

and human service transportation in each community. The report identifies opportunities and challenges to moving toward a shared-service model using Council on Aging vans and public school buses, which could reduce costs, provide more trips, and increase service areas. The study will also analyze the potential for creating a Transportation Management Association in the MAGIC Subregion and beyond to connect employers to transportation alternatives.

Assistant Planner Jesse Steadman is working with MAGIC Communities on a Sustainable Communities program, funded by MAPC, to develop a Comprehensive Agricultural Planning Program that will increase the economic viability of farming and protect sustainable “foodsheds” (farms and agricultural soils close to metropolitan markets) in the Subregion.

Planning Staff is working with MAGIC Communities and the Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust in exploring a regional housing services office (RHSO) for the seven MAGIC towns of Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Hudson, Littleton, Maynard and Stow. MAPC has made arrangements for MAGIC to have Beth Rust from the Sudbury RHSO help with the feasibility study.

**Communications** – We encourage residents to keep updated on the latest information on current developments and projects by visiting the Planning Board Web Page at [http://www.stow-ma.gov/pages/StowMA\\_Planning/index](http://www.stow-ma.gov/pages/StowMA_Planning/index), the Planning Department Blog at [stowplanning.wordpress.com](http://stowplanning.wordpress.com), the Planning Department Facebook Page, or stopping by the office on the third floor of the Town Building.

### **Thanks**

None of the planning efforts would be possible without the enormous contributions by Stow residents, who serve as volunteers on the boards and committees and Town staff. It is a pleasure to continue working with all of you.

The Board extends a special thanks to our very capable professional consultants - Susan Carter of Places Associates, Inc. and Town Counsel, Jon Witten, of Huggins and Witten, LLC.

As can be seen by this report, the Board had another busy year, but this amount of work would never have been possible without the tireless and outstanding efforts of Karen Kelleher, and Jesse Steadman, who not only work diligently for the Board, but also for other Town Boards and Committees and the general public with whom they interact on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Clark, Chair  
Stephen Quinn, Vice Chair  
Leonard H. Golder  
Ernest E. Dodd  
Kathleen Sferra

Brian Martinson, Voting Associate  
Greg Troxel, Non-Voting Associate

Karen Kelleher, Planning Coordinator  
Jesse Steadman, Assistant Planner

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen to administer and enforce both the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Stow Wetlands Protection Bylaw and associated regulations. Areas subject to protection under these regulations include wetlands, rivers, streams, other water bodies and their banks, and flood plains, among others. In addition to these resource areas, the Commission must review and, if appropriate, stipulate conditions under which proposed activities within 100 feet of the resource or 200 feet of ponds and streams must be conducted. The Commission also works to manage over 1,500 acres of conservation land throughout the community and a network of trails on these lands, and to protect additional high priority lands. Trail maps and permit applications are available in the Conservation Commission office, which is located in the Town Building.

Currently, the Commission consists of seven members with varied backgrounds and a common interest in environmental issues. In addition, we have the strong support of several associate members who work on special projects, such as wetland delineation, drainage issues, trail mapping, forestry management, community gardens and open space planning. Additional support comes from our full-time Conservation Coordinator, part-time Secretary and part-time Conservation Land Steward.

**Conservation Land Maintenance:** Permits were issued for guided walks and educational activities scheduled at several of our conservation properties. The walks are sponsored by the Stow Conservation Trust and serve to familiarize participants with the trails and natural resources unique to each area.

There were numerous instances of downed trees and limbs on several properties after storms and high winds during the year. Immediate hazards on the trails, especially those that are overhead, are our first priority, after which impassible trails are cleared of obstruction and general cleanup begins. Abutter concerns regarding the removal of hazardous trees and the management of invasive species were addressed based on the conditions and will continue to be monitored in the future. Seasonal mowing of trail entrances improves parking and trail access, and helps contain invasive species. The meadow located on the Woodhead parcel of Flagg Hill is mowed annually to enhance the habitat for Eastern Bluebirds and other open meadow species.

It is a matter of concern that the number of unofficial trails continues to increase on our properties, some of which cross sensitive wetlands or in other ways fragment wildlife habitat. Although perhaps well intentioned, any activity that alters the land must be conducted in conformance with existing management plans, policies, and the town's liability insurance requirements and approved by this office.

You can help preserve the beauty of our lands by reporting acts of vandalism, regulation violations, downed limbs and trees, and any other potential hazards or concerns to the Conservation Commission at 978-897-8615. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

**Community Gardens:**

This spring the annual field was plowed and harrowed, plots were measured and staked and wood chips were spread around the four pitcher pump wells and the center path of the perennial field. Applications were mailed to all 2011 gardeners, posters were put up in public buildings around town and notices were put in local papers.

There were 55 annual and 30 perennial plots this year. As the garden grew larger it became more difficult for people to meet many of the other gardeners. To promote "COMMUNITY" at the garden we held a Pot Luck Dinner on the far side of the perennial field and encouraged gardeners to bring their family and dishes with some ingredients they grew in their garden plots. We had a good turnout and two six foot tables covered with a wide variety of homemade food. A good time was had by all and we have decided to make it an annual event.

The Conservation Commission conducts a community garden program on the Captain Sargent Conservation Area on Tuttle Lane. If interested in a community garden plot, please call the Conservation Commission office at 978-897-8615 for an application. Plots are assigned on a first come first serve basis and all returning gardeners are assigned their same plot.

