

TOWN OF GORHAM  
CONSERVATION BOARD  
MINUTES  
March 2nd, 2022

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday March 2nd, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall.

Present were; Chairman Brett Johnson, Councilmembers Ben Smith and Brian Mastrosimone.

Councilmembers Lynn Klotz and Meg Brewin joined via Zoom.

Also present were Adrienne Smith, Town Board Liaison Brian Case and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Councilmembers Keith Eddinger and Georganna Greenlee were necessarily absent.

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor – none requested

Meeting minutes from 2-2-2022 were approved as submitted.

Business

A. Scenic Ridge Rise Proposed Subdivision –  
Draft Scope Review and Reply

The Conservation Board has been identified as an involved or interested agency and the Planning Board has solicited comment from them regarding the draft scope document.

The Conservation Board will have an opportunity to submit a written response to the Town Planning Board after the public hearing that is being held on 2/28/22. The public hearing by the Planning Board is to review the draft scope submitted by the applicant.

Response must be submitted to the Town Planning Board by 3/13/22. Chairman Johnson said the Conservation Board had several areas of concern in regards to the proposed subdivision.

Councilmembers held discussion regarding the age of the study used, parking issues, the wetland area and the loss of animal habitat. Chairman Johnson said each Councilmember should read the draft scope and Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF)

Councilmember Klotz suggested the Planning Board have the DEC walk the property.

The Conservation Board has concern that the applicant is also an engineer. The Board would recommend that a third party independent engineer, unbiased, unaffiliated, certified specialist walk the property before the SEQR is approved.

Along with concern that the applicant is an engineer is MRB Group's affiliation with the Town of Gorham. . The Board feels it would be a conflict of interest if the applicant were to use MRB Group because they are in contract with the Town of Gorham for hundreds of thousands of dollars on other projects within the Town.

The Conservation Board agreed to read the Full Environmental Assessment Form and email Chairman Johnson with their concerns and questions. He will then draft a letter to the Town Planning Board.

#### B. Redirecting Organic Food Waste -

Chairman Johnson said Impact Earth offers smaller containers to collect organic food waste. The Board has been discussing having smaller containers at other collection points throughout the town. More residents may use it if they had easier access to dumping. Impact Earth would collect weekly. That would eliminate some of the labor involved with the larger dumpster.

Councilmembers think it may be a good idea to hire Impact Earth to have a few smaller collection containers around town.

Chairman Johnson said the Conservation Board decided to question our 2 local fire halls about putting a container to collect solid food waste at their facility. He will attend the monthly meeting of Gorham Fire Company in Gorham and the Crystal Beach Fire Department in Crystal Beach.

Le Tourneau Christian Camp on County Road 11 and the Town Hall in Gorham are other locations of interest.

Chairman Johnson said he received a price list from Impact Earth. With more drop off points, smaller containers and a cheaper fee he feels it is a win for everyone.

Chairman Johnson said he still likes the idea of merging with the school. He will keep forging ahead in that direction and hopes to have a plan in place by late May 2022.

The County is still offering grant opportunities for towns to use towards efforts in reducing their solid food waste stream.

Chairman Johnson said it will be similar to what the steps were last year for the grant application.

#### C. Vice Chair –

Chairman Johnson still likes the idea of a Vice Chair. He discussed more ideas on rotating a Vice Chair so that each Councilmember can Chair a meeting and be familiar with the process for times that he might not be able to attend a meeting.

Chairman Johnson said this Board is missing a last step. He said the Board is caught in between a Conservation Advisory Council and a Conservation Board. The formality has not passed the Town Board.

Chairman Johnson has a game plan as to how to take the last step. He asked Councilmembers to re-write their own set of rules, regulations...etc. and they will ask the Town Board to validate them.

Chairman Johnson said “The Town Board needs to know how we are going to perform our duties to the Town. This will be a full-fledged Gorham Conservation Board.”

#### D. Update on the Comprehensive Plan Update –

The Steering Committee is notifying residents that have signed up to be on a Focus Group for the Comprehensive Plan Update. Meetings are being held on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022.

Councilmember Brewin said “The survey regarding the Comp Plan Update was very poorly attended. It was also very poorly presented so that people knew there was a survey that needed to be done. Most people in the town did not know. It has been a very rough process so the more people that can show up at these meetings, the better because then it shows that the community does care what’s going on.”

Councilmember Klotz said she thinks it is important for the Conservation Board to be represented at every meeting for the Town Comprehensive Plan Update. Councilmember Eddinger and Councilmember Brewin will be able to represent the Conservation Board.

Privilege of the Floor – none requested

Councilmembers set the next meeting date for Wednesday April 6th, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte  
Town Clerk