



PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Gorham town Hall, Public Meeting Room, 2nd floor.

Monday, February 26, 2024

5:00 p.m.

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Michael Waddell, Yves Zornio and Judy Leblanc

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Gagnon, Town Manager, Kaela Taveres and Tara Bamford Consultants

Public session Call to Order – 5:03pm

Michael Waddell called the public session to order.

New Business

Railroad St. Parking Lot

A presentation for proposed parking regulations done under the HOP grant from Kaela Taveres and Tara Bamford which provided the board with a graph of regulations of the parking on Railroad St Parking Lot. The board had agreed upon at the end of 2023 to utilize this space for parking for residential parking. Kayla and Tara have been putting together some policies that need to be put in place for the permit system to run and a couple of changes for current regulations that the town has in place at this time, like the winter parking banned and the snow removal ordinance. These two regulations under the ordinance will have to be amended so that they are not related to the Railroad St Parking Lot. Kaela stated that the current ordinance is written that there is no parking on any public street since the Railroad St. Parking Lot is not on a separate piece of parcel that it would be good to add to the end of the ordinance that Railroad St. Parking Lot is not included. The second ordinance of snow removal is basically the same it is not a separate parcel of land and to be extra clear the town should add to this ordinance that it doesn't include Railroad St. Parking Lot.

Town manager Peter Gagnon talked with Public Works Director John Bijeau and Foreman Joey Ramsey because we don't have very great alternative parking for people the town couldn't say go to an alternative parking place. DPW is going to try to do the best they can and as people dig their cars out the DPW will come in and clean it up. If the town needs to amend or change policy at another time they will. DPW will plow Railroad St and people will dig out their vehicles. BOS Judy Leblanc had a concern if you have 25 people parking there and all are shoveling their cars out at different times the town can't expect DPW to go back multiple times a day to plow this would create a big mess. Peter Gagnon said that the town will hope for the best. DPW are usually out and busy for 24 hours after a snowstorm. If someone doesn't dig their car

20 PARK STREET
GORHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03581
603-466-3322 ✱ 603-466-3100 FAX
www.gorhamnh.org

out for 3 or 4 days and then calls to have their parking spot plowed out this would become an issue. BOS Michael Waddell thoughts on this matter that there are enough parking spaces available, that it probably be for overnight parking. BOS Judy Leblanc said the permitted parking area should say for DPW to plow out the parking lot that all vehicles need to be moved at a certain time. Peter Gagnon asked what would happen if they weren't moved by the said time. BOS Judy Leblanc if they don't get plowed out, they would know. Peter Gagnon said the town was trying to make it simple and maybe down the road the town will have to address it with some signage or on the permit that says we need to have the residents move somewhere. BOS Judy Leblanc said if the DPW would dedicate a certain time to plow that area Peter Gagnon said DPW doesn't know what time would be able to be dedicated for the area because they can't predict what time a storm would arrive. BOS Yves Zornio said he agreed with Peter, he said it would be hard to contact all the residents at the same time to move their vehicles. BOS Michael Waddell said when you drive by Appalachia, Carter Notch or Nineteen Mile Brook there are always overnight cars there the state comes in and does their plowing the cars are buried and eventually they get out. They move their cars, and the state eventually comes by and plows. BOS Judy Leblanc said but they don't come back for every single car. BOS Yves Zornio stated the town plan on coming back for every single car. BOS Micheal Waddell said that it might not be on a schedule but eventually the state gets it all cleaned up. Leaving room for parking in the parking lot. BOS Yves Zornio stated he wouldn't be surprised if DPW said they would have to go by and take an extra look at the parking lot to see if there is more to clean up. BOS Micheal Waddell we are discussing the start and nothing else. BOS Judy Leblanc says she would hate to see permitted parking residence calling DPW and saying my car is all moved for you to plow. BOS Micheal Waddell I he thinks that DPW will get some of those calls. BOS Judy Leblanc agreed with Micheal Waddell. BOS Yves Zornio said it any residence rights to contact PDW if they like hopefully, they don't abuse it. Peter Gagnon said that Tara, Kayla, and himself had a conversation about the BOS's concerns and it seemed the areas that had an answer was the metropolitan areas or places that had a public garage or other public parking lots, and they could give out a notice that there was a snowstorm coming and they could move an alternative area. This is not an option for the town. BOS Judy Leblanc stated that if there is a predicted storm coming, we could send out a notice stating that the parking lot can't be plowed until the cars are removed. Kayla said the reason we are not recommending a certain time is that this is parking for people's homes. It is a little bit different from public parking or shared by different offices and businesses. Peter recommended that another place is needed to send them that is not too far so they could even move their cars the night before and walk home. It is a start to see how things go. BOS Judy Leblanc said that in a residential area if a storm has happened and a plow goes by and plows a resident in, they have to shovel themselves out they wouldn't call DPW and tell them I just shoveled out driveway the snow is in the road for them to come and pick up. Kaela said she wouldn't think we want to encourage people to do that or to put up a sign that says once you are dug out call DPW to be to have your spot cleaned up. We should treat more like the trail heads that BOS Micheal Waddell had mentioned. BOS Judy Leblanc agreed with this. Kaela has moved on to the new plan on how this permitted service could operate. Part A of the plan is a good housekeeping requirement to have. It is a restriction of the parking lot spaces which would state it is not a space where you can store a trailer, camper, a boat or an unregistered or inoperable vehicle.

