

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
November 3rd, 2021

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday November 3rd, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall.

Present were; Councilmembers Lynn Klotz, Keith Eddinger, Meg Brewin, Ben Smith, Georganna Greenlee and Brian Mastrosimone. Town Board Liaison Brian Case and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Chairman Brett Johnson joined via phone/video conference.

Other guests in attendance; Regina Sousa joined via video/phone conference.

Councilmember Klotz chaired the meeting, leading the pledge to the Flag she opening the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Privilege of the Floor – none requested

Meeting minutes from 9-1-2021 were approved as submitted

Business –

a. ROW Pilot Program –

Regina Sousa, Senior Planner at Ontario County Sustainability and Solid Waste Management joined the meeting. In an effort to help municipalities reduce their solid waste stream, Ms. Sousa spoke about grant opportunities offered by the County.

Councilmember Klotz updated Ms. Sousa on the ROW (Redirecting Organic Waste) Program that was initiated by the Conservation Board in 2020.

Councilmember Klotz said approximately 45, of the 50 residents who signed up to participate, have utilized the program over the three month kick-off period.

Ms. Sousa said she is happy to hear it is successful. She said she understands the Town is looking to partner with the School District in regards to Organic Food Waste Recycling. The Town is able to apply for another \$5,000.00 grant from the County in 2022.

Councilmember Klotz asked Ms. Sousa what other ideas the County has for reducing solid waste.

Ms. Sousa said in 2020 the County initiated a backyard composting program so residents are able to compost at home. The program aimed to educate community members on the benefits of composting. Through a special promotion, Ontario County residents were able to purchase composters at a reduced price. They started with 500 compost bins to sell to residents. All were sold and there are more residents signed up to receive a compost bin. Compost bins are \$10.00 for Ontario County residents.

Ms. Sousa said the County offered pumpkin recycling after Halloween.

Tire recycling events have been held in the County.

The County is in the early stages of offering an unused paint recycling program. They are hoping to have a drop off point for unused paint and be able to offer this year round.

Councilmember Klotz said she received one of the compost bins and she thinks they are very useful. She talked about the cardboard wheel that comes with the compost bin. The wheel seems to engage residents and encourage them to recycle. It is a good educational tool, she would like to do something similar in Gorham.

Councilmember Klotz asked if the County has changed their goal for reducing solid waste.

Ms. Sousa said there is no change, 59 percent is still the goal.

Councilmember Klotz said she is working on a year-end report summarizing the Town of Gorham's ROW Pilot Program.

She will share the report with Ms. Sousa.

Chairman Johnson said he spoke with Dan Blankenburg from Marcus Whitman. He plans on speaking at the next Conservation Board meeting in December.

Chairman Johnson said he is getting information from Impact Earth, which is who the school uses for their organic food waste recycling, they are involved with the Town of Canandaigua and the Town of Victor.

Councilmember Mastrosimone said he has used Impact Earth at Lincoln Hill Farms. He said they provide analytics which would be useful to determine how many pounds of waste we are sending to the landfill.

Councilmember Brewin said it would be nice to know if the County is working on a place for all municipalities within the County to bring organic food waste. She thinks it would be nice to have one central location that all the towns could use.

Chairman Johnson emailed and talked with ER Recycling to get some bagged compost material to give back to our ROW participants.

Councilmember Brewin offered to help Chairman Johnson get in touch with someone to get that product for the 45 participants.

b. Proposed Scenic Ridge Rise Subdivision –

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board has been asked to weigh in with questions and concerns regarding the proposed subdivision.

Councilmembers are asked to give recommendations to the Town of Gorham Planning Board.

The Conservation Board held a lengthy discussion on the proposed project.

Chairman Johnson has spent a considerable amount of time looking at the proposal. He suggests this Board review the information and list their concerns.

Chairman Johnson explained the value of the Parcel Ranking System in New York State and the importance of the Conservation Board to rank this particular property.

Each Councilmember spoke of areas of concern regarding this proposed subdivision.

Councilmembers have concerns about the 12 acres of woods that will be lost. The land has lots of springs on it so it is very wet. They have concerns regarding steep slopes, storm runoff, drainage issues, entrance and traffic concerns on Route 364 and anything that may have an environmental impact on Canandaigua Lake.

Councilmember Smith said he thinks there are a lot of environmental issues a project like this would cause. He is not against the project but feels there are many issues to consider.

Town Board Liaison Brian Case said we are a Resort Area. People want to see the water, not necessarily be on it but, have a view of the Lake.

Councilmember Klotz suggested Councilmembers look at a particular area of concern, pick a category, and make a list of questions they would have for the developer and for the Town of Gorham Planning Board.

When the Conservation Board meets in December each Councilmember will have an area of concern they have reviewed and then the Board can come up with several recommendations to present to the Planning Board.

Councilmember Klotz set the next meeting for December 1, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk