

Annual Report



Town of Stow Massachusetts

for the year ending

December 31, 2008

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For the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

FEDERAL & STATE OFFICERS

United States Senators

Edward M. Kennedy
2400 Kennedy Federal Bldg.
Boston, MA 02203

John F. Kerry
One Bowdoin Square, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

**United States Representative,
Fifth District**

Niki Tsongas
11 Kearney Square, 3rd Floor
Lowell, MA 01852

Governor of the Commonwealth

Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Senator – Middlesex & Worcester

Pamela P. Resor
State House, Room 410
Boston, MA 02133

Representative -- Third Middlesex District

Patricia A. Walrath
State House, Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

Listed alphabetically

Board of Assessors

John Paul Bolton (2009), Chairman
Dominick Pugliese (2010)
John E. Smith (2011)

Field Drivers

Selectmen

Board of Health

Mary E. Cormier (2011)
Sylvia Daley (2010)
Marcia B. Rising (2009), Chairman

Moderator

Edward E. Newman (2010)

Nashoba Regional School District Committee

Brian P. Burke (2011)
Lynn Colletti (2010)
David C. Horne (2009)

Planning Board

Ernest E. Dodd (2013), Chairman
Leonard H. Golder (2011)
Stephen C. Quinn (2012)

Planning Board, continued

Laura Y. Spear (2009)
Kathleen A. Willis (2010)

Randall Library Trustees

Robert A. Aldape (2010)
Alison M. Campbell (2010)
Harold B. Donahue, Jr. (2009)
Carolyn C. Howe (2011)
Peter B. Masters (2010), Chairman
Pierie L. O'Connor (2009)
Timothy H. Reed (2011)

Board of Selectmen

Stephen M. Dungan (2011), Chairman
Kathleen K. Farrell (2010)
Jason S. Robart (2009), Clerk
Thomas H. Ruggiero (2009)
Ellen S. Sturgis (2010)

Stow Housing Authority

John J. Kendra (2011)
Robert W. Larkin (2009)
John C. Toole (2010), Chairman

For the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN, INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS

Listed alphabetically

Assabet River Rail Trail Committee Rep

Donald B. Rising

Constables

Lawrence E. Hartnett (2011)

Robert A. Kirchman (2010)

Emergency Management Officer

David B. Soar (January-February)

Michael McLaughlin (June-December)

Forest Fire Warden

David B. Soar (January-February)

Michael McLaughlin (June-December)

Inspectors

Building Inspectors

Craig D. Martin, Building Commissioner

Douglas Hyde, Local Inspector

Ray A. Renzoni, Local Inspector

Gas Inspectors

Ray A. Smith

Robert Smith, Deputy

Plumbing Inspector

Eric S. Sahlberg

Ray A. Smith, Deputy

Adam Sahlberg, Deputy

Wire Inspectors

Charles A. Saari

Michael A. Norton, Deputy

Robert W. Norton, Deputy

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Representative (MAPC)

Donna M. Jacobs (2011)

Minuteman Advisory Group on

Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC)

Donna M. Jacobs (2011)

Sealer of Weights & Measures

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Selectmen's and Town Administrator's
Assistant**

Susan McLaughlin

**Stow Advisory Member of the
Hudson Light and Power Board**

Edward A. Brown

Street Numbers

Catherine A. Desmond

Superintendent of Streets

Michael E. Clayton

Bruce E. Fletcher, Assistant Superintendent -
resigned

Surveyor of Wood & Lumber

Vacant

Town Accountant

Julie Costello (2010)

Town Administrator

William J. Wrigley

Town Clerk

Linda E. Hathaway (2010)

Town Counsel

Jonathan D. Witten & Patricia Daley

Daley & Witten, LLC

Treasurer-Collector

Pamela M. Landry (2011)

Tree Warden

Bruce E. Fletcher

Veterans' Services Officer

Donald P. Hawkes

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN, COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS
Listed Alphabetically

Agricultural Commission

Julie Martin-Sullivan
Elizabeth C. Painter
Dwight P. Sipler, Chairman
Katherine C. Steege

Assabet River Trail Committee, Stow

Scott Arsenault
Ralph Fuller
Edward R. Perry, Jr.
Donald B. Rising
Kirk Teska

Cable License Advisory Committee

Arnold R. Buckman
Lewis H. Halprin, Chairman
Robert C. Mong
George A. Scraggs

Cemetery Trustees

Frederick J. Dodge, Jr. (2009)
Roy Dudley, Chairman (2010)
William Clayton (2011)
Robert Gledhill, Superintendent

Conservation Commission

David W. Coppes (2010)
Ingeborg Heggemann-Clark (2010)
Rebecca G. Mattison (2009)
Douglas E. Moffat (2010)
Kathleen V. Sferra, Chairman (2008)
Katherine Tarbi (2008)
Dennis Walsh (2010)

Council on Aging

Eleanor Beaudette
Paul Chaisson
Newell Dearborn
Kate Hogan
Alice L. Olsen, Member Coordinator
James V. Sauta, Chairman
Elizabeth Tobey
Newton Wesley, Vice Chairman
Brian Burke, Associate
Nancy Chiasson, Associate
Ruth Delmonico, Associate
Kristen Donovan, Associate
Josephine Langley, Associate
Alyson Toole, Executive Director
Sharon Funkhouser, Outreach Coordinator
Suzanne Howley, Outreach Worker

Cultural Council

Anne C. Draudt (2009)
Robert M. Glorioso (2008)
Catherine J. Hammill (2009)
Donnalisa Johnson (2007)
Nancy Maldari (2011)
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen (2007)
Elizabeth B. Stepp (2008), Chairman
Lynne Juster, Associate

Fence Viewers

Selectmen

Fire / Rescue – Full-time

David B. Soar, Chief (January-February)
Michael McLaughlin, Chief (June – December)
John Paul Benoit, Captain
Barry Evers
Mark W. Guerin
Gregory A. Vogel

Fire / Rescue –On-call

Charlie Boyle
James Byrne
Christopher Camelio
Kristin Clayton
Christopher Devoe
David Doucette
Rene Doucette
Scott Dwinells
Jeremy Fiorvanti
Michael Gallagher
Tim Gray
Peter Holman
Scott Landry
Stephen Landry
Christopher Lazuka
Lisa McNiff
Tim Neuffell
Tom Neuffell
Paul Nevala
Liana Pratt
James Rodgers
Michael Scimeca
Suzanne Siewierski
Larry Stafford
George Taylor
Michael Trioli
Eddie Warren
Christopher Whitley
Shawn Whitney

Historical Commission

Wayne A. Fletcher (2008)
Karen C. Gray (2009)
John A. Makey, Chairman (2008) - resigned
Joseph J. Mishley (2010)
Elizabeth C. Painter (2010) - resigned
Susan McLaughlin (2010)
Linda Stokes (2011)

Housing Partnership

Gregory D. Jones (2008)
Patricia L. Settles (2009)

Lake Boon Commission

Cindy J. Curley (2011)
Lee Heron (2010)
Conray Wharff, Hudson, Chairman

Land Use Task Force

Richard Lent, Chairman
Michael Kopczynski
Kathleen Sferra
Dorothy Spaulding
Kathleen Willis

Local Access Cable Advisory Committee

Stephen M. Dungan
Robert M. Glorioso
Leonard H. Golder
Lisa R. Lavina
James L. Parr
Anne VanTine, Coordinator

Master Plan Committee

Stephen Dungan - Selectmen
Karen Kelleher – At Large
Charles Kern – Finance
Rebecca G. Mattison – Conservation
Roy W. Miller – At Large
Marcia B. Rising, V. Chair–Bd. of Health
Kathleen Willis – Planning Board

Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

Michael Kopczynski, Chairman
Stephen Dungan
Kathleen Farrell
Karen Meyer
Constantine Papanastassiou
Trish Settles

Open Space Committee

Vincent J. Antil
Eve K. Donahue
Jean H. Lynch
William H. Maxfield
Christopher B. Rodstrom
Kathleen V. Sferra
Robert T. Wilber, Chairman

Police Officers –Full-time

Mark H. Trefry, Chief (2010)
William L. Bosworth, Sgt.
Ralph Marino, Sgt.
Timothy J. Lima, Sgt.
Steven B. Sturtevant, Detective
Sean M. Collins
Kimberly H. Doughty
David J. Goguen
Gary P. Murphy
Michael J. Sallese
Darren J. Thraen

Police Officers -- Special

Robert E. Blanton
Jonathan Butler
John Connors
John Fantasia
James F. Finneran
Lee Heron
Enrico F. Maldari
Sherry J. Morton-Pelley

Police Officers -- Auxiliary

Darlene D. Trefry

Police Matrons

Rachel R. Belanger
Deborah L. Richardson
Darlene D. Trefry

Public Safety Dispatchers

Sherry J. Morton-Pelly, Supervisor
Jonathan Butler
John Fantasia
Darlene D. Trefry
Justine St. John – part-time

Recreation Commission

Michael Busch, Chairman
Robert Braceland
James Henry
Ellen Piccioli
John A. Sangermano
Laura Greenough, Director

Registrars of Voters

John D. O'Connell (2010)
Edward R. Perry, Sr. (2009) - resigned
Pamela J. Weathers (2011)
Linda E. Hathaway, clerk ex-officio

SpringFest Organizing Committee

Patricia A. Heron
Karen Kelleher
Deborah A. Woods

Veterans' Graves Committee

Jeffrey J. Lance
Francis R. Milak
George A. Veracka

Trustees, Hale High School Fund

(Life Tenure)
Robert F. Derby
Wayne A. Fletcher
Ray S. Frost, Chairman
Linda E. Hathaway
Jeffrey D. Smith

Zoning Board of Appeals

John Clayton, Jr. (2013)
Donald E. Dwinells (2012)
Arthur R. Lowden (2009)
Michele L. Shoemaker (2012).
Edmund C. Tarnuzzer (2013)
Charles A. Barney, Assoc. (2013)
William F. Byron, Jr., Assoc. (2010)
Bruce Fletcher, Assoc.
Lee Heron, Assoc. (2009)
Donald B. Hyde, Jr., Assoc. (2012)
Richard S. Martin, Assoc. (2013)

Trustees, Randall Relief Fund

Louise E. Peacock, (2009)
Jeffrey D. Smith (2011)
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen (2010)

Trustees, Randall Town Fund

Louise E. Peacock, (2009)
Jeffrey D. Smith (2011)
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen (2010)

APPOINTMENTS BY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Listed alphabetically

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee

William H. Maxfield
Douglas E. Moffat
Kathleen V. Sferra
Dwight P. Sipler
Robert T. Wilbur

APPOINTMENTS BY BOARD OF HEALTH

Listed alphabetically

Animal Control Officer

Susan G. Latham
Michael J. Sallese, Assistant

Inspector of Animals

Phyllis Tower
Michael J. Sallese, Assistant

Burial Agents

John Erb
Vickery E. Trinkaus-Randall
Town Clerk

Medical Reserve Corp Executive Committee

Marilyn Driscoll
Dianne E. Oelberger
Louise E. Peacock
Sarah R. Robart, Chairman
John A. Sangermano

Health Agent

John P. Wallace

School Health Committee

Sylvia Daley

APPOINTMENTS BY MODERATOR

Listed alphabetically

Ancient Documents Committee

Karen C. Gray (2013)
Karen V. Green (2009)

Lewis H. Halprin (2010)
Barbara P. Sipler, Chairman (2010)
Robert E. Walrath (2011)

Finance Committee

Henry Hagopian, III (2010)
 Charles Kern, Chairman (2009)
 James H. Salvie (2010)
 David E. Walrath, Vice Chair (2011)

Moderators

Gary L Horowitz, Deputy
 Elizabeth C. Painter, Assistant

Minuteman School District Rep.

Alice B. Deluca (FY 2011)

APPOINTMENTS BY PLANNING BOARD**Listed alphabetically****Light Pollution Study Committee**

William J. Chiarchiaro
 Gregory D. Troxel
 Warrington R. Willis, Chairman

Lower Village Subcommittee

Bruce E. Fletcher
 Karen Kelleher
 Lucille King, Business Owner
 Donald G. McPherson, Chairman
 Barbara P. Sipler
 Laura Spear
 Warrington R. Willis

APPOINTMENT BY TOWN CLERK**Listed alphabetically****Assistant Town Clerk**

Catherine A. Desmond

APPOINTMENT BY TREASURER COLLECTOR**Listed alphabetically****Assistant Treasurer-Collector**

Donna Kunst

Deputy Collector & Special Constable

Frederick J. Kelley, Jr.

JOINT APPOINTMENTS**Listed alphabetically****Capital Planning Committee**

David P. Arsenault (2009) – Moderator
 Kathleen K. Farrell (2010) – Selectmen
 Stephen F. Jelinek (2011) – Moderator

Jean H. Lynch, Chairman (2010) – Moderator
 Edward R. Perry, Jr. (2010) – Finance
 Committee
 Margery R. Yvanovich, Assoc (2009)

Community Preservation Committee

John P. Bolton. – Assessors
 Michael Busch – Recreation
 Kate Hogan – Council on Aging
 Kathleen V. Sferra – Conservation

Laura Y. Spear – Planning
 Linda Stokes – Historical
 John C. Toole – Stow Housing Authority
 David E. Walrath – Finance
 Robert T. Wilber, Chairman – Open Space

Elementary School Building Committee

(Joint appointment by Selectmen and Stow reps
 of NRSD School Committee)

Gary M. Bernklow, Finance Committee
 Lynn Colletti, Nashoba Regional School
 Committee
 Amy Finkle Hastings, At Large, Co-chair

Craig D. Martin, Building Commissioner
 Stephen C. Quinn, At Large
 Ellen S. Sturgis, Selectmen, Co-chair
 Gregory Irvine, Pompo/Center Principal, Ex
 Officio
 Michael L. Wood, NRSD Superintendent, Ex
 Officio

Nashoba Regional School District Audit Committee, Stow Representative

(Joint appointment by Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen)

James M. Medeiros

Public Safety Planning Committee

David P. Arsenault, Capital Planning Committee

Robert Braceland, At Large

Michael E. Clayton, Superintendent of Streets

Thomas H. Ruggiero, Board of Selectmen

Charles Kern, Finance Committee

Michael McLaughlin, Fire Chief

Mark H. Trefry, Police Chief

William J. Wrigley, Town Administrator

John P. Wallace, Health Agent

ADMINISTRATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

This year, 2008, marks the 325th anniversary of Stow's first selectmen. On April 19, 1683, the first selectmen were appointed by the inhabitants of the new Plantation of Pompositticut to "act on affairs relating to good government." They were Sgt. Benjamin Bosworth, Boaz Brown, Joseph Freeman, Thomas Gates, Stephen Hall, and Thomas Stevens. On May 16 of the same year, the Great and General Court in Boston granted township to the settlement, approved the selectmen's appointments, and we became the Town of Stow.¹

Today, the Board serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Town and continues to act on affairs relating to good government. The Board's duties as policy makers and leaders are detailed in the Town Charter and General Bylaws. The Town's daily financial and administrative functions are handled by Town Administrator William Wrigley.