Basically, it doesn't become a storage lot and is used as a residential area parking. Section B of the plan jumps more into the eligibility any owner of a residential or rental property located in commercial A or the commercial compact as discussed with the zoning ordinance can apply for permitted parking spaces.

There is a clause included stating there is a limited number of spaces and permits are available on a first come first served basis. An application will need to be filled out and a residential lease agreement that is used for their property. BOS Judy Leblanc wanted to know if we would be paying back to residents if they moved out before their yearly permit expired and Peter explained to Judy that all permits are going to be issued to the owners not renters. The permit fee is \$150.00 annually. The next piece of discussion term expiration and renewal in this case will set when the schedule for applications and fees which are due to the town clerk by 6/1 and permits will be run annually from 8/1 to 7/31 of each year. That gives 2 months for municipal review by the town. Permits will expire annually, and an owner will have to fill out a new application Prior authorization of yearly renewal residential permits of a maximum of 2 per unit due to town zoning ordinance compliance. Which would get everyone with legally expectable units with enough parking those renewal permits are going to be the number priority after the renewal permits are issued any property owners who need the spaces to comply with the parking requirements with the town ordinance any new one will be the second priority. Third priority will be a catch all bucket for other permits for residential rental use. So, if all parking spaces are not spoken for and someone says I could use those 4 or 5 spaces they could rent them out if they wanted. A section on additional application opportunities maybe the town will find this is a successful opportunity and you need more than those 25 spaces in a few years, and it doesn't work with the scheduled permit system then you as a BOS can increase the number permitted of parking spaces from time to time as you decide. If that does happen a new application due date will be set. These permits will follow the same rules as the original permits, meaning that a new application is needed annually. The town will set a maximum amount of renewal spaces. The issued permits need to be visible and not duplicated. The parking space is 10 feet by 20 feet. The permit also states that a certain space is not available meaning you pay for a permit, but it is not assigned parking spaces. Parking in the Railroad St. Parking Lot is restricted to permit holder only. Permit holders are responsible for monitoring the use of spaces. People that park there with no permit can be towed at the car owner's expense. The town of Gorham will not be responsible for ticketing, towing, or enforcing the use of this parking area. Basically, the Town of Gorham is managing the applications and permit issue and fee collection for this program. Town of Gorham will not be responsible for theft or damages to the vehicles in the parking area.

BOS Yves Zornio asked about the enforcement that the permit holders are responsible for the said space can a permit holder legally have someone towed at the unpermitted car's expense. BOS Micheal Waddell said it is legal for the permit holder to have the unpermitted vehicle towed at owner expense. BOS Yves Zornio said the permit holder is not the one parking there it is the property owner that holds the permit. Peter said maybe the town maybe would post if someone needed to be towed to call a tow company, but the permit holders do have the right to do to have the cars towed and the owner of the car would have to work something out with the tow company to get their car back. Petr was interested in seeing if the BOS would want to get into that enforcing piece do we want the police to go out there and enforce the towing. It is more complex in the way that Tara and Kayla had mentioned earlier. BOS Michael Waddell thinks it should be a municipal trigger item it on town property that the town is collecting a fee for. On the application the property owner should get a car description and license plate number of there tenants' vehicle's which the town would keep on a master list. So, the town will have a list of property owners by their tickets and have an ongoing list of vehicles that are supposed to be in the parking area.

BOS Judy Leblanc said that the only time the local police department should be involved is when the permit holder has contacted them to assist. Kaela said if the town agrees to go that route, then maybe towing would not be the first course of action but maybe some kind of ticketing or warning.

Property Sales Report

There were only 2 qualified sales. There are not many properties for sale and the prices are still elevated. BOS Yves Zornio said he had seen an ad in the paper for someone that was a resident of Gorham years ago looking to move back to the area. Peter Gagnon said equalization is still not good. BOS Judy Leblanc said that the interest rates should have slowed everything down, but they haven't.

Affirming the Northern Borders Grant

On February 15, 2024, the collaboration of the State Troopers, Law Enforcement, Border Patrol and Homeland Security to deal with any searches of illegal immigration, boarder security.

BOS Judy Leblanc made a motion to affirm the Northern Borders Grant.

Yves Zornio seconded the motion. **Selectperson LeBlanc voted yes. Selectman Zornio voted yes. Chairman Waddell voted yes.**

The motion carried. (3-0-0)

Town Manager gave the BOS the authorization form to authorize Peter Gagnon to sign for the Pine Mountain Repeater Grant.

BOS Judy Leblanc made a motion to Authorize Peter Gagnon to sign paperwork for the Pine Mountain Repeater Grant.

Yves Zornio seconded the motion. **Selectperson LeBlanc voted yes. Selectman Zornio voted yes. Chairman Waddell voted yes.**

The motion carried. (3-0-0)

Follow up on Libby's Pool ice rink protocol thoughts a lot is what was talked about in an earlier meeting.

Adjournment

Judy Leblance moved to adjourn the meeting and to go back to the nonpublic meeting at 5:50 pm. It was seconded by Yves Zornio. **Selectperson LeBlanc voted yes. Selectman Zornio voted yes. Chairman Waddell voted yes.**

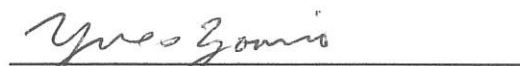
The motion carried. (3-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Alimandi, Recording Secretary
Town of Gorham
ralimandi@gorhamnh.org

Minutes Approved on: March 12, 2024


Michael Waddell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc, Vice-Chair


Yves Zornio, Selectman