



PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor
Monday, November 27, 2023
3:30 p.m.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Gagnon, Town Manager.

ALSO PRESENT: Lisa Connell; and Kayla Tavares, NCC (via Zoom), North Country Council; Paul Robitaille, Planning Board Chair.

1. Non-Public Session - 3:30 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 at 5:30 p.m.

3. New Business

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

None.

b. Review October Property Sales

Selectman Zornio noted that the housing sale prices are high. Chairperson Waddell added that inventory is low.

c. Discuss MS-1 Status and Tax Rate

Chairperson Waddell indicated that the rate will be set on 12/04/23. The Board received the updated MS-1.

4. Old Business/Updates, if any

a. Review & Sign CD57-P, Real Estate Document

Mr. Gagnon explained the history of 2 donated parcels from The Gorham Land Company. He noted that The Gorham Land Company reached out, as they were missing some documents from the Town. He detailed what this document was for.

Chairperson Waddell inquired regarding the status of Title. Mr. Gagnon responded there's a Deed from Cooper Cargill Chant that has been processed and it's going to be dropped off anytime this week, or he will pick it up this week. Chairperson Waddell spoke about the parcels.

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

Lisa inquired regarding the GLC donation becoming part of Town Forest, which the Board affirmed. She asked how many acres did the larger parcel total, which was 106 acres, with the total of the two parcels being 115 acres.

6. Other Business

a. Review and Approve Minutes: October 10, 2023, October 23, 2023 & November 13, 2023

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to approved the nonpublic meeting minutes from October 10, 2023, October 23, 2023, and November 13, 2023. 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

- **Grone Service**

Mr. Gagnon spoke about the service on Saturday of Mr. Grone and expressed his appreciation to everyone involved.

- **Survey - MOM's Building**

Mr. Gagnon attended a site survey and indicated that they are on track for site plan review. He noted the footprint is going to stay the same.

- **Grants**

Northern Forest Service Grant (Holland Ave Parking, Kiosks, Granite Steps) has been wrapped up with a final disbursement of approx. \$37,000, with the exception of some signage that needs to be put up.

DOT Tap Grant (Route 2 sidewalks) is moving along, going through the RFQ process, and DOT going through their final stages with the chosen vendor.

c. Public Hearing - Railroad Street Parking

Mr. Gagnon introduced Kayla Tavares from North Country Council and gave a brief background on what brought about the project. He and Ms. Tavares presented the Railroad Street Parking project with the use of a PowerPoint slideshow.

The following questions were asked and answered:

- Q. The permits will only be allotted to Gorham Residents, correct?
A. Gorham Property Owners.
- Q. As an owner on Railroad Street, can I purchase more than one spot?
A. Yes, for \$150 each.
- Q. So the 25 spots, is that basically where people park now?
A. Yeah.
- Q. How is doing this going to change what is being done already?
A. The people parking there now are going to have to park further down or will have to have their landlords pay for the parking.
- Q. What about the trailer and truck that are there all summer?
A. It's not going to be indefinite trailer parking for anyone.
- Q. Long-term, without dumping a bunch of money into it to put actual parking in place, are there apartment buildings looked at to be built?
A. Yes.
- Q. It sounds like a lot of issues is with the long-term parking. Has there been discussion of just putting up signage regarding long-term parking?
A. Permitted parking only signs, which are designed for residential parking only, not trailers or work trucks taking up more than one parking spot.
- Q. If there are trailers there now, they won't just move down the street?
A. No, the idea is that we will pass a Policy, enforce it, and clean up the street.
- Q. How are you going to manage snow removal?
A. As best we can; we don't have heated sidewalk there. That could be "phase 4". DPW is onboard with removing the snow properly.

Discussion was had regarding this being a work in progress to be taken in phases, as well as the history of the actions taken by the Planning Board regarding this situation and the changes in the community.

Chairperson Waddell requested for a revised Overnight Parking Policy. He also brought up the SAU/FRC request for dedicated parking. Discussion was had regarding the FRC purchasing adjacent property with a grant that had been thought of previously.

Public hearing was closed at 6:25 p.m.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Vice-Chair LeBlanc moved to adjourn the meeting. 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 December 11, 2023 by:



Michael L. Waddell, Chairman



Judith LeBlanc, Selectperson



Yves Zornio, Selectman

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
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