

**TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
March 1, 2023**

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday March 1st, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

Present were; Chairman Brett Johnson.
Councilmembers; Keith Eddinger and Ben Smith.
Councilmembers Lynn Klotz, Georganna Greenlee and Brian Mastrosimone joined via Zoom.
Councilmember Meg Brewin was necessarily absent.
Also present was Town Board Liaison Brian Case.

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting, Councilmember Smith led the Pledge to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor –

Chairman Johnson said tonight he will table # 6 on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the meeting minutes from 2-1-2023, seconded by Councilmember Eddinger, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Business -

1. Potential Compost Pile –

Chairman Johnson said the work for the potential compost pile with Robert Pultney has been moving along. Chairman Johnson has an invitation for the Conservation Board to visit a compost pile at the old Hi Zor in April. He will notify the Board when he has a definite date.

2. Solar Farm Committee Update --

Councilmember Mastrosimone updated the Board on the Solar Committee action. He said he thinks the committee is close to having conclusion on what the laws will be regarding Solar in the Town of Gorham.

The goal is to preserve the quality of the land and the quality will determine what the sizes will be. Setbacks have been agreed upon.

The Conservation Board held a lengthy discussion about the rules and regulations to consider for potential solar farms. The Committee has discussed regulations for farmers and homeowners versus commercial solar farms.

Chairman Johnson there are enough people on the Solar Committee to have a healthy debate and to come up with a certain number of square footage allowed on parcels.

Decommissioning is another important detail being discussed by the Solar Committee. There will be rules in place regarding decommissioning.

There is not another meeting date scheduled for the Solar Committee.

Chairman Johnson will let this Board know when the next one is scheduled.

3. ROW Update –

Chairman Johnson said the sandwich Boards for the ROW Program are in place except for Crystal Beach Fire Department. He anticipates placing that one next week.

Chairman Johnson is holding off on applying for another Grant for the ROW until the Potential Compost Pile is solidified.

Councilmembers discussed submitting a picture of the ROW sandwich boards with an article to publish in the Town Newsletter.

4. Tire Recycling Event -

Chairman Johnson said the date for the Tire Recycling Event, to be held in Gorham, will be on September 9, 2023. It will be a County Wide Collection Event.

Chairman Johnson will leave advertising choices for the event up to Highway Superintendent Eddinger.

5. Environmental Review Chateau Olivia Project -

Councilmembers have reviewed the plot plan and the SEQR.

The Conservation Board went through and discussed the SEQR review very thoroughly.

The Board held a lengthy discussion about public sewer versus private septic system requirements for Chateau Olivia. Currently the owner plans on installing a very expensive septic system to ensure they have control over their project and can open for business on the date they have scheduled.

The Conservation Board is confident that the Town Planning Board will cover the details of hook up requirements when public sewer is available to Chateau Olivia.

The Conservation Board held discussion regarding recycling recommendations for Chateau Olivia. The Board will encourage organic food waste recycling and lake friendly lawn care practices.

Councilmember Klotz would like to recommend they explore contemporary mitigation options such as rain barrels, rain gardens and pollinator gardens.

Chairman Johnson would like to see the Watershed Association weigh in and work with the Conservation Board for recommendations to submit to Chateau Olivia.

Action Items for the Next Meeting

* Councilmember Klotz will seek input from the Watershed Council and the Watershed Association regarding Chateau Olivia

6. Privilege of the Floor – none requested

7. The Next Meeting of the Gorham Conservation Board will be held on April 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

With no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Eddinger, the meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk