

Town of Gorham New Hampshire

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, August 28, 2023 4:30 p.m.

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Michael Waddell; Yves Zornio; and Judy LeBlanc.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Gagnon, Town Manager.

ALSO PRESENT: Edith Tucker; Alex Richie, White Mountain Paper; Randy Rand, White Mountain Paper; Matt O'Day, White Mountain Paper; and Paul Grenier, Mayor, Berlin; Paul Robitaille, Chair, Planning Board; and Earl McGillicuddy.

1. Non-Public Session - 4:30 p.m.

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) *The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant; and (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.*

2. Public Session Call to Order - 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Waddell called the public session to order.

3. New Business

a. Announce Action, if any, Taken in Nonpublic Session

None.

b. Presentation by White Mountain Paper

Alex Richie introduced her team present at White Mountain Paper. She provided a general update on how the Mill is doing and the various initiatives that they're working on, including creating a converting line and a Comprehensive Demolition Plan. She presented a PowerPoint to the Board. Discussion was had regarding the converting

initiative (i.e. making retail paper products on site versus selling large rolls of paper to third parties who then cover paper into tissue)
 Randy Rand spoke about the condition of the machine, as well as the total investment for the work to repair it. Discussion was had regarding the importance of doing the improvements at the Mill.

Ms. Richie voiced the workforce challenges and how they are able to address those. She went over the RFP for the Landfill gas-to-energy project that they have participated in. Discussion was had regarding the short-listing situation, as well as the lack of transparency.

Chairperson Waddell and Mayor Paul Grenier spoke about their experiences with AVRARD, as well as the upcoming meeting with the 2 short-listed applicants.

Paul Robitaille spoke about his experience with the Mill. He went over the challenges of economic development in the region and how the Mill is an important part of our regional future.

Earl McGillivuddy spoke about his experience with the Mill and the reason it is still existing. He went over the value of landfill gas and how it is speculative in value.

Peter Gagnon read a letter received from Robert Chapman. Mr. Chapman's letter was supportive of the Mill and noted it's importance to the local community.

c. MS-1 Update

Mr. Gagnon stated that the town is requesting an extension until October 2, 2023 to get the MS-1 (property values) into the State.

d. Review Proposed Updates to Cemetery Rules & Regulations

Mr. Gagnon indicated he spoke with the Department of Public Works and presented the updates to the Board. Discussion was had regarding the rationale for each of the updates and whether or not the amendments should be approved. The Selectmen approved all but one of the changes proposed. The Selectmen wanted to continue to maintain headstones.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to approve all amendments, except for Number 10. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Selectman Zornio: Aye
 Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
 Chairperson Waddell: Aye

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

e. Review Monthly Property Sales & Permit Applications

Mr. Gagnon indicated there were some sales that took place this month, showing a slight decrease.

f. Veteran's Memorial

Mr. Gagnon noted that it came to his attention from Ted Miller that the monument is showing signs of mold or markings, in addition to the paving stones. He added that he'll be addressing those concerns.

4. Old Business/Updates, if any

a. RR Street Parking Proposal

Mr. Gagnon presented the map with the proposed sidewalk for Railroad Street. He went over the rationale for a sidewalk from Church Street past School Street. He stated the estimates range between \$180,000 to \$200,000. Discussion was had regarding the implementation of sidewalks, including different materials it could be made of. Board concluded that there should be sidewalks installed, and that Mr. Gagnon should evaluate what type of product should be utilized.

He went over the different costs for paving the parking options. Discussion was had regarding different parking spot placement options.

Mr. Gagnon went over the parking permits, noting that they would be \$150/year, purchased by the property owners. Discussion was had regarding whether the spots would be enumerated and what types of vehicles would be allowed to park in the spots.

Mr. Gagnon also brought up the fact of unpermitted parking consequences.

Chairperson Waddell requested the Board to discuss overnight parking in an upcoming meeting, as well as a snow removal plan, in order to present all topics in the public hearing. Mr. Gagnon suggested holding the public hearing in September/October. Chairperson Waddell concurred that the first week of October would be best, so that budgets could be incorporated in the discussion.

b. Deed – Donald Roy & Heidi Roy

Mr. Gagnon indicated that these lots will be merged. He notes that it has been reviewed by Legal Counsel.

