

REPORT OF THE
GORHAM TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 4, 2020

Chairperson Phillips opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There were 18 members of the public in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Roll Call: Chairperson Phillips, Councilors Shepard, Hartwell, Hager, Pratt and Wilder Cross. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak and Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors.

Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Pratt and VOTED to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting and the January 7, 2020 and January 28, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting. **6 yeas**

Open Public Communications

Susan Duchaine, Design Dwellings expressed her concerns for the on-going Commercial re- zoning issues between her and the Town. She is concerned that another person has now been affected on Brackett Road.

Councilor Communications

Councilor Pratt reported that the Jetport Noise Abatement Committee met on January 30th and discussed flight paths and noise complaints. He disclosed that there is a Jetport website where you can file your complaints.

Councilor Shepard reported that the Ordinance Committee met on January 21st and discussed two items that are on the agenda. He reminded citizens that the Ordinance Committee meets every third Tuesday of the month.

Councilor Hartwell reminded citizens of the legal requirements of the consistency in zoning and the Comprehensive Plan and explained that zoning has to be in harmony with the Comprehensive Plan. He disclosed that last week he attended a meeting with Town Manager Paraschak, Tom Poirier, Councilor Pratt and a person from the private sector and they discussed how to better stream line the planning process and get projects through easier and efficiently.

Councilor Wilder Cross urged citizens to go see the High School Musical "Big Fish". She noted that the play is spectacular in every way from the acting, special effects, amazing costumes and a wonderful "pit band". She also reported that the Metro Coalition of GPCOG met and they toured 2 apartment buildings in Portland that offer alternate housing choices instead of affordable housing. She noted that these alternate housing choices offer a safe and beautiful place to live. She also disclosed that she was in attendance at the announcement that the Roux institute of Northeastern University is coming to this area. She quoted Senator King that this is a "Big Deal" and is very exciting for Gorham as well as surrounding Towns. She also announced that she was happy to see that the Groundhog did not see his shadow and is happy that Spring is on the way.

Councilor Hager reported that the Finance Committee met on January 27th and states that the expenditures are slightly behind and revenue is slightly ahead for the fiscal year. He also reported that they discussed the Portland Water District sewer rates and how they have not been revised since 2006, which is behind other communities around us. It is recommended that the rates need to be up around \$3.00 so he recommends doing that over a period of three years.

Chairperson Phillips attended the USM Gorham Night and revealed it was a very good event. She reported that the Founders Festival Committee will meet February 13th at 6pm at the Library and invited people to share any ideas they had. Chairperson Phillips has been contacted by numerous people about the alarming rate of dog waste reported on trails and sidewalks around Town and asked people to be more mindful and take care of their dog waste while walking them.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Paraschak thanked the Council for a productive Goal Setting Workshop last month and announced that there are a lot of issues in Town they want to tackle. He explained that because of the unusual warm winter, the roads are taking punishment and road postings may be posted early and mentioned that the Public Works Department is doing their best to keep up with the numerous pot holes and maintain the roads around Town. He also reported that the Department heads are working on the budget process and that the Council should get the budget and supporting documents by the end of the month. There will be a budget workshop on April 4th. He announced that the Little Falls lights on the bridge are installed and looking good.

School Committee Report

School Committee Chairman Stewart McCallister reported that the initial ED 279's have come out and the good news is that the State has been able to reduce the minimum mil rate from \$8.28 to \$8.18. This, combined with the increasing enrollment numbers, has resulted in an overall gain of just over \$900,000 in state subsidy for Gorham over FY20. The Budget process is moving along at a pretty quick pace. The first proposed budget from the Superintendent to the School Committee will be coming out on February 12th with the School committees first full day budget workshop scheduled for February 29th. He also reported that the work on the Narragansett Modular expansion is moving along well. The interior work is going on with electrical and mechanical systems and the connecting corridor has been constructed as well. The big hurdle they are working on right now is problem solving what to do with the kitchen cafeteria space. He also reported that the first scheduled joint facilities meeting is scheduled for February 27th. Chairman McCallister thanked Jessica Hughes for her assistance in making it possible for individuals to sign up for School Committee meeting agendas to be sent to them via email. He instructed citizens to go to the Town Website and click subscribe to receive the agendas. The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for February 12th.

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Hager and VOTED to take Item 2020-02-07 out of order. **6 yeas**

Order #20-25

Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Shepard and ORDERED, that the Town Council forward to the Planning Board, for public hearing and recommendation, amendments to the contract zone of Hans Hansen as summarized by a memo from Staff dated January 31, 2020. **4 yeas, 2 nays (Pratt, Phillips)**

Chairperson Phillips opened public hearing #1. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Order #20-018

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Wilder Cross and ORDERED, that the Town Council issue a refund of impact fees in the amount of \$1715 to John and Kimber Cross pursuant to Chapter 7, Section 7-1 G. **6 yeas**

Chairperson Phillips opened public hearing #2.

Noah Minor, Green Street, thanked the Council for considering the changes in the Ordinance and also thanked Tom Poirier and the Ordinance Committee for all the hard work put into the changes.

Phil Gagnon, Gordon Farms Road, voiced his concern about the definition of a historical house and declared that just because a building is old doesn't mean it is historical.

