

Town of Gorham Planning Board Minutes September 21, 2023

Members Present: Paul Robitaille (Chairman), Michael Waddell (Ex-Officio) (Selectman), Reuben Rajala, Robert Gargano and Abby Evankow.

Members Excused: Dennis Pednault, Dan Buteau and Brian Ruel.

Members Absent: Earl McGillicuddy

Members of the Public: Victoria Hill (Board Secretary) Tara Bamford, (Remote) and Jason Montaro (remote)

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at by Chairman Robitaille at 6:32pm

Identification and resolution of any conflicts of interest (RSA 673:14): None

Review and Accept Minutes: On a motion from Rueben Rajala with a second from Robert Gargano the board voted to approve minutes as presented from August 17, 2023. Robert Gargano, Mike Waddell, and Paul Robitaille voted in favor, Abby Evankow abstained.

New Business

- a. Paul Croteau Update and next steps. Re: Extension for Site Plan submission for 620 Main St U14-10. Mr. Croteau requested an extension due to a family medical emergency. Mr. Robitaille allowed an extension until next month's meeting. Mr. Croteau was informed of the extension via letter.
- b. FYI: Eversource Whitefield to Berlin (S136) Project submitted by DES File #195602633. Mr. Robitaille gave an overview and informed the board that hard copies are in the assessing office.

Old Business –

- a. Jason Montano: Agreement to extinguish the ROW Tax Map U30-18. Mr. Montaro discussed his request to extinguish the ROW. The agreement is signed and notarized by the current land owners and the ROW owner. On a motion from Mike Waddell with a second from Robert Gargano, to accept the document. The board voted in favor to release the ROW. Document attached.
- a. Planning Board By-Laws and Procedures: Second reading. Adoption of proposed updates from first reading on August 17, 2023. After a quick review Tara described two proposed changes: 10.i delete words "one or" and 10.j rewording of section to say "Ex parte communications, whether verbal or written, impairs the procedural due process rights of

interested parties, and undermines the public confidence of the Planning Board. Members receiving ex parte communications should refrain from responding and direct the person(s) to the next board meeting. (see Town of Gorham Code of Ethics)”.

Mike Waddell made a motion, seconded by Reuben Rajala to adopt Planning Board By-Laws and Procedures with updates. All members voted in favor. The members will sign the hard copy once changes are added.

- b. Discussion of zoning amendments for 2024 Town Meeting. Tara presented a few zoning amendments the board may want to adopt. The areas discussed by the board included rewording flexible parking and definition of structure to address storage containers.

After a lengthy discussion Tara will create a draft of the proposed changes for the board to review and discuss at the October meeting.

Public Comment: Next Meeting – October 19, 2023

Abby asked if funding is available for planning board training. This was confirmed.

Adjournment – On a motion from Abby Evankow with a second from Robert Gargano, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:05 pm by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Hill

Planning Board Clerk

Approved October 19, 2023