MOTION: Selectman Zornio moved to approve the Deed. It was seconded by Vice-Chair LeBlanc.

Selectman Zornio: Aye

Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye

Chairperson Waddell: Aye

The motion carried. (3-0-0).

5. Public Comment: Those in attendance will have the opportunity for public comment of two (2) minute or less.

Resident spoke of the difference of the parking spots on the maps. Another resident inquired what day parking was defined as. Discussion was held regarding the number of units at

1 Exchange and how many residents have the need for parking spots. Further discussion was had regarding the parking lot across from 1 Exchange.

Resident inquired whether future construction has a formula for the number of parking spaces for said unit. Discussion was had regarding the evolution of the formula, and what the situation is currently.

6. Other Business

a. Review and Approve Minutes: August 14, 2023.

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to approve the minutes of August 14, 2023, as presented. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.
Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye
The motion carried. (3-0-0).

b. Town Manager Report

• Car Show

Mr. Gagnon said there was a good turnout and that it may become an even bigger annual event.

• Lumberjack Festival

Mr. Gagnon stated that this is the next big event scheduled.

• Grants

○ **FEMA** - Mr. Gagnon stated that he and Phil Cloutier have sat down with FEMA several times. He noted that this would address the December 25, 2022 storm washout, wherein they would receive \$4,913,32.

• Project Updates

Mr. Gagnon has indicated that Clay Brook Road work has commenced.

• Androscoggin Valley Homecare

Mr. Gagnon distributed a letter he received from them, which included their expenditure report for services rendered in Gorham.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to adjourn. It was seconded by Selectman Zornio.
Selectman Zornio: Aye
Vice-Chair LeBlanc: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye
The motion carried. (3-0-0).

Minutes Approved on September 11, 2023 by:

Michael L. Waddell, Chairman

Judith LeBlanc, Vice-Chair

Yves Zornio, Selectman

Respectfully Submitted,
Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
O'Connor Legal, Medical & Media Services Inc.
www.oconnorlmms.com

Town of Gorham

Rules and Regulations for Cemeteries

Schedule of Rates and Charges

The purpose of these regulations is to establish requirements for the purchase of cemetery lots, interment of deceased, lot site regulations, and maintenance of facilities and grounds for all public cemeteries in the Town of Gorham.

Town Cemeteries
Old Town Cemetery
Evans Cemetery
Mount Hayes Cemetery
Lary Cemetery

The cemetery is open to visitors during dawn to dusk hours. The cemeteries will be closed to vehicle access after the first snowfall each winter. This will remain in effect until April 15. No skateboarding, roller skating, recreational bicycling or any other recreational activities are allowed on cemetery grounds.

Section 1. Price of lots: The price of all lots sold includes perpetual care as follows:

40" X 10'	\$400.00
10' X 10'	\$1,200.00
10' X 20'	\$2,400.00

Section 2. Perpetual Care: Included with purchase of lot.

Section 3. Interment: Interment services including opening and closing of grave shall be as follows:

Adult	\$500.00 from Nov. 1 to April 30,
	\$350.00 from May 1 to Oct. 31
Cremation	\$200.00
Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays	\$150.00 extra

Late funerals (arrival after 3:00 P.M.) will be an additional charge of \$50.00 per hour until grave is closed.

A single grave may include one body and/or one body and one cremation, or two cremations.

Section 4. Disinterment: Disinterment service including opening and closing shall be as follows:

Adult.....\$400.00 from Nov. 1 to April 30,
\$350.00 from May 1 to Oct. 31
Cremated remain\$200.00
Removal of old vault\$20.00 extra

Section 5. All other work: All other work will be cost plus 10%. Installation plan may be arranged at discretion of Town Manager.

Section 6. Condition of Sale: Conditions - Limitations and Rights:

Owners of burial lots acquire simply the right and privilege of burial of the dead, subject to the conditions, rules, and regulations now in force, or which may be enacted hereafter. One headstone per lot is allowed centered. Placement of said headstone, corner markers, or foot markers will need to be approved by the Cemetery Sexton before placement.

