

# **Town of Gorham**

## **Planning Board Minutes**

### **October 29, 2020**

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

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

**Members Absent:** Earl McGillicuddy

**Members of the Public Present by Remote Connection:** Tara Bamford

**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 6:32 by Chairman Robitaille

**Appointments** – Chairman Robitaille appointed Reuben Rajala, Peter Gagnon and Jeff Schall as a full voting members.

**Review & Accept Minutes of September 24, 2020:** The secretary requested the board pass over the minutes until the next meeting. On a motion from Wayne with a second from Abby, Chairman Robitaille called for a roll call vote: Wayne – Yes Paul – yes Dan – Yes Abby – Yes Jeff – Yes Peter – Yes  
Reuben – Yes

**Work Session -** The board met with Tara to for a last-look review of the proposed zoning changes that the board has been working on to see if any further changes need to be made before scheduling the public hearing such as:

- 1) Short Term Rentals – This is an item the board has discussed at length. The board has worked hard on an amendment that would allow property owners to rent their properties for short terms while keeping residential areas residential and also keeping properties from being purchased solely for short term rentals which would continue to reduce the available housing stock. The board settled on proposing short term rentals be limited to 120 days in a 12 month period at this point.
- 2) Home Occupation
- 3) Maker Space
- 4) Transient
- 5) Several changes to the Commercial B zone
- 6) Changes to Timber and Agriculture district
- 7) Additional language regarding towers
- 8) Changes to the zoning maps for Timber and Agriculture to Residential B to encourage growth
- 9) Changes to properties currently in Residential A to Commercial A to better fit the area they are actually in
- 10) Expanding the Commercial Compact Zone to encourage development in the downtown commercial zone.

Abby made a motion to approve the changes and schedule a public hearing on November 18, 2020. The motion received a second from Jeff Schall and Chairman Robitaille called for a roll call vote: Wayne – Yes Dan – yes Paul – Yes Abby – Yes Jeff – Yes Peter – Yes Reuben – Yes Mike – Yes

**Code Enforcement Update** – None

**New Business** – None

**Old Business** – None

**Public Comment** – None

**Next Meeting** – The board scheduled their next meeting for November 18, 2020 for the public hearing. Some agenda items to discuss will be Berms/dikes..

**Adjournment** – On a motion from Wayne with a second from Abby to adjourn the meeting, All members voted to adjourn at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michelle M. Lutz", written in dark ink.

Michelle M. Lutz

Approved November 18, 2020