

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
April 20, 2016

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday April 20, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were; Councilmembers Bob Brancato, John Frank and David Cook. Other guests in attendance; Town Board member Brian Case and Town Clerk Perrotte.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Councilmember Frank suggested the Conservation Board read an article published by Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association. Mr. Frank said it was an interesting and informative article regarding lawn care especially pertaining to lake properties.

The revised minutes from the November 2015 meeting were approved.

The Board discussed Supervisor Lightfoote attending the April 6, 2016 meeting of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council. Supervisor Lightfoote suggested that the Conservation Board meeting on April 6 be rescheduled to allow him to attend the Watershed Council meeting also being held on April 6. Supervisor Lightfoote suggested the Conservation Board edit the flyer they drew up to send to lakeside residents. The flyer is in regards to residents being “good land stewards” of the lake. Supervisor Lightfoote said the flyer is very similar to the article the Watershed Council sent out perhaps they could shorten it to fit into the Town Newsletter. The Conservation Board drew up the flyer with intentions of it being in the Fall Town Newsletter and to send out individually to residents along the lake corridor. The Town did not send out a Fall Newsletter.

Councilmember Cook said “we talked about an article going out. Fred would coordinate with the Council. I think it’s very important we get something out as soon as possible.”

Councilmember Case asked for a copy of the flyer.

Councilmember Frank said “I am really disappointed in Fred, as far as support, he’s the one that canceled our meeting on the 6th, rescheduled for

the 20th because of the Watershed Council meeting then when he couldn't go he didn't have someone else go to represent us or get back to us or something. It's a continual lack of support of this Conservation Board."

Councilmember Brancato said "a couple of emails flying around from Fred said he was working with you, (Brian Case) working on the agenda, what Andrew said to me is he quit because nothing gets done. John and I have had a couple conversations we are ready to write a letter to the Board saying we're tired of it we quit. It's a joke and maybe going through this agenda is a joke we get off the first thing and there's no information on it, why waste our time and the towns money. Brian you were supposed to be our go between, between Fred the Board and us."

Councilmember Case said "I have tried to get some things into motion. I've succeeded on one thing, the dumpster. I've been trying to get our ducks in a row as far as something we're allowed to do without legally getting the Town wrapped up in insurance, get cooperation from the Highway, somebody stay with it so we're not getting trash and tires thrown into it. It is scheduled for the end of next month in Crystal Beach."

Councilmember Cook asked Councilmember Case "what kind of interference did you run into with the Town Board?"

Councilmember Case said "none, they're for it. The legal question was brought up. They want it to happen but weren't sure if there were legal responsibilities the Town had if we put our equipment there, if we put a dumpster in Crystal Beach. The Crystal Beach Betterment Association will let me know where they want the dumpster after they hold their meeting."

The dumpster will be for yard waste only such as tree branches, grass clippings, leaves, etc. Miss Perrotte said when the Town Board approved the dumpster it was meant to be on a volunteer basis with help needed from the Conservation Board members along with members from the Betterment Association. Each Board would have to participate to insure residents weren't throwing trash in with the recyclable compost. The dumpster would be placed in Crystal Beach on Saturday which would constitute overtime for the Highway employees, therefore the Town Board asked for it to be monitored by Conservation Board Members and the Crystal Beach Betterment Association Members. Councilmember Case from the Town

Board said he would be there to help monitor the dumpster. Conservation Board members do not want to participate.

Councilmember Frank said “if it’s important enough for the Town to get rid of some of the problems, the stuff, maybe it’s important enough for the Town to pay someone from the Highway to be there, this Town is not broke. If you look at the purpose of this it’s to avoid, more than anything else, it’s to avoid the problems that have been created with this trash, branches and yard waste.”

Councilmember Cook asked about the cost of mailing the flyers, if there was any resistance from the Town Board and where did they decide to send it. Miss Perrotte said the Town Board approved funding to mail the flyers to residents that live on the lakeside corridor.

