

The Stow Cultural Council encourages any Stow resident to apply for a grant for a project of his or her own imagination, or to sponsor an event by an area artist or performer, that will benefit the Stow community. Grant applications may be received at any time, but must be received no later than October 15, 2013 for the next granting cycle. For more information see the Cultural Council page on the town website, www.stow-ma.gov. Local cultural council grants are to be considered a temporary aid, to encourage groups to find added sources of funding. In particular, this year the state continued to reduce funding and all Fieldstone funds have been expended.

Membership currently stands at four (4), which does not meet the Massachusetts Cultural Council's minimum requirement of five members. The Council is required to have 5 members in order to receive and disburse funds. . Members are: Pat Mullen (Treasurer), Nancy Maldari, Rick Lent, and Ann Deluty (Chair).

Respectfully submitted,

Ann L Deluty, Chair
Rick Lent
Nancy Maldari

Patricia Mullen, Treasurer

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

This year of 2012 was unlike any other we've had in a long time at this department. We had very low snowfall totals for the winter, only accumulating an unofficial total of 14 inches of snow for the season. Plowing operations only had to be dispatched 5 times to deal with small snowfall amounts, the largest snowfall being 4 inches for one storm. Our salt trucks were dispatched 25 times throughout the course of the winter to deal with unfavorable road conditions. This was more than a 50% drop in the amount of salting operations we generally average through the course of a year. As a result of the mild winter, we were able to turn back about \$47,600 of our \$150,000 snow and ice budget to the Town coffers. This is quite good because during any normal winter, we would end up running a deficit beyond our \$150,000 budget.

The lack of snow allowed us to do quite a bit of tree and brush cutting. We spent a total of 8 weeks cutting brush and low-hanging limbs from the roadsides and we also removed 38 trees along the roadsides that were considered dead or hazardous.

Unfortunately, this year, a delay in the State's distribution of Chapter 90 funds put off any plans we had for large-scale road reconstruction. The Town's apportionment, usually received in May, wasn't received until August; as a result, it didn't leave us enough time before the end of the construction season to complete any projects. The projects which were planned for 2012 are scheduled for Spring 2013.

We did complete some smaller construction and drainage projects throughout the season, which were of a size that this department could handle. A new drainage system was added to the existing drainage system on Boon Road, west of Robert Road, to remedy an existing winter icing problem along the roadside. Road repairs were made to sections of failing road on Harvard Road

at the Harvard Town Line, sections of Lowell Drive, North Shore Drive, Barton Road, Pine Point Road, Mitchell Road and Walnut Ridge Road. We also replaced one of the failing stone box culverts on the one-way section of Old Marlboro Road.

Towards the end of the summer we took delivery of our new brush chipper and new ¾ ton pick-up truck that replaces our 1998 GMC ¾ ton pick-up truck. Both new pieces replace equipment that served the Town faithfully during a long tenure at this department.

Hurricane Sandy blew through town at the end of October, bringing limbs and trees down in the streets and on power lines, and causing widespread power outages. This department was able to keep the majority of the roads open, cleaning up fallen limbs and trees where possible, except where the trees became entangled in power lines. Four streets were closed to through traffic for about a 24-hour period while we worked with Hudson Light and Power's line crews to open the closed streets back up the day after the storm.

I would like to make note of the hard-working employees at the Highway Department. Their hard work and effort, even during the chaotic times such as snowstorms and hurricanes, seems to go unnoticed quite a bit. These employees' dedication to their jobs is what makes your drive to work or just cruising around the Town of Stow that much more safe and enjoyable. I commend them for their hard work. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael E. Clayton, Superintendent of Streets

Scott Morse, Assistant Superintendent of Streets

Rachel Belanger, Administrative Assistant
Brian Hatch, Crew Chief
Tim Gray, Crew Chief
Joe Landry, Mechanic
Bill Tuttle, Equipment Operator

Mark Trefry, Equipment Operator
Albeo Duguay, Tree Worker
Steve Landry, Maintenance Person
Scott Landry, Driver/Laborer
Bruce Fletcher, Tree Warden

STOW HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Stow Housing Authority founded by town meeting is authorized by and operates under the provisions of Chapter 121B of the Massachusetts General Laws to manage and administer low rent housing programs, funded by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development. The operations of the Authority are supported entirely by grants or contracts with the state or federal governments. The Stow Housing Authority is governed by a Board of five commissioners, four of which are locally elected with the fifth member appointed by the Commonwealth. The Board of Commissioners meets as necessary at the Town Building.

The Stow Housing Authority administers state vouchers, which are assigned to the Pilot Grove Development. However, due to the small number of participants that remained on the program in