

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
February 5, 2020

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday February 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were; Conservation Board Chairman, Brett Johnson.
Conservation Board Members; Keith Eddinger, Matt Bay and Meg Brewin.
Town Supervisor Fred Lightfoote.
Town Board Liaison Brian S. Case.
Town Clerk Darby Perrotte.
Councilmember Lynn Klotz was necessarily absent.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Privilege of the Floor – none requested

Approval of Minutes - On the motion by Chairman Johnson the 10/2/19 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

The Conservation Board met on 12/4/19. Lack of quorum resulted in an informal meeting.

Councilmember Lynn Klotz submitted a detailed report on 12/11/19 listing activities of the Conservation Board.

Gorham Conservation Board Report
Prepared for Gorham Town Board Meeting
Wednesday 12/11/19

I Pilot Aeration Program, Phase 1

Goal: to aerate fairly compacted residential lawns with proximity to the lake, with hopes of increasing water absorption and reducing run-off

Saturday, October 26th

- Brett Johnson, Lynn Klotz, Brian Case (2 teen volunteers, Destiny & Jenna), Meg Brewin
- Aerated 5 plots on 3 properties in Crystal Beach/Cottage City neighborhood
 - Lake Drive near Clover Road resident (6' x 12')
 - Crystal Beach Betterment Association corner lot (16' x 37')
 - Lake Drive near end of Cottage City (5' x 11', 8' x 15', 14' x 29')
- Observed fair mix of grass, clover, creeping Charlie
- Took pictures of each plot (wide angle and close-up) with GPS enabled

Phase 2

- In Spring 2020, examine the plots and compare with un-aerated sections
- Determine if over-seeding with different cover crops is an option (conversation with property owners and with direction from Meg)

Approved to spend \$800

3 yard signs = \$86 (estimated \$106)

Aerator rental = \$130 (Admar)

Gas for aerator = donated

Available balance = \$584

II Conservation Board Meetings

- 12/4 Present: Brett, Keith Eddinger, Lynn, Darby, Fred (Meg & Brian called noting their absence)
- Not enough for quorum, discussed projects, moving forward with active board members, writing article for Newsletter
- 2020 meetings, Wednesdays: 2/5, 4/1, 6/3, 8/5, 10/7, 12/2

LK 12/11/19

Business:

- a. Pilot Aeration Program

Chairman Johnson spoke about the aeration project conducted on October 26, 2019 by the Conservation Board.

Board Members discussed performing another aeration in the spring as well as different types of grass that could be planted by landowners.

These options are in an effort to reduce soil compaction which helps to enhance soil water uptake and reduce water runoff.

b. Food Waste Collection

Chairman Johnson brought in pictures of several different types of food waste collection buckets to determine which size would be best for residents interesting in recycling their food waste at home.

The Board determined it would be beneficial to conduct a small survey of Town residents to see if they would be interested in recycling their food waste.

Supervisor Lightfoote suggested each Board member email three or four questions to Chairman Johnson. At the April meeting they can choose the questions they want to make up a brief survey.

Chairman Johnson agreed it's the best way to get an accurate idea of how many residents would participate in this type of recycling.

This would help to determine the size and number of buckets needed to give to residents.

c. Multiple Branching

Chairman Johnson discussed the possibility of merging with other Boards in and around the Town of Gorham.

Chairman Johnson said "This Board is so small to be able to work with another Board of this nature would be a gift. There are only three Environmental Conservation Boards around, a couple Conservation Boards. It would be another way to outreach or if possible to tie into any of their projects. I would leave that up to our Board."

Town Board Councilmember Brian Case said "I don't think there is any harm in grouping."

Chairman Johnson said "When Councilmember Klotz is here we already group with Canandaigua Watershed Association. When Fred sits in here we already are grouping with the Watershed Council. I already expand our Board by going over and sucking information from other Boards, which they wholeheartedly give to me, it's just handed to me with a smile. It's already happening in certain ways. I don't know if that would give anymore outreach of power to anybody but it is something I'd like everybody to think about."

Privilege of the Floor - Supervisor Lightfoote gave the board some information regarding Bio-Char, a form of organic soil amendment. Supervisor Lightfoote said it is something the Town wants to look into to a greater degree to see if it might work well for the Town of Gorham.

The next meeting of the Gorham Conservation Board will be held on Wednesday April 3rd, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte