

REPORT OF THE
GORHAM TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 2, 2016

Chairman Robinson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There were 10 members of the Public in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Roll Call: Chairman Robinson, Councilors Roullard, Shepard, Phinney, Hartwell and Stelk. Also present, Town Manager David Cole and Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors. Councilor Benner arrived at 6:40pm.

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to accept the minutes of the July 5, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting. 6 years

Open Public Communications

There were no comments from the Public.

Councilor Communications

Councilor Hartwell commented that he had met with a concerned citizen about the placement of headstones in Hillside Cemetery. The citizen was not pleased with the way the stones were placed back to back. Town Manager David Cole confirmed that the problem was being dealt with.

Councilor Shepard reported that the Finance Committee met on July 25, 2016 and was pleased to say that the Town's year end finance ended on a positive balance.

Councilor Phinney reported that the Ordinance Committee met last month and discussed the items on the Agenda. He also gave his congratulations to several Gorham soccer players who were on Championship travel teams this summer.

Chairman Robinson reflected on the upcoming 15 year anniversary of 9/11. He encouraged people to get down to New York and visit the memorial if possible.

Town Manager Report

David Cole noted that there will be a Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan on August 23, 2016 at 6:30 and encouraged citizens to attend. He reported that the Public Safety project is near completion. He pointed out that nomination papers will be available on August 15, 2016 for 3 seats on the Town Council and 2 seats on the School Board for the November 8, 2016 election.

School Committee Report

Chairman Wright reported that school will open on August 29, 2016 for K, 6th and 9th grades and Tuesday August 20, 2016 for everyone else. Bus schedules will be published in the Gorham Times August edition. Fall sports begin on August 15th and all staff return on August 25th and 26th for opening workshop days.

He stated that Ryan Watts was hired as Interim Assistant Principal for GHS. He explained that work at the GHS library and cafeteria is going well and HVAC work at Village is moving along. Roofing work continues at Narragansett, Village and GHS. The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2016.

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Stelk and VOTED to waive the rules and take an item out of order. 7 years

Item # 9105 Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Stelk and ORDERED, that the Town Council appoint Laurie Nordfors as Town Clerk. 7 years

Connie Loughran, retired Town Clerk and Dedimus Justice, swore Laurie Nordfors in as Town Clerk.

The Maine Department of Transportation did a brief presentation on the Main Street Construction Project.

The Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District did a presentation on storm water requirements and their application to Gorham.

Old Business

Chairman Robinson opened Public Hearing #1. Two members of the Public who live in the Historic Preservation District voiced their opinions on the Ordinance. There were no other comments and the hearing was closed.

Item # 9093 Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Shepard and ORDERED, Whereas, on May 14, 2014, the Town Council appointed a Historic Preservation Committee and asked the Committee to evaluate the need for and to make a recommendation about whether the Town should adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance, and Whereas, on January 5, 2016, the Town Council authorized the Committee to develop a Historic Preservation Ordinance for the Council to consider, and Whereas, the Town of Gorham has 3 Historic Districts and 5 Historic Landmarks designated in the National Register of Historic Places, and Whereas the Committee believes the items designated in the National Register of Historic Places are assets of high value to the Gorham Community and worthy of preservation, and Whereas, over time, other Historic buildings or landmarks may become important enough to be designated for preservation, Now, Therefore Be it Ordered, that the Town Council approve the following Historic Preservation Ordinance:

TOWN OF GORHAM HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Section 1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Ordinance is to preserve, protect, and enhance historic resources within Gorham by providing a legal framework within which the residents of the town can protect the architectural heritage of its historically significant neighborhoods, landmarks, and sites while also encouraging compatible new construction and fostering proper maintenance and repair of existing resources. The heritage and economic well-being of the town will be strengthened by preserving its architectural and historic setting, conserving property values in unique areas, fostering civic beauty, and promoting the use of historic or architecturally significant buildings for the education and welfare of the citizens of Gorham.

Section 2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Archaeological Site: A geographic location of the remains of prehistoric life or historic human beings. These include, but are not limited to, structures, artifacts, terrain features, graphics and evidence of plants or animals.

2.2 Architectural Feature: Any feature that helps give a structure its distinctive architectural character. Such character defining features include but are not limited to columns, pilasters, cornice boards, brackets, balustrades, quoins, fanlights, corner boards, window and door frames and transoms.

2.3 Demolition: The complete or substantial removal of any building, structure, or site located in a historic district.

2.4 Historic District: A geographically definable area, possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history. A Historic District shall further mean an area designated by the Town Council as a Historic District pursuant to the criteria established in Section 5 of this Ordinance.

