

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN OF GORHAM  
MONDAY, June 6, 2011, 6:30 pm  
GORHAM TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Terry Oliver, Chairman(6:45); David Graham; Paul Robitaille.

Also present: Robin L. Frost, Town Manager

Henry Sanschagrin, Clint Savage, Mike Waddell, Michelle Lutz, Ron Smith, Don Provencher, Rod Davies, Chris Davies, Robert Balon, Gail Scott, *Berlin Daily Sun*

**1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Vice-Chairman Graham.

**2. Appointments:**

**a) Flag Presentation – Masonic Lodge:** Rod Davies of the Sabatis Lodge #73 of the Masons was in attendance to present a flag and stand to the Town for use in the Gorham Auditorium. The Board was very appreciative of this donation from the Masons. Mr. Davies had a brief history of Flag Day which he read. The Board thanked the Masons for their gift.

**b) Clint Savage – NH Bureau of Trails:** Mr. Savage was back at the request of the Board. He had left information that was requested by the Board with the TM previously. The Board had this information in their packets. Mr. Savage also spoke about the possibility of the Board supporting the use of the rail from the Route 2 parking lot over the trestle. Selectman Robitaille questioned whether the State Rails to Trails Committee has a condition that there will be no ATVs on those trails. Mr. Savage replied that it is a guideline, not a condition and the Commissioner can open the trail to ATVs though he has not done so yet. Selectman Robitaille asked what to do about complaints, if the trail is open. Mr. Savage said that they will address complaints as they happen, emphasizing that all complaints should be passed on to them as soon as they are received. Henry Sanschagrin spoke on behalf of the Presidential OHRV Club. They are very much in favor of opening up this piece of trail to ATVs. They are guided by the State when operating ATVs and are prepared to erect and maintain signage. Robert Balon mentioned the newly adopted noise ordinance and hopes this is taken into account. Michelle Lutz stated that this activity is growing and they are no noisier than snowmobiles. People who ride ATVs are going right past us to the north. This could be a big revenue source for the businesses in town. Ron Smith stated that he supports the opening and doesn't think that noise will be a factor. Mr. Savage stated that ATVs are allowed to run a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. He feels they can stop westward travel by signage and they would also be willing to place signage on the multi-modal route. **On a motion by Selectman Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously to support NH Bureau of Trails efforts to open this section of trail to ATVs, on the condition that proper signage be placed as discussed.**

**c) Reuben Rajala – Gorham Historical Society:** Mr. Rajala distributed an accounting of income and expenses for the Gorham Historical Society. He explained that there is about \$2500 in reserve for a fire truck display and matches for grants. Volunteers are hard to find. Selectman Robitaille suggested attendance at a seminar being held at the Family Resource Center about fund-raising (legacies and endowments.) Mr. Rajala agreed that they need to develop a capital campaign for the depot as well

as an endowment. Selectman Robitaille asked how they were planning to keep their paperwork up to date. Mr. Rajala stated that they are on the right track and are now familiar with the reporting that needs to be done. Selectman Robitaille offered the Town's assistance if needed. Mr. Rajala mentioned the newsletter that will be an insert in the July 4<sup>th</sup> program. The newsletter celebrates the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town of Gorham. There is also a new t-shirt design redrawn by Mike Eastman as well as a new kids t-shirt design. .

### **3. New Business:**

**a) FEMA DFIRM Review Committee:** Mike Waddell was in to discuss the preliminary flood maps that the Town received from FEMA. The Board designated him as the contact for FEMA last year. By way of a short summary, Mr. Waddell told the Board that FEMA raised the flood elevations in the lower village. He was hoping the Board would authorize a committee of professional people to collect information to send to FEMA. They need facts and need to pinpoint the problems by map location. **On a motion by Selectmen Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously authorized Mr. Waddell to put a committee together and move forward with the project.**

### **4. Old Business:**

**a) Gorham Historical Society Abatement Request:** TM Frost stated that she needed more information before the Board discusses this. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

**b) Website:** TM Frost reported that a few employees will be involved in a webinar with Virtual Town Hall to discuss the Town's new website.

**5. Public Comment:** Robert Balon when the flood maps would be finalized. He was told that it would be awhile.

Don Provencher took exception with some of the comments made about the state of the Gorham Historical Society when Mr. Rajala took over. He spoke about the model RR and how that was running and in tip top shape. They worked toward securing the land lease for the property. Mr. Provencher is personally offended that trees have been cut down. Mr. Rajala took issue with Mr. Provencher's comments and Chairman Oliver cut off the discussion.

### **6. Other Business:**

**a) Town Manager's Update:** TM Frost had the union contract for the Board to sign. This is the contract that was ratified at Town meeting,. **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the Town of Gorham's contract with the Gorham Police Department.** The contract was signed.

TM Frost reported that there is an opening celebration at the Mill, now known as Gorham Paper and Tissue, LLC, on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2 pm. It will be a barbeque and "paint party."

**b) Approval of Minutes (May 23, 2011):** **On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for both the regular and non-public sessions of the meeting of May23, 2011 as prepared.**

**c) Sign Manifest:** The Board signed the manifest as prepared.

**d) Sign Abatements (if necessary):** The Board signed the abatement for the 2011 taxes for the Gorham Historical Society. This is not to be confused with the 2010 taxes which will again be discussed at the next Selectmen's meeting.

**7. Non-Public Session: RSA 91-A:3, II (d & e):** On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to move into Non-Public Session at 8:00 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver – aye.

On a motion by Selectmen Graham, seconded by Selectman Robitaille, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to return to public session at 8:30 pm. Robitaille –aye, Graham – aye, Oliver – aye.

On a motion by Selectman Robitaille, seconded by Selectman Graham, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a two-year employment agreement with Robin Frost.

**8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED:**

---

**Terry Oliver, Chairman**

---

**Paul Robitaille**

---

**David Graham**