

Conservation Board Meeting

June 6, 2015

Meeting Date: 6/6/2015

Secretary: G. Wigler

Location: Gorham Town Hall

Attendees: Mike Waddell, Mike Pelchat, Steve Malespini, Doug Gralenski and Gail Wigler

Guests: Jeff Schall (Selectman), Sally Manikian (AMC), Chris Thayer (AMC), Brendon Taylor (AMC) and Tyler Phillips (Horizon Engineering)

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00pm

Meeting Adjourned: 7:22pm

Minutes

Motion: Mike Pelchat made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 7, 2015 meeting as written.

Second: Steve Malespini

Motion passed unanimously

Wetlands Permit for Great Lakes Hydro America Tax Map #11 Lot #8

Tyler Phillips, from Horizons Engineering, presented project proposal and plans for repair of the Hydro-electric dam in Gorham. The project will remove silt that has accumulated behind the dam and then repair/replace rotting wooden planking. Mike Pelchat informed the group of a fatality (kayaker) at this site 12 years ago and asked if photos of the dam at low water could be taken to assist local search and rescue groups in the future.

Motion: Made by Mike Pelchat to sign wetlands permit

Seconded: Steve Malespini

Motion passed unanimously by board.

Appalachian Trail Conference Town

Sally Manikian, Brendan Taylor and Chris Thayer joined the meeting to support and lend assistance to the Conservations Board's efforts to have Gorham designated as an ATC community. They were supportive of the board's efforts to produce a trail's map (motorized and non-motorized) for the town of Gorham. They also brainstormed other possible activities and ideas to include in the application such as:

- a float in the 4th of July parade
- AMC assisting in conservation education in schools
- AMC writing a letter of supporting
- communicating Gorham's long history with the AT

The group generated names of individuals and organizations to partner and assist in the mapping project such as the local cycling club, snowmobile and ATV clubs, WMCC (GIS work), the Auto Road, the Mahoosuc Land Trust, AMC and RMC.

Sally offered to review the final draft of the application. Mike would like to have the application completed by August and then submitted to the ATC committee by October or November. The

Conservation Board's role would be to serve as an advisory committee should Gorham be designated as an ATC community.

The goal of this designation is to promote and support local businesses and community resources (i.e. Search and Rescue) for improved economic benefit.