Much of the Board's work during 2008 was preparing to implement the upcoming version of the Master Plan, the Town's blueprint for the future. Specifically, this meant identifying areas of concentration for the Board, such as land use and affordable housing, and creating processes and agencies to address the needs of each area.

During the Board's annual meeting to set goals for the upcoming year, a new approach was chosen. Instead of having lists of multiple goals for each selectman, they decided to focus on their role implementing the Master Plan. The Board identified the best channels of communication to drive the implementation and to turn the current document into an action plan.

To accomplish this goal, the Board created two new committees and appointed liaisons to all of those groups that were active on related projects:

- Assabet River Rail Trail Committee (new)
- Elementary School Building Committee
- Land Use Task Force (new)
- Lower Village Planning Committee
- Master Plan Committee
- Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

These connections enabled the Board to stay informed of the groups' activities and to facilitate progress wherever possible.

In addition, the Board ensured that the town's best interests were represented in a state and federal study of Assabet River water quality by appointing two members of the Conservation Commission, Ingeborg Hegemann-Clark and Rebecca Mattison, to a regional committee on the project.

Land Use Task Force

Several factors converged to raise land use to a high priority in 2008. The search for land for school buildings, a senior center, a fire station, recreation fields, and other municipal purposes led

¹ Ellie Childs. History of Stow, Tercentenary Edition, 1983

to the creation of a five-member Land Use Task Force, charged with three major deliverables to Town Meeting: a complete land inventory, prioritization of municipal needs, and an acquisition strategy for available lands.

Stow Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT)

Resident Don Rising, representing Stow for many years on the multi-town ARRT Committee, received help in his efforts when the Board established a local five-member Assabet River Rail Trail Committee. Its charge was to investigate routes through Stow (from Maynard to Hudson) and recommend the best route.

Snow Property Purchase For Recreation And Agriculture

On April 22, 2008, with approval by a December 2007 Special Town Meeting, the Board executed a Purchase and Sale Agreement for an approximately 13-acre parcel of land, known as the Snow property, on Old Bolton Road. The parcel is shared between an active recreation area and agricultural fields, currently being leased for organic farming by a local family. The Snow farmland abuts two private properties now protected under permanent agricultural deed restrictions.

Local Licensing Authority

Stow businesses are extremely important to the residents and to Town government alike. As the local licensing authority for alcohol sales, auto sales, and common victualers, the Board reviewed and approved renewal of liquor licenses for the town’s four golf courses, two restaurants, and three package stores; for 11 used car dealers; and for two doughnut shops, a café, and two pizza shops.

Appointments

The Board annually appoints the members of roughly 20 committees and departments and 28 individuals, as their terms expire. And the Board is responsible for filling vacancies that arise during the year by appointing qualified individuals.

Upon the resignation of Fire Chief David Soar in 2008, the Board formed a search team for a new chief, composed of public safety experts and local residents under the leadership of the Town Administrator. After an extensive recruiting and evaluation process, the Board accepted the search team’s recommendation to hire Michael McLaughlin as the Town’s new Fire Chief. Chief McLaughlin is responsible for fire and rescue operations, as well as emergency response planning and management.

Lastly, the Board made a special and memorable “appointment” – the presentation of the historic Boston Post Road Cane to Dr. Donald Freeman Brown of Red Acre Road, in recognition of his status as Stow’s eldest resident, having achieved the distinguished age of 100 years in November 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Ruggiero, Chairman
Kathleen Farrell, Clerk
Stephen Dungan
Jason Robart

Ellen Sturgis
Susan McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Stow Town Administrator, by Charter, serves as the Town's chief administrative officer. In this capacity, the Town Administrator manages the day-to-day operations of the Town, function as its chief fiscal officer, chief procurement officer, chief personnel officer and chief contract negotiator. In addition, this position serves the Town as chairman of the dispatch communications administrative body, as the labor union grievance hearing appeal officer, the sexual harassment officer and the public records management officer. Throughout the year 2008, functioning in these various administrative positions, the Town Administrator managed several significant matters.

At the Annual Town Meeting in May 2008, for the third consecutive year, the Town Administrator recommended a FY-09 balanced budget that did not require general override. It has been since FY-06 when the operating budget needed \$350,000 in the form of a general override to be balanced and the FY-05 operating budget required a general override of \$250,000. In FY-04, the Town faced a one million dollar budget deficit and was required to utilize both an approval of a general override of \$414,500 together with budget cuts and the expenditure of stored assets to balance the operating budget.

The FY-09 municipal budget is a reasonably tight operational budget. Total spending for the general municipal budget, which includes all of the Town departments (excluding the two school districts), increased by 6.3%. The Nashoba Regional School District assessment increased by 5%; and the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District assessment increased by 1%. The Town's non-bonded capital improvement project costs decreased in FY-09 by 9% to \$347,600.

The Town's non-capital raise and appropriate special articles budget increased in FY-09 by 11% compared to FY-08; increasing from \$307,171 to \$341,171. Included in the number non-capital raise and appropriated special articles funded in FY-09 is \$70,000 for the Reserve fund; \$40,000 for legal services and \$52,530 for information technology purchases.

For FY-2009 the Town's annual debt payment decreased by 7.8% from \$1,434,806 to \$1,323,188. The annual debt payment budget pays the principal and interest on bond notes issued to fund the Town's larger capital improvement projects such as the Hale school renovations, Pompositticut and Center school improvements, the new police station facility and the Town Building construction. Also, the Town regularly borrows to purchase rolling stock such as fire engines and ambulances. Finally, the town periodically borrows money to acquire property. In FY-08, the Town acquired the Snow property for \$1,250,000 requiring the first annual debt payment to be made in FY-09.

For the second consecutive year, the Town is not relying on the use of any Free Cash to balance the operating budget in FY-09. In FY-09 we have transferred \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund in a continuing effort to increase the amount of the Town's savings. Also, \$193,000 in Free Cash has been provided in FY-09 to fund a number of non-bonded capital improvement projects.

Included in this list of capital projects, the Town has purchased a new police cruiser for \$30,000, along with two new highway department trucks for \$65,000. In FY-09, Hale school and Center school improvements have been funded at \$62,000 and \$20,000 respectively. Additionally, the Town appropriated \$55,000 for funding renovations to the third floor of the Town Building and

\$48,000 to replace the roof. Finally, \$36,000 has been appropriated for purchase of wireless communication equipment for the fire department.

The most significant line item increase in the Town's FY-2009 State and County budget is the county retirement charge. This uncontrollable budget item increased by 12% above FY-2008 going from \$410,254 to \$458,974.

There are three primary reasons that the FY-2009 budget was balanced without need for a general override. First, the Town's annual debt payment decreased by approximately 8% in FY-09 to \$1,323,188. Second, the Town's Minuteman school district assessment increased by less than 1% in FY-09. Third, the Town's non-bonded capital project budget decreased in FY-2009 by 9% to \$347,600.

Looking forward to next year's FY-2010 budget, the Town is facing serious budget constraints that will require significant adjustments in order to avoid the need for another general override. In balancing the FY-2010 budget, it will be necessary to limit recommended total budget expenditures to approximately 4% above the current fiscal year as that is the projected percentage increase in total recurring revenues. Driving this prediction is the fact that Stow possesses several structural revenue impediments that make it increasingly more difficult to balance annual operating budgets without general overrides.

On an annual basis, the Town's tax base represents approximately 90 percent of the Town's total annual recurring budget revenues, and more problematic, this revenue source is providing an increasingly larger percentage of the Town's total revenues each year. Annual municipal state aid to Stow only represents approximately 3 percent of the Town's total annual revenues each year with little expectation that this contributing percentage will increase in the foreseeable future. On the contrary, Stow experienced cuts in municipal state aid just two years ago and this fiscal year we have witnessed an additional 10% in our state aid funding. What is worse, we are being told that our state funding will be further cut in FY-2010 by at least another 20%. The Town's annual local receipts revenues represent approximately 7% of the Town's total revenues. Both the Town's local receipts revenues and new growth tax revenues have declined in each of the last two years and this decline in local revenues is expected to continue in FY-2010.

The distressing fact that a disproportionately high 90% of the Town's recurring revenues come from taxation, is exacerbated by the fact that approximately 92% of the Town's tax base is residential. Ten years ago, the residential tax base represented 89% of the total tax base; so the trend line is negative. Further, through different local tax abatement programs, approximately 50 percent of the Town's total taxable property is either totally exempted from being taxed or it is taxed at a significantly reduced rate. The combined effect of these factors is that the Town suffers from a limited tax base that is also almost completely un-diversified. The annual growth in the Town's tax base depends almost exclusively on housing development growth and the accompanying increase in housing market values. Stow residential taxpayers receive negligible tax relief from the commercial, industrial and personal tax classifications.

For most of the decade of the 1990's, the Town annually voted budgets that contained expenditures totaling less than revenues. During that time, the Town's unused levy capacity grew annually until it peaked eventually at \$372,000 in 1999. Since that time, the Town's unused levy capacity has disappeared.

The Town's Free Cash and Stabilization Fund, our stored assets or savings accounts, peaked at approximately \$1,400,000 in FY-2002. For FY-09, July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, the Town's

Free Cash and Stabilization Fund totals only \$870,893. Between the years FY-99 and FY-08, the Town expended approximately \$3,704,404 in Free Cash and Stabilization Fund monies for the purposes of both balancing the Town's annual operating budgets and to fund various capital improvement projects.

Beyond performing functions as the Chief Fiscal Officer, the Town Administrator is directly responsible for managing and controlling the Town's legal budget. As it relates to litigation in 2008, only one lawsuit remains unresolved from the original number of cases generated from the first group of Town-approved cell tower site permits. However, a new cell tower-related lawsuit was filed over a year ago. I have been involved in managing more than ten separate cell tower litigation cases during the last several years. Beyond the cell tower litigation cases that continued in 2008, the Town has been engaged in several other court cases during the last year.

The Town is still litigating one Land Court case involving Massachusetts General Law Chapter 61B. As it relates to the on-going Chapter 61B litigation, the Town, and the Chapter 61B property owner, Ms. Kunelius, are arguing in court over matters of fact and law regarding the Town's assignment of its right of first refusal to the Trust For Public Land. The Town prevailed at the lower court level and Ms. Kunelius is appealing the decision.

Working in another area in 2008, and furthering an initiative begun in 2006, the Town Administrator continued to assist the Town's lower village area commercial property owners in analyzing and assessing the water problems they are currently facing and developing a long-term permanent solution. During the last year, the Assabet Water Company has agreed to design, construct and maintain a private water system to supply lower village. Assabet Water Company proposes to run a 10' water main from its filtration plant at Harvard Acres down to the Lower Village. The state DEP has approved a \$605,000 long-term low interest loan to Assabet to fund the project and the private business customers will pay users fees for access to the water. If this proposed private water system is successfully installed, it will provide a much-needed permanent water source to the Town's only goods and service center at no cost to the Stow taxpayers.

Also in 2008, the Town Administrator was successful in negotiating separately with representatives of the police, clerical and fire unions which will allow new labor contracts to be executed. For many years, the Town's four labor unions and Town management have successfully negotiated employee labor agreements without ever reaching an impasse or filing for arbitration. This cooperative track record is a tribute to both Stow's employee unions and management.

Beyond serving the Town's interests and needs by attending to specific management issues such as the matters detailed above, the Town Administrator is generally engaged in regularly attending to matters associated with the day-to-day operations of the Town. In performing these duties, the Town Administrator is regularly in direct contact with most departmental staff and many Town board and committee members. In addition, I am frequently working with local, state and federal agencies and officials, the public and various private groups and individuals. The Town Administrator strives to be diligent in the performance of these duties and responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

William Wrigley, Town Administrator

Susan McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant

PLANNING BOARD

A five-member elected board with one appointed associate voting member, the Planning Board has specific statutory requirements. The Board reviews and approves the division of land under the State Subdivision Control Law (MGL c. 41) and the Stow Subdivision Rules and Regulations; serves as a special permit granting authority under the State Zoning Act and the Stow Zoning Bylaw; and guides the process of Zoning Bylaw amendments under the State Zoning Act (MGL c. 40A).

By statute, the Board is charged with the responsibility of protecting the health, safety and welfare of Stow's residents. Guided by the Massachusetts General Laws, the Stow Zoning Bylaw, the 1996 Stow Master Plan, and citizens' comments and concerns, the Board strives to preserve and enhance the integrity of Stow's character through the use of these regulatory tools, while safeguarding property owners' rights. We recommend and specify changes to development proposals to achieve these goals. Board members and staff strive to work with both applicants and residents to help shape projects so as to positively affect the impact to the community.

The Planning Department completes the Commonwealth Capital Application on an annual basis. The Commonwealth Capital Policy is a program for promoting better land use choices. Commonwealth Capital endorses planning and zoning measures that are consistent with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles and encourages municipalities to implement these measures by using state funding as an incentive. Scores from the Commonwealth Capital Application are part of the evaluation process for each grant or loan program.

The Planning Department also tracks building permits for affordable housing units and submits the necessary documents to the Department of Housing and Community Development for certification.

Organization

At the annual election, Ernest Dodd was re-elected to a 5-year term. We are pleased that Ernie chose to continue to serve the Town as a Planning Board Member, as he has been a tremendous asset to the Board. We look forward to working with him for another five years.

Following the election, the Board elected Laura Spear to serve as Chairman, Kathleen Willis as Vice Chairman, and Stephen Quinn as Clerk. Bruce Fletcher was appointed as the Voting Associate Member. The Associate Member's voting power is limited to Special Permit applications, in the case of absence, inability to act, or conflict of interest on the part of any member of the Planning Board or in the event of a vacancy on the Board. Lori Clark, Malcolm FitzPatrick, Victoria Fletcher and Donna Jacobs were appointed as non-voting Associate Members. Stephen Quinn and Karen Kelleher were designated to endorse ANR Plans (Subdivision Approval Not Required). The Board appointed representatives to various Committees:

- Community Preservation Committee: Laura Spear
- Master Plan Committee: Kathleen Willis
- Elementary School Building Committee: Stephen Quinn
- Liaison to Zoning Board of Appeals: Stephen Quinn

We have had a very busy year. In order to keep up with our work plan, we continue to hold working meetings in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings so that we now meet on the

first, second, third and fourth Tuesday evenings of the month. Appointments are reserved for the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Development Activity

In 2008, the Planning Board met with developers and discussed the potential for seventeen (16) new building lots.

The Board denied one (1) sixteen (16) lot preliminary Subdivision Plan:

- Highgrove Estates off of West Acton Road

The Board approved:

Four (4) ANR Plans (Approval not Required under the Subdivision Control Law)

- Boon Road – Dividing a 5 ½ acre parcel into two
- Great Road – Dividing a 9 ½ acre parcel into two (Lot 2 placed in an Agricultural Preservation Restriction)
- Sudbury Road – Lot line adjustment
- Sylvan Drive – Lot line adjustment

One (1) Site Plan Approval

- Town of Stow Community Recreational Facility off of Old Bolton Road

One (1) Special Permit

- 472 Gleasondale Road – Redevelopment of a Historic Structure for use as a residential dwelling, a function/activity room for non-commercial uses, including a woodworking shop, fencing classes and play rehearsals, and an office.

One (1) Special Permit Modification

- Stow Shopping Center – A 4,700 square foot addition to the back of the space now occupied by Colonial Spirits of Stow (the proposed addition). Shaw’s Supermarket, in addition to the space it now occupies, will occupy both the proposed addition and the space now occupied by Colonial Spirits, resulting in an increase in the Shaw’s Supermarket space to approximately 10,000 sq. ft.

In addition, the Board:

- Held a public hearing to consider a petition for Special Permit for a proposed 3-bay, self-serve automatic carwash at 124 Great Road. The Public Hearing was continued to March 17, 2009.
- Reviewed plans in response to the Special Permit Decision for the RidgeWood at Stow Active Adult Neighborhood. The final plan has not yet been endorsed.

With the assistance of the Board’s Consulting Engineer, Susan C. Sullivan, P. E., the Board monitored plans and/or ongoing construction of eight (8) subdivisions and two (2) Special Permits:

- Hiley Meadows Estate (Cider Mill Road)
- Linear Retail – Stow Shopping Center
- Wildlife Woods, a 67-lot subdivision, located off of Sudbury Road
- Orchard View (Brandymeade Circle) a 12-lot subdivision, located off of West Acton Road
- Meadowbrook (Trefry Lane), a 17-lot subdivision, located off of Boxboro Road

- Derby Woods (Sylvan Drive and Dunster Drive extension), a 33-lot subdivision, located off of Harvard Road
- Butternut Farm Golf Course
- Arbor Glen Active Adult Neighborhood
- Whispering Woods (Kettell Plain Road), a 14-lot subdivision, located off of Maple Street
- Taylor Road, a 6-lot Planned Conservation Development
- RidgeWood at Stow Active Adult Neighborhood

The Board had informal discussions with property owners and developers to discuss potential development:

- Whitney Homestead, 485 Great Road
- Mobil Station, 124 Great Road

Appeals

One (1) Subdivision Plan, approved in 2007, is under appeal pending a decision from Land Court:

- River Hill Estates off of Barton Road

One (1) Cell Tower Special Permit Denial is under appeal pending a decision from Federal Court.

Street Acceptance - The Board recommended Town Meeting acceptance of three (3) streets: Farm Road, Militia Circle and Whispering Way.

Enforcement Issues – The Board continued to work with property owners and developers on enforcement issues:

- Butternut Farm Golf Club - Special Permit Conditions
- Trefry Lane emergency access way
- Orchard View subdivision drainage basin

Zoning Bylaw, Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Handbook and Policy – The Board continued its efforts to update its Rules and Regulations and the Zoning Bylaw.

The Board scheduled a public hearing for early 2009 to review the Board’s proposal for amendments to the Subdivision Rules and Regulations. The proposed amendments are intended to update the standards to be consistent with the Department of Environmental Protection’s Stormwater Handbook and to encourage Low Impact Development. Other proposed amendments are for further clarification of the Zoning Bylaw for future applications.

Five (5) Zoning Bylaw amendments were brought forth and adopted at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2008:

- Wireless Communications Facilities - This article deletes the Wireless Communications Facility Moratorium section of the Zoning Bylaw, which is no longer necessary, as the Wireless Communications Facility Bylaw has since been replaced with the Wireless Service Facility Bylaw.
- Front, Rear and Side YARDS - This article clarifies the inconsistencies between the dimensional setback requirements of the Zoning Bylaw and Board of Health Regulations pertaining to septic systems and removing side and rear setback requirements for driveways.

- Historic Buildings and Structures/Wireless Service Facility - This article clarifies the fact that this section which requires that “Any alteration made to a historic BUILDING or STRUCTURE to accommodate a WIRELESS SERVICE FACILITY shall be fully reversible.” applies to BUILDINGS and STRUCTURES.
- Trailers and Mobile Homes - This article clarifies the fact that Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 3, allows for temporary trailers as a dwelling unit for a period not to exceed 12 months while a residence is being rebuilt in the case of fire or catastrophic event.

In an effort to help residents and developers understand the Planning Board’s duties and responsibilities and to inform them of the Board’s policies and procedures and reference materials, the Board adopted a Planning Board Handbook. The handbook is available on the website and in the office of the Planning Board.

Sidewalks

The Board approved expenditure of funds from the Sidewalk Fund to construct sidewalks along Sudbury Road and Pompositticut Street. It is expected that the Highway Department will commence construction in the spring of 2009.

Fees Collected

Fees collected in 2008 in the amount of \$3,987.63 offset expenses incurred for processing applications and for miscellaneous copies. Plan review and inspections are paid for by the Applicant.

Work Plan

The Board’s work plan continues to include efforts to maintain Stow’s rural character, Lower Village and Gleasondale Village planning, pathways/sidewalk planning, assessment of the Town’s future land needs, the need for a public water supply in Lower Village and Gleasondale, updating Rules and Regulations and the Zoning Bylaw, light pollution, and affordable housing. The Board is participating in the Master Plan update as part of this work. The Board held many extra meetings dedicated to reviewing the Zoning Bylaw and Rules and Regulations with plans for extensive changes to encourage Smart Growth and Low Impact Development techniques.

Lower Village

Draft Lower Village Mixed Use Overlay District – On February 13, 2008, the Board held a Public Form on a Draft Lower Village Mixed-Use Village Overlay District Bylaw. The proposed bylaw was the result of efforts by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council under a Priority Development Grant. MAPC conducted a visual preference survey at meetings at Hale School several years ago, and based on that input, drafted a proposed bylaw. MAPC’s draft bylaw was further reviewed and revised by the Planning Board. The Board’s objective was to create an overlay district, which encourages coordinated and cohesive development across parcels and lots; enhance the village atmosphere; increase both economic vitality and housing diversity; and provide flexibility for better design. The proposed bylaw included the existing Business District (Overlay Area A) as well as a transition zone (Overlay Area B). Overlay Area A was intended to be the business center of Stow, which encourages commercial activity with the first floor units for non-residential uses and public amenities emphasized (usable public space, parking, pedestrian support). Overlay Area B was intended to be a transition to residential and commercial districts with the first floor units for certain non-residential uses and public space encouraged for pedestrians.

During the public forum, concern was raised about the proposed Overlay Areas. Some residents in the area did not support the idea of non-residential uses that are not owner-occupied. Based on input at the Public Forum, the Board decided not to go forward with the bylaw as drafted and to participate in the Master Plan process for further understanding of our community's needs and desires.

Lower Village Improvement Plan

The Lower Village Sub-Committee continued working with the Planning Board to enhance the Lower Village area, our vital Business District.

Lower Village Transportation

The Board and its Lower Village Sub-Committee continue to feel strongly that any changes in the traffic pattern for Lower Village shall be in harmony with the Town's goal to enhance the Lower Village as the vital business center of our community, focusing on creating an identity for our historic Lower Village consistent with the rural character of Stow. We continue to seek input from residents on the recommended "Preferred Alternative," as outlined in the Traffic Planning Study, prepared by Fay Spofford and Thorndike (FST), addressing vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation conflicts.

The first step toward implementation of the "Preferred Alternative" was taken this year. Thanks to the efforts of the Lower Village Sub-Committee and the cooperation of the Highway Department, temporary pedestrian refuge islands were installed to allow the Town to determine if they serve their intended purpose to accommodate pedestrian traffic and slow vehicular traffic. It has been reported that the Police Department found that the accident rate has been reduced since installation of the temporary pedestrian refuge islands. It has also been pointed out that some of the locations should be adjusted. The Planning Department continues to research funding sources for design plans for a potential Great Road/Pompositticut Street/Red Acre Road modern roundabout.

Lower Village Common and Streetscape

The Board and its Lower Village Sub-Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen consider abandonment of a portion of Gardner Road (from a point near the entrance to the Shopping Center at Papa Gino's to Great Road). The objective is to help enhance the Lower Village appearance and historic heritage by returning the Lower Village Common to its original size, as much as possible, by converting that portion of Gardner Road into the common.

Thanks to the Highway Department, the Board is happy to report that we have made strides towards achieving this goal by incorporating a portion of Gardner Road into the common. Thanks to the Highway Department and the Lower Village Sub-Committee, granite posts and wood rail fencing, in keeping with the Lower Village streetscape standards, was installed along the common. This fencing will serve as an example of the plan for a standard streetscape in the Lower Village. A requirement to install the standard streetscape (sidewalks and fencing) was included in the Special Permit Modification for the Stow Shopping Center. This standard streetscape will be installed in the Spring of 2009.

The Highway Department agreed to:

- Install sidewalks along Pompositticut Street to the Maynard town line. This will foster pedestrian traffic to the Lower Village.
- Landscape the Town property, located off Route 117 in the Lower Village, between Red Acre Road and Pompositticut Street.

West Stow Planning

West Stow Planning remains a priority. This area of Town has a large amount of open land at risk of development and with little protection. Several key parcels are currently being developed or are in the planning stage. In its review of concept development plans for this area, the Board has and will continue to stress its goal for any proposed development to make provisions for an Open Space corridor and trail network from the Hudson town line to Great Road, the use of low impact development techniques, the encouragement of diversity in housing stock, and a village feel.

Light Pollution

The Light Pollution Sub-Committee continued working with developers, property owners and the Planning Board and Building Commissioner to ensure compliance with the lighting bylaw adopted in 2007. The Sub-Committee continues to urge residents to confine their lighting to their property by re-aiming or replacing fixtures to achieve better lighting that is not bothersome to others.

Other Activities

The Board continues to keep abreast of proposed changes to Massachusetts General Law and has provided comments on proposed changes:

- Land Use Partnership Act – Modifications to Chapter 40A (Zoning)
- Community Preservation Act
- Green Communities Act

The Board also continues to keep abreast of regional activities. Board members and staff frequently attend meetings of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Minute Man Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC), a sub-group of MAPC, serving the communities of Acton, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow and Sudbury, and the Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors.

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 the Highway Department for their cooperation in implementing our Lower Village Planning efforts.

The Board thanks the following Sub-Committee members for their ongoing efforts:

Lower Village Sub-Committee: Chairman Don McPherson, Bruce Fletcher, Karen Kelleher, Lucille King, Barbara Sipler, Laura Spear, Russ Willis, Phil Moseley, Brian Martinson, and Associate Members Tom Farnsworth and Thom Neff.

Light Pollution Sub-Committee - Chairman Russ Willis, Bill Chiarchiaro, Greg Troxel and Victoria Fletcher.

Our very capable professional consultants: Susan Sullivan of Places Site Consultants, Inc. and Town Counsel, Jon Witten, of Daley 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 Lois Costello, 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,

Laura Y. Spear, Chairman
Kathleen A. Willis, Vice Chairman
Leonard H. Golder
Ernest E. Dodd
Stephen Quinn, Clerk
Bruce E. Fletcher, Voting Associate
Lori Clark, Associate

Malcolm FitzPatrick, Associate
Victoria Fletcher, Associate
Donna Jacobs, Associate

Karen Kelleher, Planning Coordinator
Lois Costello, Administrative Assistant

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission consists of up to 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. 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 except for Lake Boon must be conducted. The Commission also works to manage over 1,200 acres of conservation land throughout the community 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.

Presently, 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.

Conservation Land Updates and Land Preservation

Two permits were issued for guided walks and educational activities at the Flagg Hill Conservation Area and Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland. The walks are sponsored by the Stow Conservation Trust and serve to familiarize participants with the trails and natural resources unique to the area.

There were numerous instances of trees down across trails after severe thunderstorms, high winds and ice storms. Bruce Trefry, the Commission's Land Steward checked the trails and removed the obstructions and potential hazards from Spindle Hill, Marble Hill, Gardner Hill, Captain Sargent, Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland and Flagg Hill Conservation Area. Trails were checked in preparation for the "Emerald Necklace" hike sponsored by the Stow Conservation Trust. Seasonally, the overgrown trail entrances were mowed at Wheeler Road and Gates Lane for improved access to Spindle Hill; Orchard View trail connection; Lanes End; Heritage Lane; and from the rear of Pompositticut School for Marble Hill. The meadow located on the Woodhead parcel of Flagg Hill was mowed to control successional species and enhance habitat for Eastern Bluebirds.