2.5 Historic landmark: Any building or monument of historic value.

2.6 Historic Preservation Certificate: A document issued by the Historic Preservation Commission that signifies approval of an application to make a material or significant change in the exterior appearance of a designated historic property, landmark or historic site.

2.7 Historic site: means any parcel of land which is of historic value, or upon which is positioned any historic landmark.

2.8 National Register of Historic Places: A register assigned by The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, that recognizes building, sites, districts, structures and objects significant in American history, archaeology, architecture, engineering or culture and identifies them as worthy of preservation.

2.9 Structure: A work made up of interdependent and inter-related parts in a definite pattern of organization. Constructed by man, it is often an engineering project large in scale.

Section 3. USES PERMITTED

3.1 The uses permitted in historic districts and individual historic properties and at historic sites or historic landmarks shall be those set forth in the Land Use and Development Code of the Town of Gorham, Maine for the zone in which such a district, site, property or landmark is located.

Section 4. HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

4.1 This ordinance establishes the Gorham Historic Preservation Commission. The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Town Council. Members appointed shall be residents or property owners of Gorham and have a combination of interest, knowledge, and experience in the Town, its history and historic preservation. The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

4.2 The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members who serve staggered 3-year terms. For the initial appointments, 2 members shall be appointed for 1-year terms, 2 members shall be appointed for 2-years terms and 3 members shall be appointed for 3-year terms.

4.3 All meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission are public meetings and governed in accordance with Title 1 MRSA Sections 401-414, as amended.

4.4 Duties of the Commission:

a. The Commission shall receive all applications for the establishment of Historic Districts Historic Sites, Individual Historic Properties and Historic Landmarks and requests for Historic Preservation Certificates. Upon receipt of an application the Commission shall schedule a public hearing and after hearing, make a written recommendation to the Town Council.

- b.** The Commission shall assist, advise and educate residents, property owners and officials of the Town concerning the physical and financial aspects of preservation, renovation, rehabilitation and re-use of historic and archaeological sites, structures, buildings and landmarks.
- c.** Serve as an advisor to the Town regarding historical and cultural resources.
- d.** Establish and maintain a detailed inventory of property within historic districts and of landmarks and historic sites in Gorham.
- e.** Compile resources that may be useful to individual property owners who wish to construct or maintain historic property.

Section 5. HISTORIC DISTRICTS, HISTORIC SITES, HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIERS

5.1 In considering applications for designating structures or districts as significant, the Commission shall be guided by the following criteria and shall make specific findings with respect to how the application conforms to the following criteria.

5.2 In addition to Section 7, one or more of the following characteristics shall serve to qualify a historic district, historic site, historic landmark or individual historic property:

- a.** Structures or sites listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and structures or sites listed as or eligible for listing as a National Historic Landmark.
- b.** Structures of sites at which events occur or have occurred that contribute to and are identified with or significantly represent or exemplify the broad cultural, political, economic, military or social history of Gorham or of larger patterns of the North American heritage.
- c.** Structures or sites importantly associated with historic personages.
- d.** Structures or remains and sites, not significantly altered, embodying examples of architectural types valuable for study or representing a period, style or method of building construction or community living.

Section 6. DESIGNATION OF DISTRICTS AND STRUCTURES FOR PRESERVATION

6.1 The following described lands, buildings, structures or areas of the Town of Gorham are currently designated as historic districts or historic landmarks by the National Register of Historic Places and recognized for the purposes of this Ordinance:

a. Historic Districts:

1. South Street Historic District located on South Street.
2. Gorham Campus Historic District on the campus of the University of Southern Maine.
3. Gorham Historic District located along College Avenue, State Street and School Street.

b. Landmarks listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

1. Art Gallery at the University of Southern Maine.
 2. Gorham Academy Building at the University of Southern Maine.
 3. Isaac Dyer Estate at 180 Fort Hill Road.
 4. Baxter House Museum on South Street.
5. McLellan House on the University of Southern Maine campus.

6.2 Significant structures and districts, except for districts established prior to the passage of this ordinance, shall be designated in accordance with this ordinance. Such designations may be initiated by written notification of the Historic Preservation Commission by any one of the following:

- a. Reference from the Town Council;
- b. A petition signed by ten (10) or more residents or property owners of Gorham, eighteen (18) years of age or older;
- c. The Planning Board;
- d. The Gorham Historic Preservation Commission;
- e. Maine Historic Preservation Commission;
- f. The Greater Portland Landmarks.

