

TOWN SERVICES

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Stow Agricultural Commission is charged with maintaining the viability of agriculture in Stow. This includes advising other Town boards on matters pertaining to agriculture, resolving conflicts between agricultural and residential uses, and promoting agriculture in town. The Agricultural Commission has a website, StowAgCom.org, which provides notices of agricultural events and conditions. The website can also be reached through the Town website.

In 2011, a new berry pest arrived in New England: the Spotted Wing Drosophila. This new pest attacks brambles such as raspberries, blackberries, and also strawberries and other fruit. The pest appeared in late August, and pretty much wiped out the fall raspberry crop. The pest was present in 2012 also, but no solution has yet been found. The combined efforts of the Extension Services of all the New England states are trying to determine the best way to combat this pest. There may be organic methods of control. When information is available, it will be posted on StowAgCom.org.

Residents are reminded that Stow has a right-to-farm bylaw, which reiterates State laws in our Town bylaws. As part of this bylaw, we provide a notification form for use in transfers of property that lets people know that farms are active in Stow. The notification form should be filed with the Selectmen's office before the transfer of property is completed. The form can be downloaded from StowAgCom.org or through the Town website.

In 2012, we are pleased to report that Dave Buchholz filled a vacancy on the commission. We look forward to working with him.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Sipler, chair
Liz Painter, clerk

Julie Martin Sullivan
Kathy Steege
Dave Buchholz

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department issued a total of 252 Building Permits in 2012. We spent a considerable amount of time at the Center School site attending construction coordination meetings and performing rough & final inspections of the buildings in order to open the new Phase I building section in February 2012 and the renovated Phase II building section in September 2012. Other inspections included commercial expansions, new homes, kitchen & bath remodeling, home additions, roofing, siding, wood/pellet stoves and annual inspections of restaurants, golf clubs & day care facilities. New home construction is 98% complete at Villages at Stow and Derby Woods. In addition we attended seminars for new ICC/MA building codes, energy codes & fire safety as required under the continuing education requirements set forth by the Department of Public Safety. In addition to the duties as Building Inspectors, we are also in charge of the following municipal properties: Town Building, Town Hall, West School, and the Crescent Street Garage. We also assist the Library Trustees with building improvement projects at the Randall Library. We have maintained the existing Town Buildings as follows:

Town Hall

Regular maintenance and walkway snow removal were performed. In addition, annual maintenance of the oil burners was completed as well as annual testing of the smoke detectors & fire alarm notification system.

Town Building

Regular maintenance items included changing air filters, grease for the air handling units and the hot water circulating pumps. A leaking valve on the hot water circulating pump intake was replaced. Annual inspections were completed for the elevator, smoke alarm system and the sprinkler system. On the public water supply distribution system, water meters were installed at the 6 buildings that are supplied with water.

West School & Crescent Street Garage Building

These buildings were checked periodically for security. Additional repairs to the roof of the West School were made due to critter damage.

Randall Memorial Library

We provided assistance to the Library Trustees with interior & exterior repair work required at the library. Pull down shades were installed on the north facing windows on the second floor of the original library and several lighting fixtures required replacement.

Hale Middle School

New handrails were installed for the upper level seats at the auditorium

In summary, I want to thank all the Town Departments for their support, particularly members of the Fire Department who are integral in the building permit and inspection process and the Highway Department for their assistance with heavy lifting when needed. Many thanks to Judie Scraggs and Sheila Deleo for their dedicated service in the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig D. Martin, P.E. Building
Commissioner

Judith Scraggs, Administrative Assistant
Sheila Deleo, Clerk

Ray Renzoni, Local Inspector
Robert Norton, Wire Inspector
Charles Weeks, Deputy Wire Inspector

Michael Norton, Deputy Wire Inspector
Eric Sahlberg, Plumbing Inspector
Raymond Smith, Deputy Plumbing
Inspector
Adam Sahlberg, Deputy Plumbing Inspector
Raymond Smith, Gas Inspector
Adam Sahlberg, Deputy Gas Inspector
Robert Smith, Deputy Gas Inspector

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN 2012

Number of Permits	Type of Construction	Construction Value
10	Single Family Dwellings	\$3,975,272.00
84	Remodeling and Additions	\$2,949,149.00
78	Strip and Re-roof, Re-siding & Windows	\$972,801.00
3	Swimming Pools	\$149,300.00
12	Commercial/Industrial	\$183,400.00
5	Foundations	\$120,000.00
10	Outbuildings	\$114,774.00
6	Temporary Tents	N/A
19	Wood/Pellet Stoves	\$65,845.00
10	Demolition Permits	\$40,850.00
1	Fence	\$3,500.00
7	Solar	\$257,912.00
7	Sheet Metal	\$103,000.00
252	TOTALS	\$8,935,803.00

TOTAL PERMITS/CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN 2012

Number of Permits/Certificates	Fees Collected
252 Building Permits	\$47,961.00
190 Electrical Permits	\$11,655.00
123 Plumbing Permits	\$7,700.00
108 Gas Permits	\$4,830.00
7 Sheet Metal Permits	\$70.00
35 Sign/Banner Permits	\$1,172.00
14 Annual Certificates	\$480.00
10 Trench Permits	\$300.00
732 TOTAL	\$74,098.00

CABLE LICENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Cable License Advisory Committee (CLAC) assists the Stow Board of Selectmen with awarding the license a cable company requires from the town in order to provide cable television service to its residents. It also works to assure that the terms of the license are being followed.

Stow's first cable license was awarded to Adams Russell in 1986 and was last renewed in 2012 for ten years. Adams Russell provided Stow video cable service under this license for many years, and then sold its license to Cablevision, which sold it to AT&T. Today, Comcast holds that license.