

TOWN OF GORHAM  
CONSERVATION BOARD  
MINUTES  
August 1, 2018

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday August 1st, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were;

Conservation Board Chairman Brett Johnson and Conservation Board Member Keith Eddinger.

Town Board Councilmembers; Brian S. Case and Richard Malcolm.

Town Supervisor Frederick Lightfoote and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.

Other guests in attendance: Carla Jordan from Ontario County Planning Department, Dan Blankenberg from Marcus Whitman Central School District, John Hicks from Go-n-Green Lawn and Garden Care and Hi Zor Farms and Mrs. Lynn Klotz who is interested in a Councilmember position on the Conservation Board.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

He thanked everyone for attended and then introduced Carla Jordan from Ontario County Planning Department to talk about the County's Solid Waste Management Plan.

Mrs. Jordan gave an extensive presentation regarding Ontario County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). She talked about the role the County is trying to play in facilitating waste reduction within the County.

Ontario County is in the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Recognized Planning Unit, because of that they are required to have a local Solid Waste Management Plan.

Mrs. Jordan said the Plan forces municipalities to look at the amount of waste they generate and how they plan to reduce that waste.

Ontario County has developed their own website where residents can go to get answers to questions they may have in regards to recycling.

OntarioCountyRecycles.org is the website. The website is intended to answer questions residents may have about recycling items such as:

appliances, organic waste, electronic waste...etc. It also lists local haulers and transfer stations along with special events the County will be hosting.

Mrs. Jordan suggests everyone visits the website, it has a lot of useful information.

Mrs. Jordan said “One thing that is notable is that the Ontario County Board of Supervisors recognized that the life of our landfill is coming to an end. Ten years might not be soon enough for some people but, when you are planning, ten years is a very short planning horizon. The Board of Supervisors decided to take some of the money that Casella provides, through leasing the landfill, and dedicate that money towards these waste reduction efforts. Every year money is spent on waste reduction efforts.

Money is given to each municipality to give them an opportunity to develop programs on a local level.”

The SWMP has an outline, a guideline that the County is supposed to be working on every year. It also allows for some flexibility so as things come up that they think are really good ideas they are not precluded from investigating those options.

Mrs. Jordan thinks there is a real opportunity to work with school districts because of the amount of organics they create as institutions and because students are such a receptive audience.

In the qualitative goals outlined in the Plan organics management is important. The County plans on working on that this year. Organics is relatively easy to get rid of. There is the potential to get a large volume of material out of the landfill. The overall idea is to get people recycling right.

Mrs. Jordan said “The goal for the County is that by the time we get to landfill closure in 2028, as a County and as Towns, we have programs in place so that residents are recycling right, throwing out only what needs to be thrown out.”

Mr. Dan Blankenberg Facilities Manager for Marcus Whitman School District.

Mr. Blankenberg met with Mrs. Jordan at one of the Director of Facilities meetings. She did a presentation for their meeting.

Mr. Blankenberg started looking at what they were sending out of the school as far as waste. They took the month of May and did a district-wide assessment. They started with the Valley Primary Building working through the cafeteria. They modeled a three barrel system. Each a different color. One for recycling, one for true garbage and one for food waste.

Mr. Blankenberg said they were amazed at the amount of food waste generated at the school. Everything that left the building was weighed so

they knew exactly what they were sending out. The numbers were staggering. Anything coming out of the school was recycling and food waste. There was very little true trash that goes to the landfill. If you look at a classroom everything is recycled.

Mr. Blankenberg said they are in the early planning stage trying to figure out what to do with the food waste if they separate it out.

Young children were very excited about the recycling.

Mr. Blankenberg said “if we start with the younger students when they switch from building to building at Marcus Whitman they see something familiar. It gets easier and it should be successful.”

Mr. Blankenberg said the way he and Marcus Whitman School Superintendent Jeremy Clingerman look at it is, this is something the school should be doing but, they see it as a partnership between the School, the Town, the County and the residents.

Mr. Blankenberg said “We can try to do something at the school but it doesn’t work unless everybody is involved.”

The school is hoping to partner with the Town in an effort to recycle organic waste. One of the organic recycling processes the school is looking into is vermiculture. The process would require trenches to dump the food waste into. Mr. Blankenberg is hoping the school can partner with the Town to utilize some town owned land so the trenches would not be on school property where they might pose a danger for students.

Mr. John Hicks gave a presentation on Vermiculture. A composting process using worms to treat organic waste. Mr. Hicks said Go-n-Green Lawn & Garden Care and Magix, a company in Seneca Castle NY, have 100 trenches that produce 2000 tons of organic product a year.

Mr. Hicks talked about the trenches they utilize and how it would work for a project similar to what Mr. Blankenberg would like to start.

The product produced from the trenches in Seneca Castle is used as an all-natural soil amendment similar to peat moss and also a liquid plant food.

Board members voiced an interest in visiting the vermiculture operation in Seneca Castle.

Supervisor Lightfoote encouraged Board Members to visit the Ontario County website to take a look at the Solid Waste Management Plan as well as the recycling website.

The next meeting of the Gorham Conservation Board will be held on October 3, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby Perrotte