Councilmember Cook said “good then all we have to do is edit and mail it”.

Councilmember Brancato said he would email the edited flyer to Miss Perrotte on Thursday.

The Conservation Board had a brief discussion regarding the Open Space Index Maps. Barbara Johnston from Labella Associates found and fixed the problems with the thumb drives she prepared for the Conservation Board. Councilmember Frank asked Miss Perrotte if she would be interested in learning how to use the database and scoring system. Miss Perrotte could be the continuity here and learn how to use the system effectively with the training offered by Mrs. Johnston.

Councilmember Brancato said “why learn it if we’re never going to use it and if this Board continues to be functional why bother. I was coming tonight ready to say goodbye, it’s been worthless, we have spent how many years on this, it’s miniscule if it can be measured at all. It’s basically because we haven’t truly had the support from Fred the last number of years and the other Boards haven’t used us. We’ve never had a request to review a property. I can’t imagine over four years there hasn’t been some property that could have had some input from us in regards to this kind of thing. I don’t think the town sees any value in the Conservation Board.”

Councilmember Case said “I’ve sat in on a few meetings, (Planning Board) with what they are including in their agenda as far as the details they’re setting up when people want to build a new house are they going too

far. They talk about run-off , run-off to me is more of a Conservation matter”.

Councilmember Brancato said “just to be clear I don’t think we were ever being looked at to be looking at homes on lake property on half an acre of land. My image was we would be looking at people looking to build on larger properties that might have an impact to some of the unique parcels; great farmland, steep slopes, forests...etc.”

Councilmember Frank said “in the State budget there was quite a large amount of money set aside for conservation of land, for easements, and no one has said one thing to us about it. That would be an example of where we could provide some input and ideas and the Town is not even interested in it.”

Councilmember Case said Supervisor Lightfoote asked him if he would be the Town Board’s liaison to the Conservation Board and asked if there was anything he could do to help the Conservation Board. Councilmember Case asked the Conservation Board to give it another month we’ve got a letter going out, we’ve got some information we want to send out to people, we’re going to have the dumpster in Crystal Beach, that is coming from the Town Board. The Conservation Board is supposed to choose a date and location.

Councilmember Brancato said “we’ve had this conversation a number of times we come this close to quitting, we get placated for a short period of time nothing happens again then we get frustrated again.”

Councilmember Frank said “maybe the thing to do is for us to resign let the Town Board reconstitute this Board with a new group and realize that they have to, Fred has to do something different if he’s the man calling all the shots.”

Councilmember Brancato said “maybe we just don’t have enough creative ideas or vim and vigor. The fight’s out of me. You don’t want us to resign in mass for another month, what’s going to happen in a month that’s going to change our minds. The dumpster’s going to happen, ok one big event big deal, it’s taken us five years to make that happen. We’re getting a newsletter out, it’s the second newsletter in five years but it took us almost twelve months to get it out. Darby did a good job on the new dump stuff or transfer station information, that was an accomplishment. What’s going to happen in a month.”

Councilmember Cook said maybe in a month's time Councilmember Case can stir up some kind of interface with the Boards and Committees.

Councilmember Brancato said "the Town Board needs to identify five good board members who are willing to work hard, I'm ready to go."

Councilmember Case said he will talk with Fred tell him the concerns the Conservation Board has, he's ready to lose them. We've got to make some serious changes.

Councilmember Cook said he knows Fred has been busy with the County but the Town comes first, the County is a big beast to feed. Councilmember Frank said "if I was still on the Town Board I'd be bringing it up as an item of Business at the Town Board meeting. Bringing it up to the Board. Let the Town Board know what's going on. He's not supposed to be running the whole place sounds like he has been, his finger in every pie. Maybe we'd be doing him a favor by realizing he has to change his ways."

Councilmember Case asked if the tape was still running. Miss Perrotte asked if they would like to adjourn. Councilmembers Cook, Frank and Case adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby Perrotte