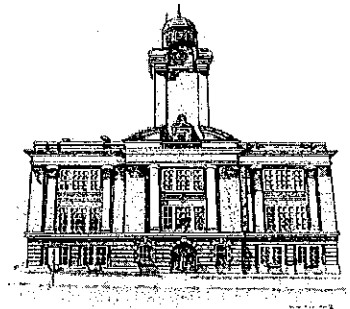


Town of Gorham New Hampshire



VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, May 10, 2021 5:00 p.m.

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Michael Waddell; Judy LeBlanc; and Adam White (via video).

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Vallee, Town Manager.

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Sjostrom, WMNF District Ranger; and Paul Robitaille.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO: Edith Tucker, Reporter, Berlin Sun; Michelle Lutz; Tara Bamford; Howie Wemyss; and Johnida Dockens, WMNF.

1. Non-Public Session - 5:00 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; and (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.*

2. Public Session Call to Order - 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Waddell called the public session to order at 6:07 p.m.

3. New Business

a. **Action Taken in Nonpublic Session**

None.

b. **Joshua Sjostrom - White Mountain National Forest**

Joshua Sjostrom, with the Forest Service, introduced himself. Discussion was had regarding Mr. Sjostrom's connections to the Town. Mr. Sjostrom indicated his role with the Agency and what he is currently working on in the Town of Gorham. He went over, with the assistance of Johnida, the current status and the timeline expectations for the Peabody West Project.

Chairperson Waddell spoke about the trailheads and trail areas in Gorham and discussion was had regarding property ownership, as well as parking and usage concerns.

Paul Robitaille brought up the impact of climate change along the Peabody River. Discussion was had regarding agencies that could assist with this concern, as well as potential for collaboration to devise strategies to address the issues. Mr. Robitaille requested for Mr. Sjostrom to attend a Planning Board meeting to discuss this topic.

c. Paul Robitaille - Business Permit Preliminary Discussion

Mr. Robitaille discussed short-term rental enforcement. Tara Bamford spoke about the occurrence of short-term rentals and the impact they have on the Town, as well as the ambiguity residents face when considering participating in short-term rentals, and what would trigger the participation being a business. She indicated the purposes of the Zoning Amendments. She outlined certain challenges being faced, as well as the fact that there is no Zoning Permit Application. Discussion was had regarding drawing up the Zoning Permit Application and creating a definition for short-term rentals, including what steps to take and challenges that may be faced.

d. 2021 Local Emergency Operations Plan

MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the 2021 Local Emergency Operations Plan, as presented. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

e. Charitable Organizations Application

- Androscoggin Valley Hospital - Not filed in a timely manner - No financials supplied but submitted a 6-month IRS extension. Chairperson Waddell requested that a Representative of AVH come to speak to the Board at a meeting.
- American Legion - Not filed in a timely manner, as it was filed April 26th.

Ms. Vallee indicated that they completed the Application and supplied their 2020 Return of Organization Exempt from Income. Discussion was had regarding the status of the Legion.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the American Legion's nonprofit status for 2021. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

f. Main Street - NHDOT Paving Project

Ms. Vallee outlined the tentative schedule. Chairperson Waddell recapped the challenges with water and sewer that were discussed at the previous meeting. He requested an ad be put out to notify residents that the paving was going to be taking place, and what they need to be aware of, should they need to repair water and/or sewer lines.

Discussion was had regarding traffic interruption caused by the project.

g. Gorham Land Company Conservation Easement

Chairperson Waddell provided a background regarding the conservation easement. He indicated that it's going to be connected to roughly 100 acres of land located to the southeast of Moose Brook, which is not on any road.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the Conservation Easement and the responsibilities that go with it, as well as authorize Michael Waddell to sign the document. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

Howie indicated that he has a meeting set up with Mr. Sjoström regarding three of the four problematic trailheads. He also spoke about other parcels of land that are under ownership of the Gorham Land Company.

4. Old Business/Updates

None.