A parcel designation sign and informational kiosk were installed on the section of the Captain Sargent Land used for the community gardens by Bruce Trefry and Dave Schroeder. A special thank you to Dave Schroeder, a long term volunteer and friend of our conservation lands, for his carpentry expertise in creating and constructing the sign and kiosk.

The Stow Community Gardens is located at the Captain Sargent Conservation Area just off Tuttle Lane on the eastern side of Stow. During the past year, the Community Garden's Steward, Joyce Bunce supervised the creation of 30 x 50 foot and 30 x 25 foot garden plots. The Commission received thirty-six applications for the use of the garden plots from residents and non-residents, which was an increase from 2007. Once again we had a mix of gardeners, young and old, families and singles, scouts and two plots for the Stow Food Pantry donated by Joyce Bunce. The Tower Hill Botanical Garden in West Boylston requested to be allowed to tour Stow's Community Gardens. A history of Captain Sargent Conservation Area and the community gardens was provided to all participants. Due to the increased interest in organic food and the state of the economy, Joyce has recommended additional plots to be plowed to accommodate new gardeners. Joyce has requested to be garden steward for another year. The success of the community gardens is due to Joyce's dedication to gardening and educating the participants.

Dennis Walsh is dedicated to his studies of the vernal pool activity in Gardner Hill Conservation Area and development of the Stow Herpetofaunal Atlas project (SHERPA). The goal of the project is to document the distribution and relative abundance of amphibians and reptiles in Stow. Phase One, the establishment of effective survey methods in Gardner Hill for use by citizen-scientist volunteers throughout Stow, is in its third and final year. Upon review of the data and approval by the Conservation Commission, Phase Two, volunteer training and transect assignment is tentatively scheduled for spring 2010. Dennis has a scientific background and a strong interest in amphibians, protection of their habitat and educating the public on their importance to the environment.

The Conservation Commission was instrumental in facilitating an Agriculture Preservation Restriction with Alan Tyler and the Department of Agriculture in preserving 7 acres of his existing farmland in perpetuity for agriculture. Agricultural land and maintaining the viability of agriculture in Stow is the highest priority identified in Stow's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Commission views protection of the Tyler Farm parcel as an important addition to the "critical mass" of active agricultural land west of Hudson Road and south of route 117.

The majority of our Conservation Land Volunteers are Stow residents, some are from neighboring towns, and everyone shares a common interest in being involved with conservation related activities. A heartfelt **Thank you** to all of the volunteers for their contribution to our community and the lands they cherish. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the Commission at 978-897-8615.

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

Public Hearings

Hearings for residential construction, wetland delineations/resources and restoration projects as a result of enforcement action continued at a brisk pace, including Assabet Water Company expansion, Butternut Farm Golf Club, Lake Boon Drawdown and continued review of the Minute Man Airfield for their Vegetative Management Plan, Arbor Glen Active Adult Community,

Villages at Stow, Bose Corporation, Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy, and several small applications for home improvements and septic repair. Commission members continued their participation in several town-wide planning projects, including updating of the Master Plan, School, Lower Village Water Study Committee, Land Use Task Force, Open Space and Recreation Plan and Community Preservation Committee.

The Commission held 37 public hearings for projects during the year. A total of \$3,704 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 \$2,625.

Cooperative Efforts and Long Range Planning

Work plan priorities for the coming year include but are not limited revisions to the Wetland Protection Regulations, the Land Stewardship Committee, 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 and Sudbury Valley Trustees on both land protection and land management issues.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed and approved by the state. Copies of the Plan can be purchased by notifying the Conservation Commission. The Open Space Committee and Commission are in the process of preparing the document in a format that can be downloaded from the Stow website. Congratulations to the Open Space Committee!

During the past year, the Rail Trail Committee requested funding and assistance from the Commission for input regarding the wetland resources for a feasibility study of the Lundy property located along the Assabet River off of Sudbury Road.

Administration

Becky Mattison is the liaison to the Master Plan Committee and Kathy Sferra is the Commission's liaison to the Community Preservation Committee and Open Space Committee. Doug Moffat and Kathy Sferra are the Commission's liaisons to the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee. Due to the dedication and hard work of these committees, a Community Preservation Plan has been drafted, the development of a Community Development Plan is in progress, an Open Space & Recreation Plan has been completed, a Stow Herpetofaunal Atlas project is underway and the formation of a Stewardship Committee is in the beginning phase.

Ingeborg Hegemann Clark and Rebecca Mattison have been appointed by the Selectmen as Stow's representatives on the Study Coordination Team for the Assabet River Sediment and Dam Removal Feasibility Study. The Organization of the Assabet River has organized a series of public workshops on restoration of the Assabet River including the implications of dam and sediment removal in which the Commission participates. The goal of the workshops is to provide a common base of knowledge among all who have an interest in how Assabet River water quality concerns are addressed and to provide an exchange of views. The workshops will aim to provide interested parties with readily understandable scientific and technical information.

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 and educating the gardeners on organic farming.

Pat Perry's consistent management of daily operations is outstanding. We all thank Pat for her efforts. Thanks to her 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. As we add more conservation land to that already under management by the Commission, and as development activity in Stow accelerates, it becomes more and more important to coordinate the activities of the Commission with other town boards and effectively maintain required documentation. Pat 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
David Coppes, Chair
Kathy Sferra
Doug Moffat
Rebecca Mattison
Dennis Walsh, Vice-Chair
Kathy Tarbi

Bruce Trefry, Associate
Dwight Sipler, Associate
Stewart Dalzell, Associate
Joyce Bunce, Associate

Patricia Perry, Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Cote, Assistant

BOARD OF HEALTH

As the local 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.

Medical Reserve Corps

During 2008 we continued to work with the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), 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 allow planning, purchase, and storage of materials necessary in case of a natural or manmade disaster.

In November of 2008, the Board of Health and the MRC again ran a Flu Clinic for the Town utilizing our Emergency Dispensing Site Plan. This enabled the Town to critique the plan, understand where it worked, and where its weaknesses were. It was a very successful clinic and we spent many hours afterward creating the After Action Plan that we were required to submit to

the Department of Public Health. Anyone who is interested in volunteering can contact the Board of Health for information and contact numbers.

A very bad ice storm, which affected many of the towns in our area, prompted the setting up of a shelter in Stow. Through the generosity of Meetinghouse at Stow, the MRC was able to provide temporary shelter for several senior citizens who needed to be warm and fed. A big thank you goes to all the folks at Meetinghouse and also to Nancy's Airfield Café. Nancy provided sandwiches to feed our seniors and MRC crew. The MRC, Police and Fire Departments, and Council on Aging came together and planned and carried out all the necessary tasks associated with sheltering.

Public Health Nurse

The Board received approval of a budget provision to hire a public health nurse for three hours a week. This is a pilot program for the Town to see if the residents of Stow would utilize this service. During the few short months the nurse has been with us she has been kept quite busy and we have had very positive feedback. We will look at the data and report on the success or failure of the program during the next budget session for FY 2010.

Hazardous Waste and Recycling

The Board collaborated with the Stow Boy Scouts Troop 1 in the spring of 2008 to advertise the electronics collections that they were organizing. We encouraged the Town Municipal Offices to recycle many old computers and parts out of the Town Building where they were stored and donated money from the hazardous waste fund to the Boy Scouts for taking all of this old equipment. This worked well for us, as the intent of the program is to safely dispose of this material. The electronics are recycled by the pound. Creating a separate collection for this material enables the Board to direct its hazardous waste funds more efficiently to the collection of other kinds of hazardous materials. We ran a very successful household hazardous waste collection day May 10th with a total of one hundred and forty-one households taking part. Some of the waste collected was as follows: pesticide solids & liquids, propane cylinders, mixed aerosols, consolidated solvents, paints, batteries, & mercury.

Mosquito Control

The Town of Stow continues to belong to the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project to provide control of this pest, which is a carrier of such diseases as Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus. The Project is committed to an Integrated Mosquito Management Program, which utilizes a variety of control techniques and evaluation procedures. The first and most permanent method is called water management, source reduction or wetlands restoration. The second method is called larviciding and the third method is to attempt to control the adult mosquito by spraying on a **request-only** basis. The presence of adult mosquitoes is confirmed before any application is done. All control efforts are undertaken only after surveillance data has been collected and analyzed. This allows control decisions to be made based on the exact need that exists at each specific site. Environmental considerations are paramount when prescribing various control techniques. The Project's goal is to provide effective and environmentally sound mosquito control, reducing mosquito annoyance and the potential for the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.

Animal Control

The revision of the Animal Control Bylaw for the Town of Stow was presented at the regular May 2008 Town Meeting. The Town and the Attorney General approved the Bylaw. The Animal Control Officer and the Animal Inspector continue to provide excellent coverage

throughout the town with the ability to respond quickly to any situation. The following is a report of activity for the year 2008:

Dog Complaints – 118	Cat Complaints – 2	Wildlife Calls - 55
Injured Animals – 4	Found Dogs – 38	Cruelty/Neglect - 9
Lost Dogs – 82	Lost Cats – 21	Found Cats – 1
Dead Animals on Roads - 60	Other – 82	Dogs Impounded - 14
Dogs Returned to Owners – 13	Dogs in New Homes – 1	
Citations Issued:		
Written Warnings – 13	\$25.00 Fines - 9	

There were 87 more calls to animal control this year, which is a 24% increase.

The following is the annual livestock count:

Cattle: Dairy – 2	Beef – 30	Steers – 6	
Goats – 40	Sheep – 29	Swine – 1	Llamas – 4
Alpacas – 16	Horses – 113	Ponies – 22	Donkeys - 1

Poultry: Chickens – 275	Turkeys – 1	
Waterfowl – 28	Game birds – 22	Rabbits - 44

Quarantines are as follows:

6 – dog to person	2 cat to person
2 – wounds of unknown origin to dogs	6 – wounds of unknown origin to cats
6 – dog to dog	

Permitting & Revenues

Revenue of \$26,038.95 was remitted to the Town. The following is a list of permits issued:

Bed & Breakfast – 4	Ice – 3	Pools - 2
Pet Shop – 1	Septage Haulers – 11	Title 5 Inspections - 44
Installers – 43	Camps – 4	Wells - 23
Food Service – 64	Rubbish Haulers – 4	Tobacco - 6
Cider Mills – 5	Stables – 24	Dumpsters – 12
Disposal Works Construction Permits – 43		

The public is invited to visit our office in the Town Building to learn what information we have available on public health, the environment, hazardous materials, and recycling. As always, we encourage you to call or visit if you have any questions, problems, or concerns. We are open from 9AM to 5PM Monday through Friday and available by phone at 978-897-4592. Don't forget to visit us on the Town of Stow website. We post our meetings and information on special issues on this site. Visit us at www.stow-ma.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia B. Rising, Chair
Betty Cormier
Sylvia Daley

Susan Latham, Animal Control Officer
Phyllis Tower, Animal Inspector

Theora S. Cole, Administrative Assistant
Lynn Fishman, Clerk
Jack Wallace, Health Agent

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The year 2008 brought forth nine applications for public hearings submitted to the Board. The decreasing trend continues, as can be seen when compared to the 46 in 2005, 21 in 2006 and 15 in 2007.

There were four applications for variance from the Zoning Bylaws of the Town, and all were granted. One, however, was appealed by an abutter. This was resubmitted by the applicant in a manner agreed by negotiation with the abutter. Although the amendment was not necessary from the Board's standpoint, the Board voted to revise and reissue the new variance.

There were five applications for special permit. All were granted.

The Board continues to monitor the Villages at Stow project, for which a Comprehensive Permit was granted in October 2003, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B.

The Board of Appeals meets on the first Monday of each month, as needed, in the Town Building. Information regarding procedure and application for hearing may be obtained by contacting Catherine Desmond, Secretary to the Board

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur R. Lowden
John Clayton Jr., Clerk
Edmund C. Tarnuzzer, Jr.
Donald E. Dwinells
Michele Shoemaker
Richard S. Martin, Associate

Donald B. Hyde, Jr. Associate
Charles A. Barney, Associate
Lee Heron, Associate
William F. Byron, Jr., Associate
Bruce E. Fletcher, Associate

Catherine A. Desmond, Secretary

TOWN SERVICES

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department had a very busy winter for 2007-2008. The month of December 2007 gave us 5 plowable events of snow totaling over 32 inches of the white stuff. Throughout the course of the winter our sand/salt spreader trucks were dispatched to treat unsafe roads a total of 62 times. This consists of five Highway Department trucks treating the Town's roads with sand and salt when road conditions become unsafe from snow and ice. The remainder of the winter was fairly quiet, yielding an unofficial total of 13 more inches of snow and 4 more plowable events throughout January, February, and March.

Once winter had passed, this department spent much of the springtime cleaning up from the events of winter. This includes the sweeping of roads, town owned parking lots, and sidewalks,

fixing damage to lawns and roadsides caused from snowplows, grading gravel roads, and cleaning up any roadside debris that went unseen throughout the winter.

During the spring and summer a total of eight weeks were spent cutting roadside brush and low limbs. This is a maintenance item, which is performed every year as needed to improve visibility on roads and at intersections. During these eight weeks we also removed 15 roadside trees at various locations around town that were deemed either dead or hazardous.

Improvements were also made to the Town's Lower Village Common this spring. This included a section of Gardner Road (abutting the north side of the common), which was abandoned by the town this year. The Highway Department removed pavement from this abandoned section of road and replaced it with a sidewalk and a grassy area. The sidewalk runs between Gardner Road and the east entrance to the shopping plaza. We also assisted members of the Stow Lower Village Committee with the installation of the new post and rail fencing around the perimeter of the common. In the same area of town, this department installed three temporary pedestrian refuge islands per order of the Selectmen. These islands act as a safe haven for pedestrians crossing Great Road and have received mixed reviews from the public so far.

This summer there were several severe thunderstorms that passed through Town, which caused extensive damage to trees and roads in several areas around town. Three to four weeks were spent cleaning up tree debris and repairing road shoulders around town that were affected by the storms.

