

**TOWN OF GORHAM  
CONSERVATION BOARD  
MINUTES  
April 5, 2023**

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday April 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

Present were; Chairman Brett Johnson.

Councilmember; Ben Smith.

Councilmembers; Keith Eddinger, Lynn Klotz, and Brian Mastrosimone joined via Zoom.

Councilmembers Meg Brewin and Georganna Greenlee were necessarily absent.

Also present were Town Board Liaison Brian Case and Town Clerk Darby Perrotte, Jonathan and Amy Archey. Elke Schmitt joined via Zoom.

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting, Town Clerk Perrotte led the Pledge to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor –

Chairman Johnson has no current details on the Tire Recycling Event scheduled for September 9, 2023 at the Town Highway Facility.

No current details from the Solar Committee or the Compost Farm. He will pass on further information when it comes along.

ROW Program –

Chairman Johnson said the tote collection container for food waste at the Transfer Station is missing. Chairman Johnson brought one of his own to the Transfer Station until the tote from Impact Earth can be replaced. Chairman Johnson spoke with Robert Pultney, owner of Impact Earth, for ideas on how to secure the totes in the future. He will speak to the Town Board at the next meeting about replacing the lost or stolen property.

Chairman Johnson brought more buckets to Town Hall for residents to sign up for the ROW program. The Town Clerk's Office has a list of residents who have received a bucket. Councilmembers can add the names to the list of users from the pilot program.

Chairman Johnson would like to prepare an article for the next Town Newsletter regarding the ROW Program.

Councilmember Smith asked if the Solar Committee is still on track to wrap up the solar laws by early summer.

Chairman Johnson and Councilmember Mastrosimone sit on the Solar Committee. Councilmember Mastrosimone said the committee is waiting on a solar company to come in to tell the committee how much solar you get on a roof panel because the only gray area of the law is pertaining to personal use as per square feet. The committee can then finalize the Solar Farm Law.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the meeting minutes from 3-1-2023, seconded by Councilmember Klotz, the minutes were approved as submitted.

### **Business -**

#### 1. Chateau Olivia Wedding Venue –

The Board held discussion. Councilmember Klotz said since they are removing trees and a concrete pad it would be beneficial to mention that they do everything they can to keep disturbed soil in place and replace trees.

Councilmember Mastrosimone stated they will probably have more trees when completed than they do now and they would build a second retention pond. He believes it is a really good project.

Councilmember Mastrosimone explained the plan for the sewer district, being planned by the County and developers, geared for County Road 18.

#### 2. Mission and Duties of the Conservation Board –

Chairman Johnson and Councilmember Eddinger have been working on the guideline/rule book for the Conservation Board.

Chairman Johnson listed all the details and rules discussed at previous meetings. Chairman Johnson would like Councilmembers draft a list of duties. He mentioned there are lots of workshops that are available, not required, he will give them the information if they are interested in attending.

Councilmembers discussed the timing of the annual report. An annual report is required once a year to submit to the Town Board.

Maps for a Conservation Board are of utmost importance. Chairman Johnson's goal is to produce a new map. He has a plan and knows how to work it.

Chairman Johnson discussed duties of the Conservation Board. He said along with Councilmember Eddinger they have coined the phrase 'Strive for the Five'. He listed the 5 points; County Ag District, Natural Resources, Scenic, Cultural and Priority for Protection.

Chairman Johnson said maps are always the number one duty. He would like the Board to refresh themselves on page 11 and come up with a list they can work into the guidebook.

### **Action Items for the Next Meeting**

- Councilmember Klotz will draft a letter, on behalf of the Conservation Board, to Chateau Olivia regarding lake friendly lawn care and food waste recycling to help promote stewardship in Town of Gorham.
- Councilmembers read page 11 of the 2005 open space book.
- Each Councilmember prepare a list of duties.

Privilege of the Floor –

Chairman Johnson said the Archey's spoke with him regarding a large black walnut tree on their property. The tree is approximately 180 years old. The Archey's discussed the problem they have with nuts falling onto the pavement of the school parking lot. They want to keep the tree and also be good neighbors to the school.

Mrs. Archey said they read about conservation of trees in NY State. The article recommended asking the Conservation Board if there is a program for Heritage Trees.

Councilmembers suggested some educational programs, perhaps partner with the school's Eco Program to keep a healthy relationship with the school when the walnuts fall.

Councilmember Klotz asked if the Board would see a copy of the Comprehensive Plan Update before the public hearing.

Town Clerk Perrotte said she believes the link is on the Ontario County website.

Councilmember Klotz shared videos of the storm that created flooding in Cottage City earlier in the evening.

The Next Meeting of the Gorham Conservation Board will be held on May 3, 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 8:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte  
Town Clerk