

TOWN OF GORHAM  
CONSERVATION BOARD  
MINUTES  
April 3, 2019

The Town of Gorham Conservation Board met on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Gorham Town Hall. Present were; Conservation Board Chairman, Brett Johnson.  
Conservation Board Members, Keith Eddinger and Lynn Klotz.  
Town Supervisor, Fred Lightfoote.  
Town Board Councilmembers; Brian S. Case and Richard Malcolm.  
Town Clerk, Darby Perrotte.  
Councilmembers Stephen Horrocks and Matt Bay were necessarily absent.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Privilege of the Floor – none requested

Meeting minutes from 12/5/18 and 2/6/19 were approved as submitted.

New Business:

Chairman Johnson talked about the importance of the soil around our Lake. Specifically soil aeration. Aeration is necessary to alleviate soil compaction.

Even on a small scale, soil is not the same throughout the region. Topsoil may have been removed in some areas, fill soil added in others, usage can change the soil properties. A crop field, a lawn and a natural area may have different chemical makeups and levels of compaction.

Chairman Johnson spoke of how different the compaction of soil is along a lakeshore compared to other areas of construction. He said it is practically impossible to dig a hole by hand along any lakeshore.

Chairman Johnson said “the lakeshore is the last line of defense, we need to work the soil to save what we can.”

Chairman Johnson said aerated soil would be a solution to runoff. If we could somehow aerate the land around the lake closest to the lakeshore.

Councilmember Klotz said when storm water runs off it picks up pollutants as it flows. The faster the water moves the more it picks up debris that flows directly into our streams, ditches and into our Lake.

Chairman Johnson and Councilmember Klotz talked about the importance of pervious soil around the lake. The more pervious the soil the more water will percolate into the soil which helps to filter out pollutants. If the surface is solid or too compacted it doesn't allow water to penetrate forcing it to run off.

Councilmember Klotz and Chairman Johnson would like to gather some soil samples from our Town.

Chairman Johnson said with soil samples we don't really have a track record to compare to. To see how pervious the soil is around the lake in the Town of Gorham. He wondered if it would be of value to test a high rated area as far as a parcel rating is concerned.

Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District does have a record of soil samples on file.

Supervisor Lightfoote said it would be a good job for Chairman Johnson to gather soil samples from the lakeshore.

Supervisor Lightfoote said "What we are trying to gain from testing is to get a better idea of our bigger concerns such as where the sediment is entering the lake."

Supervisor Lightfoote said to figure out two or three different treatments to try, maybe through Councilmember Klotz they can get a few lakeside residents to work with them on gathering samples.

Chairman Johnson said the goal is to collect the soil samples in the Town of Gorham. The information should be tracked and facted for future purposes.

### Old Business:

Town of Gorham Comprehensive Plan – Chairman Johnson said in regards to the update to the Town Comprehensive Plan there is a need to update that to be eligible for grants.

Supervisor Lightfoote said he wanted to enlighten this Board on what their part would be when it comes to the update. In previous years there were a number of sub-committees put together to assist in the update. They help determine what the goals and aspirations of our community are. Some of the sub committees were; neighborhood issues, lake issues, recreation issues, business and tourism, public relations, agriculture, historic resources...etc. The environmental sub-committee is where this Conservation Board would come in to play. There were a number of subcommittees used in the

previous update. Many of the sub-committees would be the same but it will be edited to choose a sub-committee that makes sense for us now.

Chairman Johnson said he would like to prepare for this because he thinks it is something that needs time and shouldn't be done overnight or in a hurry.

Chairman Johnson said the Town's foresight needs to be far ahead while editing the Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Lightfoote said that is the benefit of having a consulting group working on the update. They are well versed in how to approach things, how to steer us in the right direction. During the process they need input of; what we have in place now and where we would like to be in the future.

Supervisor Lightfoote said "It would be good for this Board to gain a little bit better perspective as far as what is out there, what are some concerns, what are we running into so we can work with the consultants as we move forward. We, the Town, have a lot to do to prepare for the update."

Chairman Johnson said Councilmember Eddinger shows high interest in editing our area of the Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Johnson made a motion to appoint Councilmember Eddinger as Editor of the Conservation Boards areas of concern pertaining to the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update. Councilmember Klotz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Lightfoote said in the next couple of months members of the Conservation Board, himself and representatives from the consulting group will be working a little more closely in regards to the Conservation Board's input in regards to the update.

Chairman Johnson offered Privilege of the Floor – none requested

The next meeting of the Gorham Conservation Board will be held on Wednesday June 5, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Gorham Town Hall.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darby L. Perrotte