During the summer and fall we prepped Cross Street and Edson Street for reconstruction. This department corrected any drainage issues on these streets, and cut low limbs and brush on these streets as needed. Private contractors then came into town to reclaim these roads. Reclaiming is a process that pulverizes the existing road and then uses the pulverized material as a road base for the new asphalt surface. Once this process was complete and the reclaimed material was properly graded, another private contractor then resurfaced the road with bituminous concrete. Sudbury Road between Queens Lane and State Road was also resurfaced with bituminous concrete. Large-scale projects such as these are paid for with State Aid money.

This year saw the arrival of a new addition to our fleet. We took delivery of a 2008 Chevy Silverado one-ton dump truck with snowplow in July 2008.

As always, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Selectman, the Police Department, the Fire Department and the employees of the Highway Department for another year of productive work and their dedication to this Town. It's people like this that keep the Town moving forward. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael E. Clayton, Superintendent of
Streets

Scott Morse, Foreman
Rachael Belanger, Secretary
Brian Hatch
Joe Landry

Bill Tuttle
Albeo Duguay
Steve Landry
Jim Ruggiero
Scott Landry
Tim Gray
Scott Morse, Jr.



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department issued a total of 301 Building Permits in 2008. It was a very busy year for both residential and commercial construction. We inspected the construction of office & business expansions, new homes, barns, kitchen & bath remodeling, home additions, swimming pools and wood & pellet stoves. In addition we attended seminars for building code & fire safety as required under the continuing education requirements set forth by the Department of Public Safety. In addition to the duties as Building Inspector, we are also in charge of the following municipal properties: Town Building, Town Hall, West School, and the Crescent Street Garage.

We have maintained the existing Town Buildings as follows:

Town Hall

Regular maintenance was performed. In addition, the installation of new smoke & heat detectors with a new alarm signal panel was completed.

Town Building

Regular maintenance items included changing air filters, grease for the air handling units and the hot water circulating pumps. As an energy saving measure incandescent light bulbs were changed to fluorescent bulbs. Construction of the third floor bathroom, hallway, Stow TV and the IT room was completed in May. The two bathrooms on the first floor were cleaned, sanded and

painted in June. In October the roof replacement contract was bid and a new roof was installed in November. The old shingles were recycled.

West School & Crescent Street Garage Building

These buildings were checked periodically for security. No work was performed on the buildings in 2008.

Randall Library

We provided assistance to the Library Trustees in the preparation and bidding of the window replacement contract in September. Replacement of six (6) windows on the east side of the building was scheduled to start in January 2009.

In summary, I want to thank all the Town Building staff and the Town Departments for their support. In particular I want to thank Judie Scraggs and Sheila Deleo for their dedicated assistance in the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig D. Martin, P.E., Building Commissioner

Judith Scraggs, Administrative Assistant
Sheila Deleo, Clerk

Inspectors

- Douglas Hyde, Local Inspector
- Ray Renzoni, Local Inspector
- Charles Saari, Wire Inspector
- Robert Norton, Deputy Wire Inspector
- Michael Norton, Deputy Wire Inspector
- Eric Sahlberg, Plumbing Inspector
- Ray Smith, Deputy Plumbing Inspector
- Adam Sahlberg, Deputy Plumbing Inspector
- Raymond Smith, Gas Inspector
- Adam Sahlberg, Deputy Gas Inspector

Robert Smith, Deputy Gas Inspector

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

TOTAL BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN 2008

Number of Permits	Type of Construction	Construction Value
45	Single Family Dwelling	\$13,401,555.00
103	Remodeling and Additions	\$3,918,859.00
58	Strip and Re-roof	\$558,792.00
	Re-siding & Windows	
4	Swimming Pools	\$24,650.00
16	Commercial	\$966,817.00
1	Water Storage Tank	\$285,000.00
1	Wireless Communication	\$35,000.00
4	Sheds	\$21,043.00
22	Temporary Tents	\$34,369.00
39	Wood/Pellet Stoves	\$121,775.00
1	Solar	N/A
<u>7</u>	Demolition Permits	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
301		\$19,417,860.00

PERMITS ISSUED IN 2008

Number of Permits/Certificates	Fees Collected
301 Building Permits	\$99, 029.00
245 Electrical Permits	\$25, 864.00
139 Plumbing Permits	\$11, 649.00
78 Gas Permits	\$ 5,486.00
22 Sign/Banner Permits	\$ 417.28
13 Annual Certificates	\$ 480.00
 798 Total Permits	 \$142, 925.28

RECREATION COMMISSION

This past year has been exciting and eventful for the Recreation Commission. The Commission is very excited that the town was able to purchase the Snow Property and looks forward to having new recreational facilities in Stow for the community to enjoy for many years to come. Town-wide brochures are distributed throughout the year highlighting the many new programs that have been established as well as the existing programs. The Second annual Stow Gobbler Road Race was even more successful than last year with over 550 participants walking or running the race on Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to the Papanastassiou family, volunteers, and sponsors for making this race such a success. We also added numerous other programs this past year such as Thundercat's Sports Jam, Kiddie Cat Jam and Baseball Camp.

The Recreation Commission is dedicated to providing town-wide programming for all ages. During the past year the Recreation Commission has outlined its short- and long-term goals and the steps needed to achieve success. The Commission is excited about the possibilities that can be accomplished in the years ahead to make recreation in Stow an important ingredient to maintaining and improving the quality of life. The Commission would like to encourage others within the community to participate, either as an associate member or to assist in the development and implementation of programs. Also, please feel free to bring any issues or ideas to the Commission. We would welcome your input. Thanks to all the workers and volunteers who helped with the programs throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Busch, Chairman
Robert Braceland
John Sangermano
Ellen Piccioli

Jim Henry
Laura Greenough, Recreation Director

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Stow Council On Aging (COA) is a department of the municipal government established for the purpose of providing support to those age 60 +, by being a resource of information on elder affairs, providing outreach services, transportation, social activities, and helping people remain in their homes as long as safely possible.

The COA Board meets in the Friendship Room in the lower level of the Town Building on the second Thursday of the month at 9 a.m., with the exception of July and August. All meetings are open to the public. Observers and prospective new members are invited to any and all of the COA meetings. The members of the Board are made up entirely of volunteer workers. All members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Each year the senior population continues to grow in Stow. In 2000, Stow had 752 seniors, and in 2008 Stow had approximately 1,300 seniors. Due to this dramatic increase, our existing space in the basement of the Town Building is inadequate to provide for the needs of our seniors. Due to this inadequate space, our offerings are limited in the number and type of events that we can schedule and provide. We are constantly using offsite locations such as the three churches in town to accommodate the needs of our seniors. The COA Board has established a subcommittee to investigate all possibilities (land, building, expansion) for a larger space for the COA. The COA has not only experienced an increase in the number of seniors participating, but their needs have increased due to the trend to provide care in the home rather than a facility. Since the town isn't large enough to have a Social Services Department, the COA tends to be the catch-all for assisting people of all ages, abilities and income levels. Services that the Council on Aging provides are listed in detail below. They include, but are not limited, to: Information/Referrals & Outreach Services at our Drop-In Center, Transportation, Nutritional Programs, Health & Educational Classes, Arts & Craft Classes, Exercise Programs, Day Trips, Newsletter, Food Stamp Applications, Fuel Assistance, AARP Tax Preparation, Social Events and much more.

The Drop-In Center is located in the Friendship Room in the lower level of the Town Building. It is open five days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Many social, cultural, health and

educational events are held in the Friendship Room throughout the year. It is also available as a warming/cooling center for people to come in, sit, read the newspaper, drink coffee, and chat. It is a great place to obtain informational materials, referrals and resources.

Advocacy, Outreach and Referrals are provided to assist those elders of Stow who may be homebound, frail or lonely, and not receiving services from outside agencies. Sharon Funkhouser, our Outreach Coordinator/Volunteer Coordinator, and her team of volunteers will visit, shop or assist in any way to inform and refer our elders to services that are available to them through the COA and outside services such as Minuteman Senior Services and other local agencies. Suzanne Howley, our Outreach Worker, does the weekly crafts class, does home visits, plans most of the day trips, assists with the newsletter, and is the primary intake worker for both fuel assistance and food stamps.

Transportation is provided to all seniors, disabled and/or handicapped persons of Stow. This vital service continues to grow each year, and remains the number one service provided to seniors by the COA. Our three vans provide transportation for food shopping, errands, doctor and hospital appointments, exercise programs, hair appointments, club meetings, wellness clinics, congregate meals, Town Meeting and Town Elections, Drop-In Center activities, special events and meetings. The vans operate regularly Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The vans not only provide transportation service throughout the town of Stow, but to many surrounding towns as well, such as: Acton, Concord, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, Lincoln, Lancaster, and Sudbury. The COA was awarded a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation Mobility Assistance Program and received a brand new 8-passenger Ford van in July. The grant paid 80% of the cost of the van. Prior to receiving the new van, the Montachusett Regional Transportation Authority had been loaning us a medium-size van. The Town of Stow is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority and is able to borrow vans whenever needed. The COA also arranges for volunteer drivers for special doctor or hospital appointments that are outside the area covered by our van.

Nutritional Programs Offered:

- **Congregate Meals** are served in the Fellowship Hall at the First Parish Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The average number of people attending the meal site is approximately 25. A \$2.00 donation is requested. The meal site not only provides nutritional meals but also provides social interaction. The COA Van Service transports many of the people who attend the meal site. We thank First Parish Church for their generosity in letting us use their hall for the town meal site.
- **Meals On Wheels** is an important part of the Nutritional program. Meals are provided to people who are homebound and unable to prepare meals for themselves due to recovering from a recent hospital stay, an illness, or frailty. Volunteers contribute many hours working at the Meal Site or delivering Meals On Wheels. Without their help many Stow seniors would not enjoy the quality of life good nutrition brings. Approximately 16 seniors benefited from this service this past year.
- **Monthly Breakfast:** the third Friday of the month, the COA provides a substantial breakfast to all who wish to attend. Approximately 40 people attend this popular event each month.

Classes: Weekly Art, Craft, Sewing and Quilting Classes are offered at the COA Friendship Room and are funded by private donors, the participants and the Stow Friends of the COA. A variety of other Health and Educational classes are provided throughout the year.

Exercise Programs offered include: Aerobic, Arthritis & Yoga Classes, and a Walking Group. This wellness activity is primarily funded by the Stow Friends of the COA, and donations from participants. We thank both St. Isidore's Church and the Union Church for their generosity in letting us use their halls for these classes.

Health Clinics are held monthly throughout the year. Approximately 18 participants attend the Podiatry Clinic each month. The Blood Pressure Clinic sponsored by the Board of Health is held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Union Church from 10am to Noon.

Day Trips – Cultural and Social Outings are offered throughout the year. These trips and events are beneficial to the social and emotional well being of our seniors. Activities are planned with the hope that they will meet the varied interests of the people of Stow.

Medical Equipment is loaned to any Stow citizens in need, free of charge, including: wheelchairs, tub bench/chairs, commodes, walkers, canes, and other miscellaneous items. COA has loaned out numerous types of equipment this past year.

Newsletter: A 12-page newsletter is mailed to over 900 senior households in Stow each month. The effort of several dedicated seniors enables us to get this publication mailed out. We thank all the newsletter volunteers for their hard work. This is our most important vehicle in getting information to the Stow senior population. The Patrons who advertise, the Stow Friends of the COA, and a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs make the printing and mailing of the newsletter possible.

R.U.O.K. Program: The COA and the Stow Police partner with this telephone reassurance program. A well-being check is made by the Stow Police by telephoning the senior at the same time each day.

S.H.I.N.E. Health Benefits Counseling: Serving Health Information Needs of the Elderly is a volunteer program sponsored by Minuteman Senior Services. Twice a month, a trained counselor provides seniors with free, confidential counseling and accurate, unbiased information regarding health insurance and prescription drug options. There is no fee for this service. Over 40 seniors benefited from this program this past year with a cost value of \$1,631.

S.M.O.C.: Fuel assistance applications are accepted by all office staff members of the COA from November through April. Assistance is available to low-income eligible persons of Stow. All information is kept in strictest confidentiality. This past year, due to the high cost of fuel, there has been an increase in the number of applications that we have assisted with for both seniors and non-seniors.

Tax Preparation Assistance is a free service sponsored by A.A.R.P. An A.A.R.P. volunteer will schedule appointments with seniors of Stow from February through April for tax preparation and to apply for "Circuit Breaker". Many seniors have taken advantage of this free service this past year.

State Representative meetings: In 2008, our state representative Patricia Walrath took time from her busy schedule to meet with our seniors to discuss issues of concern to elders and to inform them of legislation that might affect them. These meetings took place on the second Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. at the First Parish Church during the meal site. All seniors were welcome to attend.

Senior Tax Work-Off Program is a program offered by the Town of Stow for seniors 60+ who have lived in the town of Stow for at least six months, are a home owner, and meet the income requirements. An eligible senior may work 93.75 hours at minimum wage (\$8.00) to earn \$750 worth of rebate on their real estate taxes. Positions are filled within participating town departments. This is a double benefit to both the client and the town. We had 20 applicants who participated this past year.

Senior Computers is a program that allows us to offer seniors used and upgraded computers. With the help of Ronald Hill of Stow, we are able to give computers to seniors for use in their own homes. Ron takes used donated computers, updates them, delivers and sets them up. He also will provide user training.

Special Events: This past year, the COA recognized, celebrated or participated in a variety of events which included but were not limited to: Happy “Noon” Year party, Chinese New Year, Valentine’s Tea, St. Patrick’s Day party, Red Sox Opening Day, Springfest Pancake Breakfast, Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Lions Club Flea Market, Summertime Picnic, Halloween Party, Fall Craft Fair, Veteran’s Appreciation Breakfast and our annual Holiday Luncheon.

Town Cane Ceremony: This past August, Stow’s Boston Post Cane was awarded to Stow’s oldest citizen: Donald F. Brown, born in 1908, at the COA annual senior picnic from the Board of Selectmen.

