

# **Town of Gorham Planning Board Minutes February 15, 2024**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robitaille at 6:30pm

**Members Present:** Paul Robitaille (Chairman), Robert Gargano, Reuben Rajala, Yves Zornio (Ex-Officio), Earl McGillicuddy, Dennis Pednault (Alternate)

**Members Excused:** Abby Evankow, Brian Ruel, and Dan Buteau

**Members Absent:**

**Appointment of Alternates:** Chairman Robitaille appointed Dennis Pednault as a full voting member.

**Members of the Public:** Megan Simons (Board Clerk) Michelle Lutz (Alt. Board Clerk), Peter Gagnon (Town Manager on behalf of the Board of Selectmen)

**Review and Accept Minutes of December 21, 2023:** Robert Gargano made a motion to accept the minutes as presented which received a second from Dennis Pednault. Chairman Robitaille called a roll call vote: Dennis Pednault – Yes      Yves Zornio – Yes      Reuben Rajala – Yes  
Robert Gargano – Yes      Earl McGillicuddy – Yes

**Identification and Resolution of any conflicts:** No conflicts were identified.

**Letter of Support for Land Acquisition** – Peter Gagnon on behalf of the Town of Gorham and the Board of Selectmen is asking for the support from the Planning Board per RSA 41:14A regarding the acquisition of land owned by the Gorham Land Company abutting Libby Field (between the Peabody River and Route 16). 6.5 acres +/- of land identified as Map R4 Lot 4 would be transferred and surveyed to the Town of Gorham. The Town is asking for this land to be transferred due to the recent flooding at Libby Field and the abutting neighborhoods on Mill St., etc. The land would provide needed flood mitigation as the river jumped its original course. HEB is on hand as an addendum of the town's current contract to assist in the surveying of the land. The land would provide berms and swales to help redirect the flow of water to protect neighborhoods in the future and FEMA and New Hampshire Environmental Services are reluctant to provide assistance when the land is privately owned. Engineers would come in before any work was done to redirect the water or add a pump house. The potential also exists for the land to serve as a recreational area as well providing the possibility for walking and biking paths. There is hardly any commercial value to the land as it is undeveloped delineated wetlands and will be donated to the town leaving only legal fees for deeds, etc. to be paid for. Chairman Robitaille called a roll call vote: Dennis Pednault – Yes      Yves Zornio – Yes  
Reuben Rajala – Yes      Robert Gargano – Yes      Earl McGillicuddy – Yes

**Old Business**

None

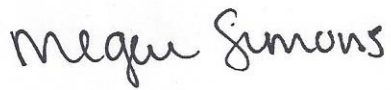
**Public Comment**

None

**Next Meeting – March 21, 2024, which will serve as an organizational meeting.**

**Adjournment** – On a motion from Earl McGillicuddy with a second from Reuben Rajala, the board voted, unanimously, to adjourn at 7:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Simons".

Megan Simons  
Planning Board Clerk

APPROVED 03/21/2024