

TOWN OF GORHAM
CONSERVATION BOARD
MINUTES
May 4th, 2022

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday May 4th, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

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

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

Councilmembers Lynn Klotz and Georganna Greenlee joined via Zoom.

Councilmember Brian Mastrosimone was necessarily absent.

Other guests in attendance; Dan Blankenberg, Facility Director and Joseph Ruggerio from the Kiwanis Organization.

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor – none requested

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith to approve the meeting minutes from 4-6-2022, seconded by Chairman Johnson, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Business -

Action Plans from 4-6-2022 meeting;

A. ROW Program -

Chairman Johnson said he has secured locations for 3 containers to collect food waste through our ROW Program. Collection bins will be located at the Town Transfer Station, Crystal Beach Fire Department and Gorham Fire Company.

Chairman Johnson said the ROW Project tied in with the school. The school has several municipalities that it serves. He said all students, from any municipality will be allowed to drop in the totes.

Any resident can drop off food waste. They do not need a transfer station permit. Ideally the Board would like to have households throughout the MW School District be able to participate. The Conservation Board will be

looking for interested volunteers to talk with students about the value of waste diversion.

The Board will have volunteers to oversee the collection sites for the first few days. They are hopeful that the school can help out if needed.

Chairman Johnson said it is a loop, we will re-train the students and he thinks the school is so far ahead of the Town, in regards to recycling food waste, that it will be a gift to work with them.

B. Partnership with Marcus Whitman School –

Dan Blankenberg, Facility Director at Marcus Whitman School District, attended the meeting to speak with the Board.

Mr. Blankenberg said the school has a vested interest with the Town and County to divert food waste. The school has been using the 3 barrel system for recycling, and working hard on it, for 4 years.

Mr. Blankenberg recommended working with Marcus Whitman Envirothon Team. He said with only 4-6 weeks left until school is out it would be more successful to start at the beginning of the school year in September. He said MW Facebook is very popular with over 3000 users it would be a good way to connect with the community.

Councilmembers suggested having a kick-off event with lots of social media and discussed starting a survey to see how many MW District households would be interested in participating in the ROW Program.

The Conservation Board will be looking for interested volunteers to talk with students about the value of waste diversion.

Mr. Blankenberg said the use of visual signs instead of text is helpful to know what goes into the food waste collection containers. The school uses big visual signage and reminders every week. He said there are always items thrown in the wrong bin but 99.5% of it is clean.

Mr. Blankenberg said the school is not required by DEC to have a permit for collecting food waste.

C. Outreach/signs/media –

The Conservation Board discussed purchasing more signs, labels and flyers. There are 50 current users signed up for the ROW Program.

Councilmembers discussed the importance of obtaining contact information for anyone wishing to have a bucket.

The Board discussed purchasing 5 gallon buckets so users have a choice between 5 or 3.5 gallon buckets. It is recommended by the County representative to use 5 gallon buckets just for volume purposes.

The Board discussed purchasing various signs and flyers to place in the community and for social media.

The Board discussed working on a press release, a survey for social media and designs for flyers, posters and stickers. They would like new labels for the buckets. The labels would include logos for Ontario County and Impact Earth along with Marcus Whitman and The Gorham Conservation Board.

The Board discussed the need and the cost of bio bags for the containers.

Chairman Johnson said Impact Earth is looking forward to working with the Conservation Board. Any educational material the Board may need can be found on their website.

Action items to work on before the next meeting

- Councilmember Brewin will pull outreach info from Impact Earth website
- Councilmembers need to write up agreements for the Fire Departments and potentially LeTourneau Cristian Camp regarding tote container drop off points
- Councilmembers need to work on labels, poster designs, press release and news blurbs for social media

D. Privilege of the Floor –

Councilmember Brewin shared the latest information regarding the 2022 Comprehensive Update Plan. Linda Phillips has asked the Conservation Board to review some documents and parcels maps. Ms. Phillips would like the Board to review to see if there are other parcels in the Town of Gorham that need to be included in the Comp Plan. Councilmember Brewin pulled out the conservation priorities for the Board to review. Ms. Phillips asked for feedback by June 1st. The Board can email any recommendations or concerns to Councilmember Brewin and she will forward it to Ms. Phillips.

E. The Next Meeting of the Gorham Conservation Board will be held on June 1st, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

With no further business, on the motion by Councilmember Eddinger, seconded by Chairman Johnson, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte
Town Clerk