Volunteer Program: Approximately 80 volunteers assist the COA. Volunteers are assigned to a variety of duties within the department such as: receptionist, data entry, bookkeeping, general office work, bakers, friendly visitors, transportation, and a variety of tasks too numerous to list here. The COA relies heavily on the volunteers, who put in many hours of dedicated service to improve the quality of life for the seniors of Stow. The COA can’t thank our volunteers enough for all that they do. Without their help the Council on Aging could not function. If you are interested in becoming a valued volunteer, call the COA office at (978) 897-1880. Volunteers are needed during the weekday, even if it is just for one hour.

Stow Friends of the Council on Aging Board is composed of volunteer members of the community at large, citizens of Stow, and the Council on Aging Director (non voting member.) The Board meets the first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Friendship Room at Town Building. All interested citizens are welcome to attend. The goal of the Stow Friends of the COA is to raise funds to supplement the programs and activities of the Council on Aging. In addition, they raise funds for the Van Operating Fund and special projects of the COA. We thank the Friends of the COA for all their hard work this past year and the support they offer the Stow COA all year long. Without the Stow Friends of the COA we would not be able to exist. They provide financial support that is needed to sustain a thriving Council on Aging for the Town of Stow. Stow is very fortunate to have such a caring, dedicated and devoted Friends group.

Minuteman Senior Services provided \$131,822 worth of services to 182 seniors in Stow this past year in return for our contribution of \$962. Minuteman Senior Services is funded by state and federal grants. We wish to thank them for all their services and assistance to our seniors.

Thank you to all the individuals who assisted the COA this past year; it was greatly appreciated. We also wish to extend our gratitude to the Stow Highway Department for keeping our vans serviced and safe for the roads and their continuous assistance whenever needed. Last, but not least, we wish to thank the seniors who give so much of their time and talents to help make the COA a place where seniors can explore personal growth, new opportunities, friendship and

camaraderie, and contribute to the community as a volunteer. So many of our seniors may be “retired” but are still very productive and “working” individuals. The seniors help themselves and others day in and day out. We are grateful for all they do, and admire their spirit of enthusiasm and empowerment.

Respectfully submitted,

James Sauta, Chairman
Newton Wesley, Vice Chairman
Eleanor Beaudette, Secretary
Paul Chaisson
Newell Dearborn
Kate Hogan
Alice Olsen
Beth Tobey
Ruth Delmonico, Associate

Kristen Donovan, Associate
Josephine Langley, Associate

Alyson Toole, Director
Sharon Funkhouser, Outreach Coordinator
Suzanne Howley, Outreach Worker
Alice Olsen, Member Coordinator
Brian Burke, Associate
Nancy Chiasson, Associate

RANDALL LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Circulation remained strong in 2008. The library circulated 110,956 items during the year. Due to our popular children’s programming, wide range of DVDs, and the breadth of the Minuteman Library Network, the library is a very busy place.

A total of 505 children enrolled in the Summer Reading and Listening Clubs, of whom 457 (over 90%) were Stow residents. Sponsored by the Stow Community Chest, The Randall Library Friends’ Association, and the Stow Cultural Council, the summer started off with our annual “moonwalk on the common” on the last day of school. The fun continued with the annual Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Friends, a magic show, puppet show, dinosaur program, and a special Dads’ Night at the Library with a jungle encounters program.

During 2008, the library was used by many community groups including: Stow Soccer, Stow Democratic Committee, the Central Massachusetts chapter of the Editorial Freelancers’ Association, Juniper Hill Water Company, Stow Republicans, Organization for the Assabet, Knitting Club, Stow Boy Scouts, First Connections, Stow Community Chest, Stow Girl Scouts, Stow Recreation, Frankie DeMeo Scholarship Fund, Stow Area Parents’ Network, Lake Boon Association, Sierra Club, Stow Garden Club, Lacrosse parents, and a Town Clerk training workshop.

The Trustees wish to thank the following groups without whose support we would not be able to achieve this level of service: Hale High School Trustees, Second Century Fund, Randall Library Friends’ Association, Merwin Memorial trustees, Stow Community Chest, and the Stow Cultural Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Masters, Chairman
Robert Aldape, Treasurer
Alison Campbell, Secretary
Harry Donahue
Carolyn Howe

Pierie O’Connor
Timothy Reed

Susan Wysk, Library Director
Denise Flynn, Children’s Librarian

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. The Stow Housing Authority manages and administers low-rent housing programs, which are 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. A Board of five commissioners governs the Stow Housing Authority, with four members locally elected and the fifth member appointed by the Commonwealth. The Board of Commissioners meets as necessary at the Town Building. The Stow Housing Authority has contracted with the Hudson Housing Authority to administer the rental assistance programs.

The mission of the Stow Housing Authority is to provide decent and safe housing to needy persons. Currently, the Stow Housing Authority administers three (3) state vouchers, which are assigned to the Pilot Grove Development.

The Hudson Housing Authority staff conducts the day-to-day program administration.

The Stow Housing Authority has been named the monitoring agent for the affordable housing units built at the Villages at Stow as well as the LIP (local initiative program) located at Elm Ridge.

Respectfully submitted,

John Toole, Chairman
Robert Larkin
W. Robert Dilling, Jr.

Jack Kendra
Robert Barrell, Administrator

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee, which reports to the Board of Selectmen, is composed of three members, each serving a 3-year term. The committee is responsible for the management, maintenance and upkeep of the town's cemeteries.

The three cemeteries in Stow (Hillside Cemetery on Crescent Street, The Lower Village Cemetery at Great Road and Pompositticut Street, and Brookside Cemetery on Gleasondale Road and Box Mill Road) are maintained by the Superintendent and seasonal part-time employees.

Improvements this past year included the installation of a new well and underground power line in the Brookside extension. This will eventually be mated with the old existing water system and will give all of Brookside water for planned planting of trees, shrubs and gardens. Also this year the purchase of a compact tractor was added to the equipment the Superintendent has to help him in the maintenance of the cemeteries.

The Committee also wants to recognize the outstanding work of Superintendent Robb Gledhill. We are very fortunate to have a person such as “GH” who, most of the time, maintains all three cemeteries by himself.

The Committee wants to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, all the townspeople, and especially the Highway Department for all their support this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Dodge, Chairman
Roy Dudley

William E. Clayton, Associate
G.H. Gledhill, Cemetery Superintendent

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Stow Cultural Council completed a successful year, receiving a total of \$9,800 in grants from the following sources: \$4,300 from the State Legislature through the Massachusetts Cultural Council; \$4,000 from the Fieldstone Foundation; and \$1,500 from Town Meeting.

The council voted to grant funds to the following projects for 2008:

- Stow West School Open Houses: \$270 (Karen Gray, Stow Historical Commission)
- Lake Boon Water Carnival Music Boat: \$350 (David Gray, Lake Boon Improvement Assoc.)
- Summer Reading Program: \$1,000 (Denise Flynn, Randall Library)
- Children’s Garden Interactive Sing-Alongs: \$400 (Ed Morgan, “The Music Man”)
- Sounds of Stow 30th Anniversary Season: \$1,100 (Rick Gentilman, Sounds of Stow)
- Hale Middle School Play (artistic director): \$800 (Nancy Dodge, Hale Middle School Play)
- NRHS Play (artistic director): \$600 (Diane Sestito, Nashoba Regional High School Friends of Drama)
- Symphony Pro Musica Season: \$175 (Thomas Kazior, Symphony Pro Musica)
- 74th Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft: \$100 (Peter Timms, Fitchburg Art Museum)
- Pied Potter Hamelin’s Magical Potter’s Wheel: \$300 (Karen Gray, Stow Historical Commission)
- Hudson Area Arts Alliance Community Participation Activities and Events: \$300 (Jan Patterson, Hudson Area Arts Alliance)
- Three Apples Storytelling Festival: \$125 (Nicolette Nordin Heavey, Three Apples Storytelling Festival)
- Acton Community Chorus Concerts: \$300 (Patricia Lawson, Acton Community Chorus)

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, 2009 for the next granting cycle. For more information see the Cultural Council page on the town website, www.stow-ma.gov.

Membership currently stands at six, which meets the Mass Cultural Council’s minimum requirement of five. Members are Anne Draudt (secretary and co-chair), Catherine Hammill (treasurer), Donnalisa Johnson (public relations), Nancy Maldari, Dorothy Sonnichsen and Betsy

Stepp (co-chair). Ann Deluty, Bob Glorioso and Lynne Juster are Associate Members. New members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve a three-year term. Members can be reappointed for an additional term with a total term limit of six years. As several members' terms are due to expire in the near future, the Cultural Council actively seeks residents who are interested in joining as Associate Members, with the intent of transitioning to full Member status in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Stepp, Chairman
Anne Draudt
Robert Glorioso
Catherine Hammill

Donnalisa Johnson
Dorothy Sonnichsen
Lynne Juster, Associate
Isabel Prokopovich, Administrative Asst

VETERAN'S SERVICES

Every city and town in the Commonwealth is required by G.L. c. 115 to appoint a Veterans' Services Officer ("VSO") whose duties include locating veterans, advising them of their rights and benefits, and helping them apply for and receive state and federal benefits. See G.L. c. 115, §§ 3, 10; 108 CMR 12.01 *et seq.* All cities and towns with populations over 12,000 must employ a full-time VSO as an advocate for the veterans of that municipality. Towns with populations under 12,000 may employ a VSO on a part-time basis.

Regardless of full or part time status, the VSO is the primary contact for veterans and their families with questions about benefits. Until a change in state regulations in 2005 this position was known as "Veterans' Agent."

The Town of Stow, as well as the federal and state governments, honors the dedicated and selfless service performed by members of all branches of our armed forces, up to and including the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. There are various benefits available to military veterans residing in Stow. These services and/or benefits are separate and distinct from those administered by the federal Veterans' Administration. In the case of direct financial assistance, benefits are determined based on need in accordance with state guidelines. Once paid by the town "up front," Stow receives a 75% reimbursement from the Commonwealth. Other programs are available without regard to any "means" test of the applicant and which do not require the expenditure of municipal funds.

Services provided in recent years have been varied. Financial aid was provided (anonymously) in accordance with state regulations governing income eligibility requirements and level of support. Assistance has been provided in applying to a federal program that provides grave markers for deceased Stow resident veterans. The VSO also serves as a liaison to other federal veterans' programs.

During 2008, the VSO has worked cooperatively with full-time counterparts from both Hudson and Marlboro on issues with which they deal frequently due to their much larger "client" base. This constitutes a good informal regionalization of resources to facilitate service delivery to Stow's veterans. Our Council on Aging also deserves praise for sponsoring an outreach presentation of benefits (state and federal) conducted by Tom Tullie of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services.

Since the VSO is a part-time position in Stow town government, regular office hours are not scheduled in the Town Building. However, I am available on request to discuss individual situations and to determine eligibility for various local services. Stow veterans (or their surviving spouses) may contact me directly at (978) 562-6630, by email at Donhawkes@Comcast.net, or through the Town Clerk's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald P. Hawkes, Veterans' Services Officer

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Community Preservation Act (CPA), MGL c.44B, was enacted into legislation on September 14, 2000. The goal of the Community Preservation Act is to provide communities with the means to expand their ability to pursue and implement projects that preserve or enhance their quality of life. Under this legislation, municipalities may opt to participate by adopting a property tax surcharge to create a locally-controlled Community Preservation Fund. The state provides a match, up to a maximum of 100 percent, depending on what percentage surcharge is adopted and the number of communities participating statewide. The Community Preservation Fund can be used to fund projects related to the acquisition and preservation of open space, the creation and support of affordable housing, and the acquisition and preservation of historic buildings, landscapes and documents.

Stow voters accepted the provisions of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) at the Town Meeting in May of 2001. At the subsequent Annual Town Election, Stow voters opted to enact a property tax surcharge of 3 percent to create the Stow Community Preservation Fund. Stow voters also opted to adopt all of the possible exemptions to the surcharge, including: those properties occupied by low-income property owners and those properties occupied by low- or moderate-income senior property owners, if such property owners show proof of income eligibility. The other exemption is on the first \$100,000 of assessed real property, which is taken automatically and reflected in the amount assessed to each property owner. As a result, Stow is participating in a manner that maximizes the state matching funds with the least possible financial impact to the community.

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 was the seventh year of collections and state matching grants. In October 2008 Stow was awarded \$369,084 – an 89 percent match – greatly increasing our community's ability to take action in the three specified areas. State matching funds have been awarded each year in which Stow has participated (over \$2.2 million in state matching funds awarded to date). Community Preservation funds are deposited in a locally controlled, interest-bearing account. Additionally, Stow has earned over \$400,000 in interest on CPA funds since adoption in 2001.

Pursuant to the adoption of the CPA in May 2001, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) was formed to develop a Community Preservation Plan and to oversee implementation of the CPA in Stow. The CPC's role is to study the existing resources of the town, identify critical needs, evaluate various options for addressing those needs, and recommend specific projects for Town Meeting consideration. All projects recommended by the CPC also must be approved by a majority vote at Town Meeting before expenditures can be made from Stow's Community Preservation Fund.

Highlights of 2008

In May of 2008, Town Meeting voters approved Community Preservation warrant articles for appropriating funds for administrative purposes (\$37,500) and for making the annual reserves required under the Community Preservation Act: Acquisition and Preservation of Historic Buildings and Landscapes (\$75,000), Acquisition and Preservation of Open Space and Recreation Land (\$75,000), and Acquisition and Support of Affordable Housing (\$75,000).

At the same Annual Town Meeting in May of 2008, Town Meeting attendees voted to appropriate \$19,500 of CPA funds for the rehabilitation of historic stone walls at the Lower Village cemetery. Stone walls contribute to the historic character of Stow and are often destroyed by time, vandalism, and motor vehicle accidents. This project was recommended by the CPC, for consideration by Town Meeting voters, because of the general historical significance of the Lower Village Cemetery and for the role that it plays as a gateway to our community from neighboring Maynard. The Cemetery Commission, in consultation with the Historical Commission, completed the first two rehabilitation projects and is currently reviewing future plans. The project came in under budget – the final cost totaling \$14,199 (the remaining balance was returned to the Historic Fund Reserve balance.)

Also at the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2008, Town Meeting attendees voted to appropriate \$227,000 of CPA funds for an easement of approximately 9,900 feet in length along a former railroad roadbed. The easement allows the possible future construction of a portion of the Assabet River Rail Trail and allows public access to the existing trail. The CPC enthusiastically endorsed this proposal due to the Rail Trail context, and a generous pledge of \$50,000 from the Stow Conservation Trust to reduce the town's commitment.

In addition to the warrant articles presented to residents at Town Meetings this past year, the CPC continues to work with the Recreation and Agricultural Commissions on the Community Recreation Facility and agricultural land formally known as the Snow Property. The project is well underway, and construction of the recreation facilities is expected to be completed in summer 2009, with the playing fields expected to be open for full use in fall 2010. The agricultural portion is already under lease to a local farmer.

Under the direction of the Conservation Commission, previously appropriated CPA funds were used to help secure an agricultural preservation restriction on 8.16 acres of the Tyler Family farmland, the location of the Applefield Farm farmstand.

The CPC looks forward to working with others to implement additional Community Preservation projects selected by Town Meeting voters. In addition, the Committee looks forward to evaluating proposals currently in the developmental phase including a Historic Documents Preservation project, a fire suppression system to preserve the historic Town Hall, and several potential affordable housing projects. The prospect of receiving significant state matching funds appears promising for 2009. Stow voters are to be commended for deciding seven years ago to be

one of first of the 139 communities in Massachusetts (representing more than one third of the Commonwealth) that are accruing the many and varied benefits of local adoption of the Community Preservation Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Wilber, Open Space, Chairman
David Walrath, Finance, Vice Chairman
Laura Spear, Planning Board
Mike Busch, Recreation Commission
JT Toole, Housing Authority
John Bolton, Assessors Office

Kathy Sferra, Conservation Commission
Karen Gray, Historical Commission
Kate Hogan, Council on Aging
Jim Sauta, Council on Aging, Associate
Bill Maxfield, Open Space, Associate
Bruce Fletcher, Planning Board, Associate
Pat Perry, Conservation, Associate

Bruce Fletcher, Planning Board, Associate
Margie Lynch, Housing Partnership, Assoc

Deb Seith, Administrative Assistant

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROJECT REPORT

	Orig Project Cost	Proj on Hold	Rescinded Projects Money Not Used	Final Proj Cost	TL Amt Appropri.
Totals for Open Space/Recreation	\$ 3,241,500.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 847,500.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 2,394,000.00
Spring Hill on Walcott - Open Space	\$ 500,000.00		\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	
Spring Hill on Walcott - Recreation	\$ 347,500.00		\$ 347,500.00	\$ -	
Red Acre Road- Conservation Land	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00			
Conservation Comm Acquisition of Open Space	\$ 50,000.00				
Acq Open Space Tyler APR \$21,500					
Hale Woodlands	\$ 35,000.00			\$ 35,000.00	
Transfer Parcels to Conservation Commission	\$ 21,000.00				
Lake Boon Preservation Project	\$ 77,000.00				
Albright Easement	\$ 227,000.00				
Maple Street	\$ 11,000.00				
Snow Property Land	\$ 673,000.00				
Snow Property Recreation	\$ 1,000,000.00				
Totals for Historical	\$ 30,919.00	\$ -	\$ 5,556.64	\$ 24,862.36	\$ 25,362.36
Exp-West School Parking/Access	\$ 20,000.00				
Blacksmith School	\$ 929.00		\$ 184.00	\$ 745.00	
Stone Wall Repairs	\$ 9,990.00		\$ 71.72	\$ 9,918.28	
Stone Wall Repairs Project #2	\$ 19,500.00		\$ 5,300.92	\$ 14,199.08	
Totals for Affordable Housing	\$ 952,500.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 252,500.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 700,000.00
Exp - Spring Hill on Walcott	\$ 252,500.00		\$ 252,500.00		
Exp-Red Acre Road Perp Deed Restriction	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00			
Pilot Grove	\$ 350,000.00			\$ 350,000.00	
Exp-Purchase Perp Deed Restriction	\$ 250,000.00				
Beginning		Appropriation	Deposited	Spent/	Current
Balance		Town Meeting		Set Aside	Balance
UNRESERVED FUND	\$ 1,455,121.00	\$ 2,008,400.00	\$ 955,900.00		\$ 402,621.00
ADMINISTRATIVE BALANCE	\$ 37,500.00			\$ 20,054.00	\$ 17,446.00

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Agricultural Commission is the representative of agriculture in Stow and advises other boards and commissions on matters affecting agriculture. The Commission tries to keep residents informed about the farms in Stow and how important it is to keep them in place.

The Commission prepared publicity and educational materials and participated in the 2008 Springfest with the Touch A Truck and Tractor display, attracting kids of all ages. An Agricultural Preservation Fund was proposed and passed at the May Town Meeting. A website was set up at StowAgCom.org, which lists Stow's farms and includes links to those Stow farms that have a website of their own.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Sipler, Chairman
Liz Painter, Clerk
Julie Martin Sullivan

Kathy Steege
Jean Lynch, Associate

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

In 2008, the Open Space Committee completed the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. It has been approved by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, ensuring that the town is eligible for state funding for open space and recreation projects. Titled "Stow: Forever Green, Preserving the Stow We Know", this document catalogues Stow's natural resources, community setting, and existing open space. It analyzes the town's future open space and recreation needs and lays out a 5-year Action Plan for meeting these needs. The town must update its Open Space and Recreation Plan every five years in order to qualify for the Commonwealth's Self Help and Urban Self Help Grant programs. The Committee will work with relevant town boards, staff and nonprofit organizations in the coming years to implement the Plan.

The Committee is grateful to the Stow Conservation Commission and to their administrator, Pat Perry, for funding and coordinating the distribution of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Copies of the plan are available at the Randall Library and should be available on the town website in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Vin Antil
Eve Donahue
Jean Lynch
Bill Maxfield

Chris Rodstrom
Kathy Sferra, Chair
Bob Wilber

LOCAL ACCESS CHANNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board of Selectmen established and appointed the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Advisory Committee in November 2002 for the purpose of establishing a local cable TV access

channel for the Town of Stow to provide programming in areas of public affairs, education and town government. As part of the governance agreement established by the Board of Selectmen on August 9, 2005, the name of the committee was changed to the Local Access Channel Advisory Committee (LACAC). The cable station is referred to as “Stow TV” and is available on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channels 32 and 33.

Funding for operations has been provided through a license agreement, originally with AT&T and now with Comcast. Additionally, the Cable Advisory Committee negotiated a license with Verizon, which was signed on June 24. The license provides for Verizon to share in the funding for operation of the station. In December, Verizon began cablecasting Stow TV.

Coordinator Anne VanTine managed overall operations of the station. Assistant Coordinators implemented program schedules and bulletin board notices. Valerie Pederson, as the first Assistant, helped establish many procedures. Michael Sangermano filled in for July. Mary O’Loughlin has been doing an excellent job as Assistant Coordinator since last summer. Lew Halprin been very helpful as Technical Assistant throughout the year.

In the spring of 2008, Stow TV moved from a tiny windowless room into a more spacious and lighter room on the third floor of Town Building. This required separating the TV station wiring from network equipment. Thanks to careful planning and rewiring by Lew Halprin and Bob Mong, both Stow TV and the Town Building network remained operational. The new room is a much more pleasant and efficient place to work.

Stow TV purchased and installed a video server system in 2008. The primary storage and playback source for shows is now the video files on the server, with DVDs as backup. In conjunction, a complete reconfiguration of the cablecast equipment added features and improved usability and convenience. Consultant Michael Ridinger was engaged to assist with planning and to perform the installation. Volunteer Bob Mong provided essential assistance with the network and computer aspects of the installation and Linda Stokes helped plan the reconfiguration.

Stow TV coordinated with multiple organizations and citizens about local events. Stow TV works with organizations to secure permission ahead of time for volunteers to record local events. Many dozens of organizations approach Stow TV each year to put announcements on the “bulletin board.” Stow TV also coordinates to ensure that volunteers have the needed resources for producing new video. Program schedules are publicized on the town web site, local newspapers and a variety of other locations.

Stow TV cablecast all the Board of Selectmen meetings, the Annual Town Meeting, and two “Candidates’ Night Debates” this year. Other televised information sessions included the Finance Committee, town planning, the Land Use Committee, the Rail Trail Committee, and hearings on “Dogs at Delaney,” and “Lake Boon Drawdown.”

New locally-produced programs of local events included “Sounds of Stow”, First Parish concerts, health and safety presentations, school concerts and events, Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies, “Springfest” festivities, the Lake Boon water carnival, Randall Library programs for children, local plays by children, open house at Stow West School, school and kindergarten graduations, Fire Department events, Council on Aging speakers, nature and environmental issues, fairs and charity events.

Local event announcements were continuously shown on the Stow TV bulletin board and updated regularly based on requests from community organizations. Many “photo shows” were also

featured with images contributed by Jonathan Daisy, Paul Trunfio, Greg Troxel, Lew Halprin, Ann DeCristofaro, Dick Luxner, Valerie Pederson, Dwight Sipler, and others.

Stow TV volunteers produced, recorded, and edited the many shows seen on Stow TV. Video volunteers included Lew Halprin, Linda Stokes, Mike Jordan, Kathleen and Colin King, Marika Barnett, and Valerie Pederson. Linda Stokes recorded the Selectmen meetings. Bob Mong kept the computers running and configured two new computers. Robert Evans assisted with computer issues. Gerry Horne managed Town Meeting sound. Scott Glorioso assisted with some concert recordings and provided technical advice. Technical Assistant Lew Halprin made improvements to recording setups and contributed innovative suggestions for technical planning. Lew and the volunteers specified video equipment needs with LACAC member Bob Glorioso advising, leading to acquisitions that made recording easier, more reliable, and better quality.

LACAC members contributed time and advice for spending and policy decisions. Member James Parr left the committee this year, and was replaced by Chris Funkhouser.

Stow TV is intended to operate with volunteers and provide video access to town residents. If you are interested in volunteering or contributing video or photos, please contact the Coordinator at **978-897-7732 or by email stowtv@stow-ma.gov**.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Dungan
Chris Funkhouser
Robert Glorioso

Len Golder
Lisa Lavina
Anne VanTine, Stow TV Coordinator

CABLE LICENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Cable License Advisory Committee 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, and to assure that the terms of the license are being followed.

Stow's first cable license was awarded to Adams Russell way back in 1986 and was renewed in 2002 for ten years. During that span of time, the company providing service under this license changed its name to Cablevision, then to AT&T, and then to Comcast, as it is known today.

Around August 2006, Verizon requested a license to provide cable television to the residents of Stow. Since the Comcast license is not exclusive, the Cable Committee started the process of providing a cable television license for Verizon that would allow Verizon to provide video cable services to Stow in addition to Comcast. For reasons not disclosed, Verizon decided to withdraw their request, but in October 2007, Verizon submitted their request again, this time participating in negotiations for the terms of the license, which culminated with the Selectmen signing a 15-year cable license with Verizon on June 24, 2008.

The license allows Verizon 12 months to provide cable television service (which is part of their FIOS service) to those customers serviced by overhead utility wires, and allows up to 48 months to provide service to those customers serviced by underground utility wires. The license also allows Verizon to omit service to some very low-density housing areas in Stow. Although not pleased with these allowances, the Cable Committee felt that Verizon will do much better than

these numbers suggest, and that Stow residents who are not serviced have the option of using Comcast video service, satellite video service, or free digital TV using an antenna.

The license also provides for a percentage of Verizon's income from Stow subscribers to be returned to the Town in order to support two Stow-TV channels. The primary Stow-TV channel is channel 32 on the Verizon system, or channel 9 on the Comcast system, and the secondary Stow-TV channel is channel 33 on the Verizon system. Discussions are currently underway to replace channel 10 on the Comcast system (currently showing Bolton programming) with the Stow-TV secondary channel.

Now that the Verizon television cable license is in place, the Cable Committee is monitoring Verizon's building of their system to make sure all the terms of the license are being met. Verizon Internet and Verizon digital telephone services, even though using the same cable as the video service, are considered data services, not video services and are regulated by the State, not Stow.

Comcast has responded to Verizon's entry into the cable television area by offering digital Internet and telephone services as well over their cable system, which has also been upgraded to mostly fiber optic service, but again, their Internet and digital telephone services are considered data services and do not need a Stow license. However, the Comcast video cable service license will need to be renewed in 2012, only three years from now. The Cable Committee already is starting to review that license to determine what changes should be requested when the negotiations for that renewal start in the near future.

The Cable Committee has no jurisdiction over the cost of cable services, nor the content of the programs offered on this service. Complaints in other areas should be directed first to Comcast or Verizon customer service. If service problems are not resolved by your service provider, then contact the Cable Committee, which might be able to contact other departments at your provider for problem resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Halprin, Chairman
Arny Buckman

Robert Mong
George Scraggs

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Introduction to the Finance Committee

Every town in Massachusetts with a property valuation of over \$1 million is required by state law, MGL Ch. 19, Sect. 16, to have a Finance Committee that shall "consider any or all municipal questions for the purpose of making reports or recommendations to the Town." The Finance Committee's primary responsibility is advisory. It examines the budget and all other warrant articles and makes recommendations to the voters on each article. It also administers the reserve fund to provide for urgent or unforeseen expenditures that might arise between Town Meetings. Finally, the Finance Committee Annual Report should give the people of the town a clear picture of the town's financial condition.

In Stow, the Moderator appoints five voting and up to five associate members to the Finance Committee. Any voter registered in Stow is eligible to join. As of 10 February 2009 there were five voting members and two associate members on the committee.

Overview of Town Finances and the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget

The Town balanced the budget for the fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) without an override. In fact, no overrides were required for the past three years. We are, however, concerned about long-term trends that will require overrides in the future. Specifically, Stow’s largest expense, the Nashoba Regional School, increased by 5.0%, while our largest source of income, the property tax, grew by 4.1%. State aid was flat for FY09 and no one expects it to turn up soon.