There were no other comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Moved by Councilor Pratt, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to waive the reading of Order #20-019 because of length. **6 yeas**

Order #20-019

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Wilder Cross and ORDERED, that the Town Council amend the Historic Preservation Ordinance as follows:

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, fixture, feature, 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, and/or artifacts.

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 PROPERTIES

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 or 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, LANDMARKS, SITES 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 Historic Structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

1. Art Gallery at the University of Southern Maine. (On the National Register of Historic Places)

2. Gorham Academy Building at the University of Southern Maine. (**On the National Register of Historic Places**)
3. Isaac Dyer Estate at 180 Fort Hill Road. (**On the National Register of Historic Places**)
4. Baxter House Museum on South Street. (**On the National Register of Historic Places**)
5. McLellan House on the University of Southern Maine campus. (**On the National Register of Historic Places**)

c. Historic Landmarks & Sites

- 1. Old Yard Cemetery – Historic Site - South Street in Gorham Village Center.**
- 2. Town Clock – Historic Landmark in the First Parish Congregational Church.**
- 3. Civil War Monument - Historic Landmark**
- 4. Founders Monument – Historic Landmark**

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.

c. Landmarks & Sites

1. A concise statement of the physical elements that make this area a historic landmark and/or site;

2. A concise statement of how the landmark and/ or site meets the review criteria;

3. A justification of the boundaries of the landmark and/ or site;

4. A map showing all district landmarks and/ or site with the identification of contributing historic information.

6.4 The Historic Preservation Commission shall hold a public hearing on any written application within a reasonable period of time.

a. 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.

b. 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.

c. The Commission, after holding a public hearing, shall make its report and recommendation, including the identification of contributing structures, when applicable, to the Town Council who shall make a final decision on the designation of any new districts or structures.

Section 7. STANDARDS FOR DESIGNATION

In considering applications for designating structures **landmarks**, 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, **landmark**, 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, **landmark**, 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 **landmark**, 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 **and/or landmark** 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.

c. Construction of a residential unit; but not including additions to existing structures or routine maintenance.

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 or landmark 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

Section 9: APPEAL

9.1 A decision of the Historic Preservation Commission to issue or not issue a Historic Preservation Certificate may be appealed to the Town Council within thirty (30) day of receipt of the Commission's written notice.

Additions: Underlined

Deletions: ~~Struck Through~~

Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to amend the Ordinance to fix three punctuation errors as follows: Section 7-Standards for designation, add a comma after structures; Section 7.3-Geographic Importance, add a comma after structure; Section 8.2, a, add a comma after structure. **6 yeas**

Order #20-019 VOTED as amended. 6 yeas

Order #20-020

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Wilder Cross and ORDERED, that the Town Council authorize the Town Clerk to issue the warrant for the March 3, 2020 State Presidential Primary Election and Special Municipal Election; and

Be It Further Ordered, that the polls be open from 7:00am until 8:00pm; and

Be It Further Ordered, that the Town Council appoints the following persons for the designated voting districts and if any of the following should fail to serve, the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to appoint substitutes:

District 1-1 – Susan Emerson, Warden and Laurel Smith, Ward Clerk

District 1-2 – Katherine Corbett, Warden and Marie Plummer, Ward Clerk

District 2 – Martha Towle, Warden and Nancy Kenty, Ward Clerk
Central – Paula Nystrom, Warden and Nanette Belanger, Ward Clerk

Be It Further Ordered, that the Registrar of Voters be in session during the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 and Wednesday, February 26, 2020; between the hours of 8:00am and 6:30pm on Thursday February 27, 2020, between the hours of 8:00am and 1:00pm on Friday February 28, 2020 and between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm on Monday March 2, 2020, and

Be it Further Ordered, that the Town Clerk be authorized to process on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10:00am, 2:00pm and 8:00pm. **6 yeas**

Order #20-021

Moved by Councilor Hartwell, seconded by Councilor Shepard and ORDERED, that the Town Council instruct the Ordinance Committee to review and propose amendments to Chapter 2, Section 2-4 of the Land Use and Development Code, Clustered Residential Development, and bring back recommendations for updates to the Town Council. **6 yeas**

Order #20-022

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Hartwell and ORDERED, that the Town Council instruct the Ordinance Committee to work with staff to review and propose amendments to the Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance to allow for more on street parking in the Gorham Village for Town Council review. **6 yeas**

Order #20-023

Moved by Councilor Hartwell, seconded by Councilor Shepard and ORDERED, that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement for services related to the design, permitting, review and development of the new Industrial / Business park located off of Main Street based on the recommendation of staff. **6 yeas**

Order #20-024

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Hartwell and ORDERED, that the Town Council authorize the creation of an Industrial / Business Park Steering Committee to work with the Town's consultant and staff to develop the initial plans for the new park; and

Be It Further Ordered, that the Committee consist of Councilors _____ and _____, Owens McCullough, a member appointed by the Gorham Economic Development Corporation and _____ as a member of the business community.

Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Hager and VOTED to add a Citizen from Shamrock Drive to the Committee. **6 yeas**

Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to add Councilor Pratt and Councilor Hager to the Committee. **6 yeas**

The member of the Business Committee and member from Shamrock Drive will be named at a future date and reported back to the Council next month.

Order #20-024 was VOTED as amended, 6 yeas

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Wilder Cross and VOTED to adjourn. **6 yeas**
Time of adjournment, 7:46pm

A True Record of Meeting
02/04/2020

ATTEST _____ 02/05/2020
Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk