

# Town of Gorham New Hampshire



## MEETING OF THE GORHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN Gorham Town Hall Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor Monday, March 9, 2020 5:00 p.m.

**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Michael Waddell; Judy LeBlanc; and Adam White.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Denise Vallee, Town Manager.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Edith Tucker, Reporter, Berlin Sun; Burke York; and Henry Sanschagrin.

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### 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 6:03 p.m.

### 3. New Business

#### a. **Announce any action taken in Non-Public Session**

Board of Selectmen signed a PILOT with Central Rivers Power.

**MOTION:** Selectman LeBlanc moved to seal the Minutes of the March 3, 2020 Non-Public Session until Central Rivers Power has executed the Agreement. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).

#### b. **Appointment: Burk York, Involuntary Lot Line Adjustment**

Burke York presented the Board of Selectmen with a Tax Map regarding Bill Dooan's property. He provided a bit of background regarding the parcel of land, as well as the intention of the lot line adjustment, in order to subdivide the property into two pieces wherein neither parcel would meet the Zoning requirements. He concluded that the two properties would need to be un-merged, which would require the Board's approval. Discussion was held regarding the Tax Map distributed and the parcels at-issue.

Chairperson Waddell suggested that this issue go to the Planning Board, for their review and decision. The other Selectmen concurred.

**c. Letter to NH Trails Bureau**

Denise Vallee provided the amended draft to the Selectmen. Chairperson Waddell read the letter into the record, which is addressed to Chris Gamache, Chief, Bureau of Trails at State of New Hampshire Division of Parks & Recreation. It reads as follows:

*Dear Chris,*

*I am writing this letter to follow up with the public hearing held on February 10th, 2020, regarding the proposed route for OHRV traffic on Route 16 north of the intersection of Routes 2 and 16, to provide trail access from the P&L parking lot, Chip Bean's property, to the underpass on Pike's property in Gorham.*

*As you are aware, there was a good turnout, with 148 people in attendance. There was overwhelming consensus in favor of the lane-use changes reduction proposed by New Hampshire DOT, as well as the proposal you presented for a new OHRV route.*

*Many of the folks in attendance felt the new route will help alleviate the level of OHRV use on the rail trail in the Lancaster Road neighborhood, thereby reducing the amount of noise and dust that the neighbors must deal with. There were also several people that expressed that OHRV travel should still be allowed from the intersection of Route 2 and 16 as far as Moose Brook Motel. The Town also supports this.*

*In light of the above, the Town of Gorham hereby requests that the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails proceed with finalizing the plan for parking and identifying a connected trail for better access from the underpass to Smitty's Trail. Please refer to the attached map, which outlines the Town's proposed OHRV route.*

*In addition, the Town of Gorham hereby requests the Bureau of Trails, along with John Scarinza, work with Chip Bean to draw up a Site Plan to determine exactly where parking will be allowed, and to determine if the port-o-potties or indoor facilities will be provided and where.*

*Should you have any questions, or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

*Sincerely,*

*Denise Vallee, Town Manager*

Chairperson Waddell read the description of the attached map into the record. It reads as follows:

*The alternate proposed trail moves the parking to Commercial B Zone on an already well-developed site. The trail, then, goes under the tracks through a heavy industry gravel pit and Commercial B Zone. Once back on the rail trail, it proceeds 2,000 feet from the black trestle to where Corridor 19 snowmobile and ATV trail heads north to the OHRV Park and adjoining trails.*

*The existing Corridor 19 goes directly behind the residences of Crestwood Drive, as shown by a thin red line. The proposed alternative route, thick yellow line, goes up the existing reservoir road and then under the powerlines to a height of land, then over and through the woods back to the original Corridor 19.*

*The proposal from the Gorham Board of Selectmen eliminates the need to park ATVs at the Route 2 parking area, moves all but residential ATV use away from Crestwood, and still provides easy access for visitors to downtown businesses. It is possible that this could, with some positive energy, all happen in this operating season. HB-1165 kills this option dead.*

Chairperson Waddell discussed his rationale for creating the map, as well as background on HB-1165.

**MOTION: Selectman White moved to approve the letter with the attached map. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc. The motion carried. (3-0-0).**

**d. HB1165 - OHRV Travel on Gorham Rail Trail**

Previously discussed, and information can be found on 3(c) of these Minutes.

**4. Old Business/Updates**

**a. Randolph EMS Contract (Ratify Signatures)**

**MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to ratify the Randolph EMS Contract signed by both Boards at the last meeting. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).**

**5. Public Comment:** In consideration for all, please limit comments to two (2) minutes.

Discussion was had regarding the proposed route and its impact on the residents of Jimtown accessing the trail system.

Inquiry was had regarding the posting of Minutes on the website. Ms. Vallee indicated that the January 27, 2020 Minutes were overlooked and have now been submitted for uploading to the website, and that the February 10, 2020 minutes are to be voted on today.

Comment was made regarding the inability to hear what is being said on the video. Selectman LeBlanc suggested utilizing headphones in order to address this issue. Chairperson Waddell said they will be looking into the devices to see if they can be improved upon.

Comment was made regarding the Town Report and what had been included within it.

**6. Other Business:**

**a. Town Manager's Report**

Ms. Vallee gave an update regarding the Water and Sewer phone lines. She noted that Dispatch is still dealing with the incompatibility issue with the new phone system and the Acorn system previously used.

Ms. Vallee indicated that Kathy Frenette and Paul Robitaille have been gathering information for properties that are available for rent, lease, or purchase to post on the State's website.

Ms. Vallee spoke about the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, in terms of who is being invited and that it is being publicized via social media.

Ms. Vallee announced that the Town Reports are available, both in hardcopy and online.

Ms. Vallee provided a Contract for SNS to the Board, for their authorization of her signing.

**MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to authorize Denise Vallee to sign the SNS IT Contract, predicated on a positive vote at Town Meeting. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).**

Ms. Vallee noted that Town Meeting is tomorrow, March 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., at the Gorham High School Gymnasium. Polls are open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Vallee distributed a Contract for George Sansoucy

**MOTION: Selectman White moved to accept the Contract of George Sansoucy for the services mentioned within the Contract. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc. The motion carried. (3-0-0).**

**b. Approve Minutes of February 10, 2020 (Regular & Public Hearing)**

**MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular and Public Hearing. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).**

**c. Approve Minutes of February 24, 2020 (Regular & Non-Public Hearing)**

**MOTION: Selectman LeBlanc moved to accept the Minutes of the February 24, 2020 Non-Public Meetings. It was seconded by Selectman White. The motion carried. (3-0-0).**

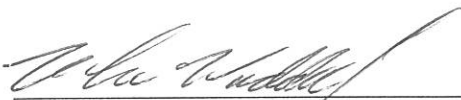
**7. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Selectman White moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. It was seconded by Selectman LeBlanc. The motion carried. (3-0-0).**

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Approved: March 23, 2020

  
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Michael Waddell, Chairman

  
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Judith LeBlanc

  
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Adam White