

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2007

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were, Chairman Steve Horrocks, Andrew Hoover, Bob Brancato, John Foust, John Frank, Bill Johnson, Gene Hermenet, Fred Lightfoote and Secretary Nancy Hollenbeck.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on March 6th, 2007 were approved as submitted by a motion from Mr. Hermenet, seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

The task at hand this evening is to draft a recommendation to the Town Board regarding the powers, duties and scope of work for the Conservation Board. Board members used the September 26, 2006 draft as a guide.

It is recommended that the Conservation Board have the following powers and duties:

A. Those powers and duties set forth in General Municipal Law 239-y except as modified below.

B. The Board shall review applications for rezoning, major subdivisions, special use permits, variance requests in agricultural zoned districts or adjacent to agricultural land received by the Town Board, Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals, for the use or development of any open area identified in the Open Space Index. These applications would be of limited land disturbance or other activity that::

1. is located on a parent lot or lots that contain five or more acres of land; or
2. would create five or more building lots; or
3. is a Type I action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act; or
4. Categories outlined in the Open Space Index
 - a. Agricultural Resources
 - b. Scenic Resources
 - c. Natural Resources
 - d. Cultural and Recreational Resources
 - e. Priority for Protection

C. The Board shall review any other applications that involve land identified in the Open Space Index upon:

1. request of the Town Board; or

2. concurrence of the Chair of the Board and the Chair of the entity receiving the application.

D. The Board shall perform any duties assigned to it by resolution of the Town Board.

E. The Board may request assistance of the Department of Environmental Conservation in the preparation of any report.

PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.

A. The Chair of the Board shall be notified of all applications pursuant to the provisions above, within five days of receipt of same by the Town of Gorham Planning Department.

B. The Board, at its option, may decline to perform a formal review on a specific project.

C. The Board shall have the application by the first of each month and complete its review and shall submit a written report to the referring board at least five working days before their meeting.

D. Such report shall evaluate the proposed use or development of the open area in the context of the Open Space Index and the land use planning objectives of the town. The report may make recommendations as to the most appropriate use or development of the open area and may include preferable alternative use proposals consistent with open areas conservation.

In discussing the powers and duties there were questions, concerns regarding timing of receiving applications and when reports were due, etc. These things will all have to be worked out as we move forward. This will be work in progress, it will probably need fine tuning in the future.

Mission Statement: The Town of Gorham Conservation Board will assist the Town of Gorham in the development of sound open space planning and assure preservation and protection of agricultural, natural, cultural, recreational and scenic resources.

The map that the Board worked on at the last meeting was returned by Mr. Brancato. He completed identifying any parcels that were not identified previously. Mr. Hermet will deliver the map to Maria Rudzinski tomorrow and talk about our next task..

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at 7:00 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Nancy Hollenbeck
Secretary

