

Town of Gorham, NH

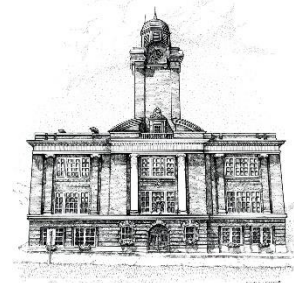
Town Manager's Office

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1918 Historic Gorham Town Hall

Report of January 24, 2020

2020 Proposed Budget Reviews: Over the past two weeks, the Budget Committee met with all of the department heads to review their budgets. Any requests for information from the Budget Committee were responded to by either the Department Head or Finance Department. I wish to express my sincere thanks to each and every department head for their diligent work in preparing their budgets. Next week, the Budget Committee will meet with the individual non-profit agencies that are requesting an appropriation from the Town of Gorham in 2020.

Phone/Internet Project: We have received the new telephones along with switches and routers. The phones will be installed, the phone numbers ported over and training will be conducted during the first week in February. Three staff members will be doing a Webex training for system administration on January 31st. We are all looking forward to the completion of this project!

Solar Project: A structural assessment was conducted of the Public Works Garage roof and notice was received on Friday, January 24th that the snow load code requirements for the roof, spray-on insulation (roofing project of 2014) and solar panels would exceed the current code requirements for snow load. Unfortunately, this means we will have to step back and figure out another way/location to install solar panels to reduce our energy usage and carbon footprint.

Economic Development: Unfortunately, the Peebles Store closed during the month of January, however, the owners of Stage Stores decided to open a Gordman's Store in the same location. I sent an email to both the manager of leases for the Mt. Valley Plaza and to the owner of Stage Stores thanking them for their confidence in Gorham and its future economy. We also welcome Sweet Berries Bakery & Café, located on the corner of Rtes. 2 and 16, and wish them every success. The Board of Selectmen recently formed the Gorham Economic Action Team and appointed several community members to serve along with me in helping to bring new businesses to Gorham. Members include Paul Robitaille, Kathy Frenette, David Backler, Jesse Lawson McCreedy, Roger Lajoie and Robert Chapman.



I continue to work with Kathy Frenette on the various duties required for the Finance Director's position. As we proceed through the budget cycle, Budget Committee meetings, year-end procedures and Town Report preparation, Kathy is gaining experience and knowledge every step of the way!

Easter Seals Ride In: The schedule for this year's ride in to take place on Friday, January 31st through Sunday, February 2nd has been completed. Please check the Town Events on the Town's website for details, www.gorhamnh.org. The public is cordially invited by the NH Snowmobile Association and NH Bureau of Trails to attend their events!



It is a true blessing to be able to work, live and play in the Town of Gorham. The photo above was taken while snowshoeing at Moose Brook State Park. It was so nice to get outdoors last weekend to enjoy the fresh snow!!

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Vallee

Town Manager