Section 7. Residency: Lots shall be sold only to residents and former residents of Gorham.

Section 8. Perpetual Care Required: All other hereafter sold in the cemetery shall be provided with perpetual care services. The expense of such is included in the price of the lot at the time of the sale.

Section 9. Purchase of Perpetual Care: Owners of lots sold without perpetual care may secure the benefits of perpetual care by paying to the Trustees of Trust Funds a sum pursuant to the schedule as adopted by the Board of Selectmen.

Section 10. Perpetual Care to Include: Perpetual care shall include watering and mowing of lots and graves, seeding, filling in sunken graves to lot-level and other maintenance meaning and intending the general preservation of lots, grounds, walks, roadways, headstones/structures and boundaries The intent and purpose of perpetual care for sold grounds is to ensure a reasonably cared for cemetery forever.

Section 11. The Town will take reasonable precaution to protect lot owners within the cemetery from loss or damage, but it disclaims any and all responsibility for loss

or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control and especially from damage caused by the elements, acts of God or vandals.

Section 12. Work To Be Done By the Town: All cutting and removal of trees and shrubs, all openings and closing of lots and all interments, disinterment and removals shall be made by the Town.

Section 13. Use of the Vault in the Winter: "The Town will open graves for the burial of the dead, as requested during the winter season of the year, ALL additional expenses are to be paid for by the deceased estate." *(Passed at the 1986 Town Meeting).* The cost will be a fixed fee of \$100.00.

Section 14. Disinterment and Removals: No disinterment of a body, once properly interred, shall be made except in accordance with State Law and with the supervision of a Licensed Funeral Director.

Section 15. Endowments for Special Care: Endowments for special care of lots by the Town may be set up with the approval of the Selectmen and Trustee of Trust Funds and they shall determine the charge for such services.

Section 16. Vaults: The Town of Gorham hereafter will require a suitable concrete vault for all burials, plastic is suitable for cremation burials. *(Passed by Selectmen April 30, 1984, revised by Selectmen May 9, 2022)*

Section 17. Repurchase of Unused Cemetery Lots: The Town of Gorham will, as a matter of policy, guarantee to repurchase at the original sale price any lot or lots which are unused or with which the owners are unsatisfied for any reason. *(Passed by Selectmen on March 3, 1984)*

Section 18. Plants: Annual plants are only allowed on headstones and foundations. No perennial plants, trees, benches, or shrubs of any kind are allowed. All plants, plastic, decorative items, or otherwise must be removed by November 1st or the Town of Gorham reserves the right to remove such items.

Section 19. Single Graves: Size restriction of headstones is 18"H x 24"W. Foot markers will be allowed.

Section 20. Burial Arrangements. All aspects of arrangements for funerals and/or burials must be scheduled through a licensed funeral home director.

Amendments:

The Gorham Board of Selectmen adopted the above Rules and Regulations on June 15, 1981 and were amended in 1984, 1986, 1988, amended and adopted on:

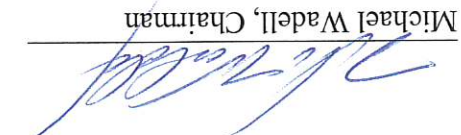
Board of Selectmen First Reading on March 18, 2019; Second Reading on April 8, 2019; Third Reading on April 29, 2019.

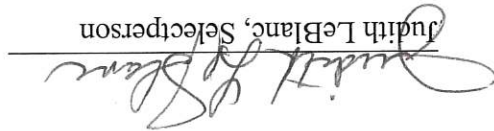
Board of Selectmen revised Section 16 and added Section 20 on May 9, 2022.

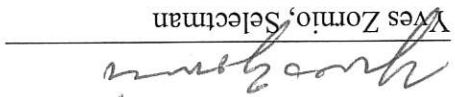
Board of Selectmen revised Sections: 1, 10, 14, 18, 19 & 20 on September 11th, 2023

Adopted:

Date: September 11, 2023

The Gorham Board of Selectmen:

Michael Wadell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc, Selectperson


Yves Zornio, Selectman