- 5. Public Comment:** Public comments can be sent in via email to dvallee@gorhamnh.org or by commenting during the Zoom Session. Any comments received via email will be read.

Edith Tucker stated that the trailhead issues may be something to address with Congresswoman Kuster. Discussion was had regarding steps to be taken to address the problems.

Mr. Robitaille indicated he attended a seminar on rural tourism. He described the event. He noted the key takeaway was that, when it comes to rural development, not only do you need the input of the residents and their approval, but you need to educate the tourists who come in on how to respect and take care of the culture that they are visiting, because if you don't do that, it leads to anger, animosity, classism, and a lot of fighting.

6. Other Business

- a. Approve Minutes of April 26, 2021 (Regular & Nonpublic Meeting)**

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the Minutes of April 26, 2021 regular meeting and nonpublic meeting, as presented. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

- b. Town Manager's Report**

- **TC Energy Grant**

Ms. Vallee indicated Chief Cloutier let her know that the Fire Department has received a second grant from TC Energy. She described what the grant would be used for.

- **Community Forest Program - Community Involvement Report**

Ms. Vallee indicated that this grant would be closed out. She stated that there's a memo going over stewardship and monitoring for the forest, as well as a letter to Neil Bungard at the USDA National Forest Service for the Community Forest Program.

- Ms. Vallee indicated that at the last meeting, Jeff had a request for a Dog Day, which has been scheduled for September 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - Ms. Vallee indicated that she found out today from the Northern Forest Center that the Town has been awarded a \$40,000 grant for the wayfinding signs, as well as improvements to a grassy area at the end of Howland Avenue.
-
- Ms. Vallee indicated she wants to have a contest to name the multi-modal path as it is now referred to as "the Gorham Rec Path, Airport Road and Multi-Modal Road".

c. Abatements

- 2020 - U3-18, Christopher, Ryan, 20 Libby Street

Michelle Lutz explained the reason for the need for the abatement. Ms. Vallee clarified that it was a technical error. Chairperson Waddell inquired if this was an error in measuring and listing or an error in value, to which Ms. Lutz indicated it was the latter.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the abatement of \$512.79 plus interest of \$13.23, for a total refund of \$526.02 on the property located at 20 Libby Street for Tax Year 2020. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

- 2020 - U18-1-8, Mason, 7 Keenan Street

Ms. Lutz explained the reason for the need for the abatement, being that the camper had been sold and moved out-of-state.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the abatement of \$54.15 on the property located at 7 Keenan Street for Tax Year 2020. It was seconded by Selectman White.

Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye

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

- 2020 - U14-8, Paul and Cecil Peppen (?), 628 Main Street

Ms. Lutz explained the reason for the need for the abatement, being the effects of moving the property into a revokable trust on his \$200 Vet Credit.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the abatement of \$200.00 with \$4.60 in interest for a total of \$204.60 on the property located at 628 Main Street for Tax Year 2020. It was seconded by Selectman White.

**Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

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

- 2020 - 0 Route 16, Lot R4-5-G, Gorham Land Company

Ms. Lutz explained the reason for the need for the abatement, being that due to the lot line adjustment, there is no active gravel pit on the land, and that the 2-acre piece of land is being double-taxed. Chairperson Waddell inquired as to whether the problem has been corrected in the system, to which Ms. Lutz indicated that it has been.

MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to approve the abatement of \$54.15 with \$1.28 in interest for a total of \$55.43 on the property located at 0 Route 16, Lot R4-5-G for Tax Year 2020. It was seconded by Selectman White.

**Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

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

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Selectman White moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc.


**Selectman LeBlanc: Aye
Selectman White: Aye
Chairperson Waddell: Aye**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary
O'Connor Legal, Medical & Media Services LLC
www.oconnorlmms.com
(603) 865-1255

Approved on May 24, 2021 by:


Michael L. Waddell, Chairman


Judith LeBlanc, Selectperson


Adam White, Selectman