**Public Hearings**

Hearings for residential construction, wetland delineations/resources and restoration projects as a result of enforcement action continued at a brisk pace. Projects this year included Lake Boon Drawdown and Herbicide Treatments for weed management, review of plans for the Center School Project, a wetland delineation off Walcott Street, solar projects off Delaney Street and Minute Man Air Field and several small applications for home improvements and septic repair. Commission members continued their participation in several town-wide planning projects, including the Center/Hale School expansion (including monitoring construction activities), and participation in the Open Space Committee and Community Preservation Committee.

The Commission held 28 public hearings for projects during the year. A total of \$11,677.34 was generated for the Town by these hearings and applications. License Agreements, Community Garden fees, Regulations for Wetland Protection Bylaw, Trail Guides, copy fees and donations also generated \$2,400.00.

**Cooperative Efforts and Long Range Planning**

Work plan priorities for the coming year include but are not limited to revisions to the Town of Stow's Wetland Protection Regulations, baseline monitoring for conservation restrictions, vernal pool education and invasive species identification. The Commission also works collaboratively with local conservation organizations including the Stow Conservation Trust, CISMA, OARS and Sudbury Valley Trustees on both land protection and land management issues.

The Conservation Commission has assisted the Stow Conservation Trust in drafting a conservation restriction for the open space parcel of the Derby Woods subdivision off Harvard Road, Taylor Road subdivision and for the Corzine Woodlands. Once approved and accepted by the Board of Selectmen and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, the Conservation

Commission will accept title of the open space at Derby Woods. The Commission is also still involved in working with the Board of Selectmen to advance an effort to place a water supply well on a conservation land and assisting with securing the necessary approvals to allow this to happen.

### **Administration**

Cortni Frecha is the Commission's liaison to the Community Preservation Committee.

Bruce Trefry is the Commission's Land Steward and the Parcel Steward for Flagg Hill Conservation Area and Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland. Bruce provides overall management of the town's conservation lands and does an outstanding job for the Commission.

Joyce Bunce is the Steward for the community gardens at the Captain Sargent Conservation Area on Tuttle Lane. She is also a member of the Stow Garden Club. Joyce has done a wonderful job coordinating participants, laying out plots, educating the gardeners on organic farming and providing fresh vegetables to the Stow Food Pantry.

Maureen Trunfio is our part-time secretary assisting with daily operations of the Conservation Commission office and attends to the Commission's needs when called upon. Maureen is in the process of getting her certification in Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners from MACC.

Kathy Sferra resigned from the Commission this year to join the Planning Board. Kathy was instrumental in drafting the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and served on the Open Space Committee and the Community Preservation Committee. Kathy served as the Commission's chair for two years and continues to assist the Commission with questions regarding open space easements, acquisition, and Chapter 61 properties.

Due to work and family commitments, Becky Mattison and Helen Castles resigned from the Commission this past year.

Becky served on the Commission for eight years, acting as the Commission's chair for two of those years. She was the liaison to the Master Plan Committee and was one of Stow's representatives on the Study Coordination Team for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Assabet River Sediment and Dam Removal Feasibility Study, and assisted in submitting comments to the Army Corps on behalf of the Town.

Helen Castles served the Commission as an associate member and was appointed to the Commission in 2010. Helen was instrumental in assisting the Commission in managing our agriculture fields, invasive species identification and with review of the Center School project.

Thanks to their hard work, the Commission has maintained and improved its high standard of professionalism in its interactions with town residents, other town boards and commissions, and state regulatory and enforcement bodies.

Pat Perry continues to do an outstanding job in her role of coordinating daily operations and the successes of the Conservation Commission are due in large part to her dedication and effort.

The Commission benefits from working with town departments, land trusts, associate members and the community. Your input and assistance are invaluable to the Commission. **THANK YOU!**

If you have an interest, expertise or experience in conservation or environmental protection and would like to be a member, an associate member or volunteer, please call the office at 897-8615 or attend a meeting. Meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

Respectfully submitted,

Ingeborg Hegemann Clark, Chair  
David Coppes, Vice Chair  
Douglas Moffat  
Serena Furman  
Cortni Frecha  
Doug Morse

Rebecca Mattison, Associate  
Jeff Saunders, Associate  
Dwight Sipler, Associate  
Adrianna Snow, Associate  
Alexander Taft, Associate  
Bruce Trefry, Associate

Joyce Bunce, Associate  
Stewart Dalzell, Associate

Patricia Perry, Coordinator  
Maureen Trunfio, Secretary

## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

As the local permitting authority responsible for the health and safety of Stow residents, the Board of Health continues its service to the Town by insuring that our water, sanitation, habitation, and environment continue to meet the high standards set by those early pioneers who recognized that good health practices create positive outcomes for people and the environment.

### **Resignation of a Member**

A longtime member of the Board, Sylvia Daley, resigned following the sale of her Stow home. Ms. Daley served the town well and will be missed. A former member of the Board, Gordon Landis, was appointed to fill the remainder of Ms. Daley's term.

### **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**

During 2012 we continued working with the Medical Reserve Corps and Fire and Police Chiefs, on the Town's Emergency Planning Program. Money from Emergency Preparedness grants distributed by the Department of Homeland Security come to the Town through the MRC to