

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
February 2nd, 2022

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

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

Councilmembers Georganna Greenlee and Brian Mastrosimone joined via Zoom.

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

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting. Councilmember Meg Brewin led the pledge to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor – none requested

Meeting minutes from 1-5-2022 were approved as submitted

Business

- A. Feedback from Council regarding Impact Earth and the ROW Project -

Chairman Johnson said Impact Earth is offering smaller containers to dump organic food waste. The dumpster the Town used for the Pilot program was very large and unnecessary. Chairman Johnson spoke with Robert Putney, CEO of Impact Earth, again following the 1/5/22 CB meeting regarding the smaller containers and curbside pickup. This would be beneficial for residents that may not utilize the Town Transfer Station. Chairman Johnson discussed putting containers at other locations in town for those residents that wish to recycle their organic food waste but do not use our Transfer Station.

Chairman Johnson said he has discussed, with Supervisor Lightfoote, some areas where the Town could locate a few other containers.

Councilmembers are concerned about having containers in different areas that will not be monitored.

Councilmembers discussed several places in the Town that may be an option to place a container to encourage residents to recycle their food waste. For example, Crystal Beach residents that have curbside trash pickup may not want to travel to our Transfer Station just to dump their food waste bucket but, if there was a container located in Crystal Beach they might utilize it.

Councilmembers discussed an article for the next Town Newsletter.

Councilmember Klotz suggested writing an article summarizing the details and updating residents about the ROW Project. In that article they could include a small survey to find out what residents thoughts are on food waste recycling. In such a rural area many residents simply discard organics in their backyard or field. It would be helpful to get some feedback from more residents.

Councilmember Klotz will start a draft to work on at the March 2nd meeting.

Councilmembers like the idea of getting some of the businesses in Town to get involved.

Councilmembers will check with local businesses to see if they are interested in participating or putting a container at their business.

Chairman Johnson said he spoke with Supervisor Lightfoote regarding the status of our Transfer Station. There are rumors of transfer stations closing in Ontario County and throughout the State. Supervisor Lightfoote informed Chairman Johnson that our transfer station is not closing.

Chairman Johnson verified this with Ontario County, the DEC and the State.

Chairman Johnson said “These are rumors, I have observed Fred, he did give me word that the transfer station, he does not intend to close or eliminate, period.”

Chairman Johnson said he has spent a lot of time verifying this in the past month. The County sent him a letter verifying in no way are transfer stations at stake.

B. Discussion on the importance of Organizational Structure for a Conservation Board -

Chairman Johnson gave a lengthy outline on the importance of Rules and Procedure for a Conservation Board. Some of the points Chairman Johnson covered were electing a Vice-Chair, dates and times of meetings, limiting

the meetings to 90 minutes, membership standards and training to name a few.

Chairman Johnson supplied the Board with documents for them to review. Town Clerk Perrotte will scan and email copies to Councilmembers to read at their pleasure.

Chairman Johnson looks forward to Councilmembers feedback on what should be included at the annual Organizational Meetings.

C. Discussion on the proposed Scenic Ridge Rise Subdivision –

Councilmembers discussed the public hearing to be held on February 28th regarding the proposed Scenic Ridge Rise Subdivision on Route 364.

Town of Gorham Conservation Board is listed as an interested agency. This Board will have an opportunity to submit a written response to the Town Planning Board after the public hearing. The Planning Board found that this proposed project will have a significant environmental impact in the area of development.

Councilmembers agreed to have representation by the Conservation Board at the public hearing. Councilmembers will review and Chairman Johnson will read the Conservation Board's response to SEQR that was previously submitted to the Planning Board.

D. Parcel Ranking –

Councilmembers discussed the importance of ranking parcels. Having that in place before a parcel comes up for sale or development. Parcel ranking should be updated and current.

E. Update on the Comprehensive Plan Update –

Councilmember Eddinger attended the last Comprehensive Plan Update meeting. He said they changed some information on mapping. There was discussion on scenic view and farm land maps. There is another meeting on Monday February 7. The revised map will be put out for the public to review then.

Councilmembers set the next meeting date for Wednesday March 2nd, 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