6.3 Any application for the designation of structures and districts for historic preservation shall be in writing and shall include the following:

a. Structures:

1. A concise description of the physical elements, qualities, architectural style and period represented by the structure, including a consideration of scale, materials, workmanship and special qualities;
2. A concise statement of how the structure meets the review criteria;
3. Exterior photographs of the structure, illustrating significant details.

b. Districts:

1. A concise statement of the physical elements that make this area a historic district and
a description of building types and architectural styles and periods represented;
2. A concise statement of how the district meets the review criteria;
3. A justification of the boundaries of the district;
4. A definition of the types of structures that do not contribute to the significance of the district and an estimate of the percentage of noncontributing structures;
5. A map showing all district structures with the identification of contributing structures.

6.4 The Historic Preservation Commission shall hold a public hearing on any written application.

- a. The public hearing shall be held within thirty (30) days of receipt of the application.
- b. The Commission shall provide written notice of the public hearing to all applicants and to all owners of property within a proposed district and a public notice must be provided at least 7 days before the public hearing by posting at the Municipal Center and on the Town's Web Site.
- c. Failure of any petitioner to receive the notice of the public hearing shall not necessitate another hearing nor shall it constitute grounds for objections by such petitioner and shall not invalidate any recommendation by the Commission on such matter.
- d. The Commission shall make its report and recommendation, including the identification of contributing structures, when applicable, to the Town Manager within thirty (30) days after the public hearing has been closed. Failure of the Commission to issue its report constitutes a denial of the designation of the proposed historic structure or district.

Section 7. STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATION

In considering applications for designating structures or districts as significant, the Commission shall be guided by the following criteria. In making a recommendation to the Town Council for the designation of a structure or district, the Commission shall make specific findings with respect to how the application conforms to the following standards:

7.1 Historic Importance:

- a. The structure, district or site:
 1. Has character, interest or value, as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the Town, State or Nation;
 2. Is the site of a historic event with an effect upon society;

3. Is identified with a person or group of persons who had some influence on society; or
4. Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historic heritage of the community.

7.2 Architectural Importance:

a. The structure or district:

1. Portrays the environment of a group of people in an area of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style;
2. Embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen;
3. Is the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the Town; or
4. Contains elements of architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship that represent a significant innovation.

7.3 Geographic Importance:

a. The structure or district:

1. Because of being part of, or related to, a square, park or other distinctive area, should be developed or preserved according to a plan based on a historic, cultural or architectural motif;
2. Due to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or Town.

7.4 Archaeological Importance:

- ### **a. The site has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.**

Section 8: ACTIVITIES REQUIRING A HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATE

8.1 A property owner shall obtain a Historic Preservation Certificate for any of the following activities within any historic district or activities at any historic site, landmark, or individual historic property listed on the National Register of Historic property.

a. Demolition of a historic landmark, individual historic property of any contributing structure in a historic district.

b. Moving a historic landmark, individual historic property or any contributing structure in a historic district.

8.2 A historic landmark, or any structure in a historic district or any attached structure, whether residential or commercial, shall not be demolished, moved or constructed without a Historic Preservation Certificate. A Historic Preservation Certificate shall not be issued unless one of the following conditions is met:

a. The structure has been identified by the Commission as non-contributing or incompatible with the historic district in which it is located, or

b. The property owner can demonstrate that it cannot be renovated or constructed so as to earn an economic return on its value in its present location as determined by a qualified real estate appraiser. If a home is demolished or moved and another home is to be constructed, the building plans must be approved by the Historic Preservation Commission

Item # 9093 Moved by Councilor Stelk, seconded by Councilor Phinney and VOTED to send the Order to the Ordinance Committee for their review. 7 yeas

Item # 9106 Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Benner and ORDERED, that the Town Council accept the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee to not add "Recreational Business" as a permitted use in the Industrial Zone. 6 yeas, 1 nay (Hartwell)

Item # 9107 Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Benner and ORDERED, that the Town Council vote for the Vice President and Executive Committee members of the Maine Municipal Association as recommended. 7 yeas

Item # 9108 Moved by Councilor Roullard, seconded by Councilor Shepard and ORDERED, that the Town Council authorize that all outstanding taxes, interest and costs be written off for a mobile home at 18 Maple Drive and a mobile home at 68 Hemlock Drive that have been acquired through tax liens, and that the mobile homes are in poor condition and may be disposed of. 7 yeas

Item # 9109 Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Roullard and ORDERED, that the Town Council go into Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 MRSA Section 405 (6) (C) to consider the disposition of property. 7 years

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to come out of Executive Session. 7 years

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to approve a new agreement for the sale of property at 4 Briarwood Lane. 7 years

Moved by Councilor Phinney, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to adjourn. 7 years. Time of adjournment: 8:06pm

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A True Record of Meeting

ATTEST _____
Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk