

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
January 4, 2023

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday January 4, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

Present were; Chairman, Brett Johnson.

Councilmembers; Keith Eddinger, Lynn Klotz, Meg Brewin, Ben Smith and Brian Mastrosimone.

Councilmember Georganna Greenlee joined via phone/videoconference.

Also present was Town Board Liaison Brian Case.

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

Privilege of the Floor – none requested

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the meeting minutes from 12-7-2022, seconded by Councilmember Mastrosimone, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Business –

A. Solar Farms - Review

The Conservation Board held discussion about the new Solar Committee in the Town of Gorham.

Councilmember Johnson said the Conservation Board will work on creating a review to send to the Solar Committee. The Board will review parcels and list out areas that may be prime areas for a Solar Farm and also to list areas that would not be appropriate for a Solar Farm.

Chairman Johnson is an active participant as a volunteer on the Solar Committee. Councilmember Mastrosimone volunteered to be active in attending the Solar Committee Meetings. Chairman Johnson will reach out to Town Board Councilmember Jake Chard, Chair of the Solar Committee, for a schedule of meeting dates.

B. Annual Report –

Chairman Johnson stated the Conservation Board is required to send an annual report to the Gorham Town Board.

Councilmember Klotz recommends the report be finished and ready to be turned into the Town Board by the end of December every year.

The Annual Report should list when the Conservation Board met and what they did throughout the year.

The Report will be an item added to the Guidebook that the Conservation Board is currently working on.

C. 2023 Tire Recycling Event -

The Conservation Board held discussion regarding an upcoming Tire Recycling Event to be hosted in Gorham. The Board will work with Ontario County to organize this event. Councilmember Mastrosimone volunteered to help out the day of the event. Councilmember Eddinger volunteered to help with any grant writing application to submit to Ontario County for the event. This event will be held at the Gorham Transfer Station in 2023, date yet to be determined.

D. Potential Compost Farm –

Chairman Johnson stated the Town has an upcoming meeting with the Owner of Impact Earth, Robert Putney, regarding the purchase of land in Gorham to build a Compost Farm.

Chairman Johnson is invited to speak with Mr. Putney and Supervisor Fred Lightfoote. Chairman Johnson will update the Conservation Board on the result of that meeting at the next Conservation Board meeting.

E. Organizational

GCB Guidebook Start - Rules/Bylaws/Mission of/Duty

Chairman Johnson continues to construct a formal Guidebook for future Conservation Boards in the Town of Gorham.

The Conservation Board held a lengthy discussion regarding Rules, Bylaws, Mission and Duties to be required by the Board.

Most importantly the Conservation Board will create an Open Space Map and Index to be approved by the Town Board. The number one strategy of the Conservation Board is to encourage land stewardship by owners. Council agrees it is important to create the map in order to rank parcels of land in the Town.

The Conservation Board can give recommendation to protect certain parcels in the Town.

The Board discussed what is required by the State as well as the Town.

Councilmembers recommend reaching out to Kevin Olvany for help and/or guidance on creating the maps.

The Guidebook for the Conservation Board should include rules such as; attendance at meetings, Zoom options, newsletters and outreach, grants and submitting an annual report to the Town Board.

Chairman Johnson recommends using the Town of Canandaigua Procedures as a guideline to create a similar Rulebook/Guidebook for the Town of Gorham Conservation Board.

Councilmembers agreed to focus on this at the next two meetings to finalize the Book. Councilmembers will read, familiarize themselves with Canandaigua's Rules of Procedure and then work on creating their own, together, during the next few meetings.

C. Privilege of the Floor – none requested

D. The Next Meeting of the Gorham Conservation Board will be held on February 1, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

With no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Klotz, the meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk