

# **Town of Gorham**

## **Planning Board Minutes**

### **July 23, 2020**

**Members Present by Remote Connection:** Paul Robitaille (Chairman), Daniel Buteau, Abby Evankow, Mike Waddell (Ex-Officio), Earl McGillicuddy (Alt), Jeff Schall (Alt), and Peter Gagnon (Alt)

**Members Excused:** Brian Ruel and Barney Valliere and Reuben Rajala

**Members Absent:** Wayne Flynn

**Members of the Public Present by Remote Connection:** None

**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and per Emergency Order #12 issued by Governor Sununu on March 23, 2020 and by Executive Order 2020-04, all members listed as present attended the meeting electronically with both video and audio capability. The public was able to attend the meeting in the same manner. All votes were taken by roll call as required.**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:31 by Chairman Robitaille

**Appointments** – Chairman Robitaille appointed Jeff Schall, Earl McGillicuddy and Peter Gagnon as full voting members.

**Review & Accept Minutes:** June 18, 2020 – On a motion from Mike Waddell with a second from Peter Gagnon, the board voted to approve the minutes as presented with the exception of Dan Buteau, Earl McGillicuddy and Jeff Schall who abstained.

#### **Work Session with Tara Bamford**

The board met with Tara to review and discuss the latest draft changes to the Subdivision Regulations. The board felt that the proposed changes were ready for a public hearing. On a motion from Mike Waddell with a second from Earl McGillicuddy, the board voted unanimously to hold a public hearing on the Subdivision Regulations on August 20, 2020.

The next item the board will be working on with Tara is the Zoning Ordinance. The board went through the proposed changes to the definitions such as:

- 1) Short-term rentals (AirBnb, VRBO, Home Away, etc). This will take more time to flesh out and may require the BOS to discuss with the Town Attorney.
- 2) Where to allow Firewood businesses and greenhouses – these are defined but they don't show up in any zone as allowed uses.
- 3) Change Home Occupation to a use within a lot instead of within a building
- 4) Remove definition of Private School and instead define schools as Private, Public and Charter
- 5) Rewrite setbacks especially around parking
- 6) Add a better description of Wind Power

The board will meet again with Tara on August 3, 2020 to further discuss the proposed changes.

**Code Enforcement Update –**

Project for Dollar General in the former Sears plaza is on-going. CEO Scarinza visited the site last week with the State electrical inspector. He will continue to monitor the project.

**New Business** – Abby questioned the site plan approval for Northeast Snowmobile & ATV Rental. There are many ATV's parked within the setbacks and parking has overflowed out to Main Street (in opposition to what they stated at the public hearing).

**Old Business** - None

**Public Comment** – The board paused for 1 minute to allow members of the public to call in. While waiting Earl asked about the status of the move of the ATV parking from Route 2 to the Main Street location. Mike informed the board that the new ramp has not been built yet but should be soon. Once that is done, the BOS hope to ask the State of NH to minimize the use of the Rt 2 parking lot. There is an agreement with Pike for the new access but they are waiting for the ramp to be constructed. No members of the public were present or called in.

**Next Meeting** – The board has a meeting scheduled on August 3, 2020 for another work session with Tara Bamford.

**Adjournment** – On a motion from Jeff Schall with a second from Abby Evankow to adjourn the meeting, All members voted to adjourn at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle M. Lutz