

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
April 6th, 2022

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday May 4th, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

Present were; Chairman Brett Johnson, Councilmembers; Keith Eddinger, Meg Brewin and Ben Smith.

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

Councilmembers Lynn Klotz and Georganna Greenlee joined via Zoom.

Councilmember Brian Mastrosimone was necessarily absent.

Other guests in attendance; Dan Blankenberg, Facility Director and Joseph Ruggerio from the Kiwanis Organization.

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

Privilege of the Floor – none requested

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the meeting minutes from 4-6-2022, seconded by Chairman Johnson, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Business

Action Plans from 4-6-2022 meeting;

A. ROW Program-

Chairman Johnson said he has secured locations for 3 containers to collect food waste through our ROW Program. Collection bins will be located at the Town Transfer Station, Crystal Beach Fire Department and Gorham Fire Company.

Any resident can drop off food waste. They do not need a transfer station permit. Ideally the Board would like to have households throughout the MW School District be able to participate. The Conservation Board will be looking for interested volunteers to talk with students about the value of waste diversion.

The Board will have volunteers to oversee the collection sites for the first few days. They are hopeful that the school can help out if needed.

B. Partnership with Marcus Whitman School –

Dan Blankenberg, Facilities Director at Marcus Whitman School District, attended the meeting to speak with the Board.

Mr. Blankenberg recommended working with Marcus Whitman Envirothon Team. He said with only 4-6 weeks left until school is out it would be more successful to start at the beginning of the school year in September. He said MW Facebook is very popular with over 3000 users.

Councilmembers suggested having a kick-off event with lots of social media and discussed starting a survey to see how many MW District households would be interested in participating in the ROW Program.

The Conservation Board will be looking for interested volunteers to talk with students about the value of waste diversion.

Mr. Blankenberg said the use of visual signs instead of text is helpful to know what goes into the food waste collection containers. The school uses big visual signage and reminders every week. He said there are always items thrown in the wrong bin but 99.5% of it is clean. The school has been using the 3 barrel system for 4 years.

Mr. Blankenberg said the school is not required by DEC to have a permit for collecting food waste.

C. Outreach/signs/media –

The Conservation Board discussed purchasing more signs, stickers and flyers. There are 50 current users signed up for the ROW Program.

Councilmembers discussed the importance of obtaining contact information for anyone wishing to have a bucket.

The Board discussed purchasing 5 gallon buckets so users have a choice between 5 or 3.5 gallon buckets. It is recommended by the County representative to use 5 gallon buckets just for volume purposes.

The Board discussed various signs and flyers to place in the community and for social media.

The Board discussed working on a press release, a survey for social media and designs for flyers, posters and stickers. They would like new labels for the buckets. The labels would include logos for Ontario County and Impact Earth along with Marcus Whitman and The Gorham Conservation Board.

The Board discussed the need and the cost of bio bags for the containers. .

Chairman Johnson will return to the Fire Departments with a draft proposal for them. He thinks it's a good idea to put a disclaimer on paper saying the Fire Department can pull out at any time for any reason.

The Fire Department wanted a written proposal for Fire Department Members to vote on.

Chairman Johnson said he hopes the school will help staff the initial training period for residents. The school will help with educational outreach through the students. Councilmembers discussed distributing a single page flyer for the school kids to bring home to their parents.

Along with the information for the Town of Gorham ROW program Councilmembers think it's a good idea to supply every resident with information regarding curbside pickup offered by Impact Earth Inc.

Councilmembers need to supply material for residents so they know where the collection Bins are located throughout the Town. They discussed providing information to residents about the ROW and why it is important to Gorham, why it is important to reduce organic food waste and methane gas in our landfill.

Councilmember Klotz suggested doing a quick video for outreach and education. Impact Earth also has educational material to hand out to residents. They also discussed an updated article in the newspaper and the Town Newsletter and to purchase new signage to put around Town.

Chairman Johnson said time is of the essence to draft a plan to present to the Town Board the County and to the Fire Departments.

Action items to work on before the next meeting.

*Town Clerk Perrotte will send Councilmembers the link for the required Sexual Harassment Prevention Training.

D. Privilege of the Floor –

Councilmember Klotz, who is also President of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, said they produced a new 16 page color document about Lake Friendly Living.

She said they are getting a boat wash station at the north end of Canandaigua Lake.

D. The Next Meeting of the Gorham Conservation Board will be held on June 1st, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk