Lake groups to form the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association which becomes effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. The next meeting will be a strategic planning meeting to figure out where they need to focus their resources. Combined they should have about 800 members. They will be working on lake issues such as water quality, development, etc. They will be representing the entire watershed and the municipalities within.

Mr. Hermet was recently appointed to serve on the Gorham Town Board; he therefore, is resigning his position on the Conservation Board. We need to appoint a slate of officers, Chairman and Vice Chair. No one was able to commit to the Chair position due to personal commitments at this time. After some discussion, John Foust and Steve Horrocks agreed to co-chair this board for the time being. John Frank agreed to continue as Vice Chair.

Discussed the terms of all members which are four year terms that are staggered. Mr. Horrocks' term is up December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. He indicated that he would be willing to accept another four year appointment. This board is now short one member. Typically, interested candidates to any of the boards submit a letter of interest to the Town. The Town Board interviews candidates and makes the appointment. If anyone knows of any interested, suitable candidates, have them contact the Town Clerk.

Boardmembers talked about what projects they should or could take on. Bill Johnson stated that our total emphasis has been on getting land grants and getting land into conservation, there are other areas of conservation that we should consider. Such as use of lawn chemicals, etc. The first two years we were pretty busy with mapping, the bicycle routes, scenic vistas, etc.

John Frank stated that if there was a way that we could reach out to land owners, encourage them to consider conservation easements without money attached to it would be a good thing. There should be people out there who would be willing to say they like the community the way it is and don't want their neighbors to face development and would be willing to protect their lands without a monetary incentive.

Further talked about whether there is a tax advantage to putting property into a conservation easement. It would be beneficial to have more information on this.

The conservation of the Martin property, Tamberlane Farms, is on hold. Some of the rules have changed regarding the appraisal of the property for the grants. The grants have not been announced yet and there is no word on when they will be.

Gas well drilling was briefly discussed. The State just passed new regulations. We might want to work on education or recommendations to the Town Board for regulations protecting the Town, the residents, environment, roads, etc.

The Comprehensive Plan is in its final steps. A public hearing will be held before the Town Board in November and it is anticipated that it will be adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM, by a motion from Bill Johnson.

Nancy Hollenbeck  
Secretary