

# **Town of Gorham**

## **Planning Board Minutes**

### **August 20, 2020**

**Members Present by Remote Connection:** Paul Robitaille (Chairman), Abby Evankow, Mike Waddell (Ex-Officio), Barney Valliere and Peter Gagnon (Alt)

**Members Excused:** Brian Ruel

**Members Absent:** Wayne Flynn, Dan buteau, Earl McGillicuddy, Jeff Schall and Reuben Rajala

**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: by Chairman Robitaille

**Appointments** – Chairman Robitaille appointed Peter Gagnon as a full voting member.

**Review & Accept Minutes:** August 3, 2020 – On a motion from Peter Gagnon with a second from Abby Evankow, the board voted to approve the minutes as presented

#### **Public Hearing on proposed subdivision regulation changes:**

Chairman Robitaille opened the public hearing at 6:40. Tara explained that the proposed changes strengthened the regulations, added details in what should be included in written decisions, added checklists to the regulations, changed some standards on road standards and added some new provision for gravel roads, added details on timing and vesting. Abby asked if abutters would be notified before subdivisions are approved what happens with a subdivision on a Class VI road. Abutter notices are required by state law and any building on Class VI roads would require BOS to grant a waiver then the Planning board can approve or deny. As there were no members of the public present electronically or by phone, Chairman Robitaille closed the public hearing at 6:40 and called for a motion. On a motion from Mike Waddell with a second from Barney Valliere to accept the proposed subdivision regulations, Chairman Robitaille called for a roll call vote:

Barney Valliere – Yes Paul Robitaille – Yes Abby Evankow – Yes Mike Waddell – Yes Peter Gagnon – Yes. The motion passed and the regulations were adopted as presented.

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

The board met with Tara to continue working through proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance. Some items discussed were:

- 1) Driveways in setbacks
- 2) Public Parking and Parking Lots
- 3) Signs – Blade signs (allowed or not allowed and if allowed, how many), lighting of signs
- 4) Multi-family housing
- 5) One-time expansion of non-conforming uses

- 6) Removal of Site Plan Review Sub-Committee
- 7) Added language in Special Exceptions
- 8) Removal of prohibition of roosters

**Code Enforcement Update –**

- 1) Dollar General at the old Sears Plaza has been insulated and they are working on the electrical. The State Liquor Store is still planning to reopen at that location as well
- 2) The old Colonial Fort Inn at 370 Main Street continues to be an issue with garbage, long-term rentals etc.
- 3) AirBnb's – a property on Mt Carter Drive had approx. 30 cars and a band in the driveway. This will continue to be an issue for the town and the board.

**New Business –** None

**Old Business –** None

**Public Comment –** No members of the public were present or called in.

**Next Meeting –** The board has a meeting scheduled on September 24, 2020 with Tara to continue working through the proposed zoning ordinance changes.

**Adjournment –** On a motion from Barney Valliere with a second from Peter Gagnon to adjourn the meeting, All members voted to adjourn at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle M. Lutz

Approved as Amended 9/24/2020