Indeed, the constraints on our finances are unchanged from prior years: an undiversified tax base forcing the town to rely heavily on residential taxation, large amounts of land exempted or abated from taxes, and relatively low amounts of state aid. Future years may not enjoy the same freedom from overrides if revenue and spending patterns continue. Most importantly, the budget has not yet been impacted by large capital projects looming on the horizon, such as the proposed Center School expansion. In fact, even if the budget continues to grow at only its current rate, it is unlikely that revenues will keep pace with expenditures given the apparent slowdowns in new growth and state aid. With increased costs, particularly the cost of capital projects, Stow is likely to require an override to balance the budget in many of the years to come.

Town Meetings

In 2008, Stow held only one Town Meeting, the Annual Town Meeting in May. The Annual Town Meeting approved the annual budget and various capital items, including \$200,000 to replace a fire truck and several repairs to the Center School, Hale School and the Town Building.

Town Expenditures: School Budgets

The Nashoba Regional School District is Stow’s largest expense. The total NRSB expense can be divided into our assessment, \$12,607,229, and our portion of NRSB debt, \$383,456, for a total of \$12,970,229, or 61% of total town spending in FY09 (\$12,970,229/ \$22,474,858). In FY09 the NRSB School Committee requested, and all three member towns approved, a net total budget of \$41,497,077, which is a 13% increase over the net total budget of \$36,719,707 for FY08.

For Minuteman Regional High School, the Town’s assessment for FY08 was \$963,952, an increase of 0.1% over the prior fiscal year’s assessment of \$954,573. This small increase is due to Stow’s decreasing student population at Minuteman.

Table 1: Stow’s School Assessment Budgets					
	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	% Change FY08-FY09
Nashoba (incl. debt)	\$10,848,015	\$11,522,329	\$12,097,908	12,970,229	7.2%
Minuteman	\$987,068	\$971,371	\$954,573	\$963,952	0.1%
TOTAL	\$11,835,083	\$12,493,700	\$13,052,481	\$13,934,181	6.8%

Town Expenditures: Municipal

Total Stow expenditures increased 6.2% in FY09 compared to the prior year. These expenditures can be divided into two large groups: Municipal Government, which increased by 9.6% and

Education, which increased 4.7%. Table 2 shows a comparison of total Stow expenditures for FY08 and FY09.

The Municipal Government was basically flat. With respect to its two largest line items, Public Safety grew by 6.9% (1,959,466/1,833,309) while Debt Service actually fell by 7.8% (1,323,188/1,434,806) due to maturing debt. Debt Service remains an increasingly significant component of town expenses and would trend downward in the next few years if no new borrowing were added.

Table 2: Town Expenditures						
	FY08 Voted	FY08 % of Total	FY09 Voted	FY09 % of Total	\$ Change FY08-FY09	% Change FY08- FY09
Municipal Govt						
General	813,184	3.9%	908,660	4.4%	95,476	11.7%
Public Safety	1,833,309	8.8%	1,959,466	9.4%	126,157	6.9%
Public Works	815,548	3.9%	954,534	4.6%	138,986	17.0%
Human Services	231,954	1.1%	249,909	1.2%	17,955	7.7%
Culture/Rec	255,700	1.2%	264,947	1.3%	9,247	3.6%
Town-Wide Expense	710,400	3.4%	771,954	3.7%	61,554	8.7%
Total Municipal Govt	4,660,095	22.4%	5,109,470	24.5%	449,375	9.6%
Education						
Nashoba	12,004,658	57.6%	12,607,229	60.5%	602,571	5.0%
Minuteman	954,573	4.6%	963,952	4.6%	9,379	1.0%
Total Education	12,959,231	62.2%	13,571,181	65.2%	611,950	4.7%
Other						
Debt Service	1,434,806	6.9%	1,323,188	6.4%	-111,618	-7.8%
Special Articles	786,632	3.8%	923,811	4.4%	137,180	17.4%
Capital Spending	382,416	1.8%	521,100	2.5%	138,684	36.3%
Recap Items	601,120	2.9%	663,108	3.2%	61,988	10.3%
Total Other	3,204,974	15.4%	3,431,207	16.5%	226,233	7.1%
Grand Total	20,824,300		22,111,858		1,287,558	6.2%

Source: Town Administrator, Budget Report, Annual Town Meeting

--- Departmental operating budgets include wages and expenses.

Town Revenues

Town Revenue increased 7.3% in FY09. Table 3 shows a comparison of revenue sources for FY08 and FY09. The largest source of town revenue, the Property Tax, increased 4.1% in FY09. State Aid was flat for FY09. Similarly, local receipts stayed virtually the same, increasing by

only 1% over the FY08 figure. Local receipts include excise tax, investment income, and fines collected by various departments.

Table 3: Revenue Sources						
	FY08	FY08 % of Total	FY09	FY09 % of Total	\$ Change FY08- FY09	% Change FY08-FY09
Property Tax	\$17,796,480	82.9%	\$18,534,852	86.4%	\$738,372	4.1%
State Aid	1,086,812	5.1%	1,089,612	5.1%	(2,800)	(0.2%)
Local Receipts	1,443,500	6.7%	1,458,500	6.8%	15,000	1.0%
Savings and Other Funds	263,895	1.2%	50,472	0.2%	31,757	13.7%
Override						
Other (CPF)	879,490	4.1%	311,990	1.5%	654,490	291%
Total	\$21,470,177		\$21,445,426		\$1,464,164	7.3%

Source: Town Administrator, Budget Report, Annual Town Meeting

Town Savings

Although Town Savings increased 106,628 or 13.9% in FY09, Town Savings is still about 4% of Stow's total budget (\$870,893/ \$22,111,858) or about the same percentage as in FY08. Town Savings are "rainy day" accounts that are built up during good times and drawn down in bad times. Town Savings is a key determinant of the town credit rating, and the credit rating will affect the rate the town would pay should it decide to borrow money for some future use. There are two major Town Savings accounts: Free Cash and Stabilization Fund. Table 4 shows the status of our Stored Assets.

Free Cash is unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year. It is certified by the state before calendar year end, 31 December. These funds are a necessity, not a luxury. Although the fund is available for appropriation, its primary purpose is to provide for unforeseen expenditures. In the past three fiscal years, the town has used Free Cash to fund certain capital articles.

The Stabilization Fund is designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes. A two-thirds vote of Town Meeting is required to appropriate funds to deposit into the Stabilization Fund. The level of the Stabilization Fund is a key determinant of the Town's bond rating, which in turn helps determine the rate the Town pays for new borrowing. The last Town Meeting voted to move \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee would recommend that Town Savings be increased from the current 4% of the budget to something in the range of 5 to 10%. This would require an increase of between \$235,000 and \$1.3 million in total savings amounts.

Table 4: Town Savings						
	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	\$ Change FY08-FY09	% Change FY08-FY09
Free Cash	\$573,586	\$472,768	\$410,218	\$434,769	\$24,551	6.0%
Stabilization Fund	223,290	334,334	354,047	\$436,124	\$82,077	23.2%
Total	\$796,876	\$807,102	\$764,265	\$870,893	\$106,628	13.9%

*Balances at start of FY09 or 1 JUL 09

Effect on Property Taxes

The average valuation of a single-family house in Stow is \$469,724. The effect of changes to the budget on your tax bill is shown in Table 5:

Table 5: Effect on Property Taxes						
	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	% Change FY08- FY09
Tax Rate (per \$1,000 of Valuation)	\$14.36	\$14.04	\$13.82	\$14.73	\$15.28	3.7%
Avg Single Family Valuation	\$423,000	\$457,435	\$483,765	\$471,013	\$469,724	(0.3)%
Avg Single Family Tax Bill	\$6,074	\$6,422	\$6,686	\$6,938	\$7,177	3.4%

Conclusion

It is our opinion that this is a fair and accurate picture of the Town's financial state. Whether you are pleased or displeased we remind you that Town Meeting directly controls the rate of growth of town expenses. We encourage your participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Kern, Chairman
 David Walrath, Vice Chairman
 Henry Hagopian
 James Salvie
 Gary Bernklow

Ann Deluty, Associate
 Chris Sarno, Associate
 Elizabeth Tobey, Administrative Assistant

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Capital Planning Committee is charged by the Town Charter to review and recommend, or not, any department request which is over \$10,000 and has a useful life of three or more years, as well as any land purchase.

For the fiscal '09 budget we reviewed the following departmental requests: Replace the Town Building Roof (\$ 48,000) sponsored by the Building Department; Kubota tractor (\$12,600) for

the Cemetery Department; One-ton dump truck (\$40,000) and a truck body/sand-salt spreader (\$25,000) for the Highway Department; Town network server and ancillaries (\$19,000) and Fire/Rescue IMC software and mobile data terminals (\$36,928) sponsored by the Information Technology Advisory Committee; Third Floor Town Building Conference Room (\$50,000) and conference room furniture (\$5,000) sponsored by the Planning Board; Cruiser for the Police Department (\$30,000). The Nashoba Regional School District requested consideration of funding for the following projects for the Town's schools: Window replacement (\$10,000), roof repairs (\$40,000) and gymnasium floor renovation (\$12,000) for Hale Middle School, and gym ceiling replacement (\$20,000) for Center Elementary School. Capital Planning recommended that the Town approve all of these requests, except the third floor expansion at the Town Building and the furniture for that space. Town Meeting subsequently approved all of the departmental capital requests, including the Town Building third floor expansion and furniture.

Special articles for the May Town Meeting that required review by Capital Planning included the renovation/replacement of Engine 11 for the Fire Department. There was much discussion with the Department as to whether refurbishment or replacement of this equipment was the more prudent course of action. The Department and Capital Planning concluded that replacement of the engine would be more cost effective for the Town in the long run. The warrant article addressing this item was approved by Town Meeting, and voters also approved the debt override for the new Engine at the subsequent Special Election.

Another special article that the Committee reviewed was the Albright easement for the Assabet Valley Rail Trail. The \$227,000 warrant article was financed by a \$50,000 pledge from the Stow Conservation Trust, federal reimbursement, and the balance from Community Preservation Funds. Town Meeting approved this article .

Authorization of \$19,500 to fund the project to complete the restoration of the stone wall around Lower Village Cemetery was approved by Town Meeting. This project was funded through the Town of Stow's Community Preservation Fund.

A motion by the Nashoba Regional School District to move no action on a proposed project to replace the running track and install a synthetic turf athletic field at Nashoba Regional High School was passed at the Town Meeting.

The Committee continues to face challenges with developing five-year capital spending plans for the Town. A few departments are able to plan this far ahead, but the majority cannot.

We bid our former Associate Jim Medeiros farewell, and thank him for his commitment and insight.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Lynch, Chair, Moderator's Appointee
Steve Jelinek, Clerk, Moderator's Appointee
Dave Arsenault, Moderator's Appointee

Ross Perry, Finance Appointee
Kathy Farrell, Selectmen's Appointee
Myie Yvanovich, Associate

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

For a certification year, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue becomes more directly involved and, before a tax rate can be approved, must certify that property assessments are uniform throughout town and are representative of the real estate market

Seniors on fixed incomes can be particularly vulnerable in the current economy. A notebook at the Assessors' window contains information on the details of the various exemptions, deferrals, and other programs designed to help with taxes. The 41C tax exemption of \$1000 is available for those over the age of 65 that qualify with limited income and assets. The disabled veteran's exemption has also increased significantly. In addition, an article was passed at Town Meeting increasing all exemptions by up to 100%. Lastly, the interest rate on Tax Deferrals has recently been reduced to 4%. Throughout calendar year 2008, residential real estate continued to weaken, with the greatest impact occurring during the second half of the year. Assessments, and thus your tax bills, are structured on a fiscal year basis, where the assessment valuation date for Fiscal 2009 is January 1, 2008. Therefore the downturn experienced during the end of 2008 will not be evident in your current assessment. Even though assessments may decrease next year, tax bills will not because, as assessments go down, the rate normally increases, presuming that the town's overall expenditures either remain the same or increase.

For Fiscal 2009 the residential sector as a whole decreased from the previous fiscal year by less than 1%, and even allowing for new growth, the decline remains a low 2.4%. The total assessed value for FY2009 is \$1,209,002,390, up just slightly from FY2008, due to an increase in Personal Property assessments. The commercial sector increased slightly, but is expected to turn downward for FY2010. Land values have also dropped modestly.

The Assessors' office has begun the extensive analysis involved for the upcoming certification year, FY2010. The Assessors' office adjusts values every year to reflect the current market, now required by the Department of Revenue. Do not hesitate to check with the Stow Assessor's office to see whether you qualify for any of these programs.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge system continues to be administered by the Assessors' office. The total CPA surcharge raised during FY2008 was \$414,592 with \$369,084 in matching funds received in September. The percentage of matching funds dropped below 100% for the first year since the onset of the program. As more towns take advantage of the CPA program, the percentage each town receives will decrease. Exemptions from the surcharge are available for certain income brackets. Please check with the Assessors' office for more information.

This year Jack Smith was re-elected to his position on the Board of Assessors. Jack has been a valued resource on the Board for over fifteen years. Isabelle Prokopovich resigned from the Clerk's position, and we wish her well in her new municipality. We welcome Tina Salvo who is the new Assessors' Clerk. From time to time, you may see the staff or a sub-contractor collecting data on property in Stow. We hope you will allow these representatives of the Assessors' office to do their job. Our property assessments are reliant on accurate data collection.

The Board of Assessors encourages taxpayers to ask any questions or discuss any matter that might help them better understand their assessments. The staff in the Assessors' office is available every day to assist the public.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Bolton, Chairman
John E. Smith
Dominick Pugliese
Dorothy K. Wilbur, Principal Assessor

Louise A. Nejad, Assistant Assessor
Isabel Prokopovich, Assessors' Clerk (Jan.-
Sept.)
Tina Salvo, Assessors' Clerk (Sept. – Dec.)

FISCAL 2009 TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

TAX RATE SUMMARY

A.	Total Amount to be Raised	\$22,502,977.60
B.	Total Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue	\$ 4,029,421.08
C.	Tax Levy	\$18,473,556.52
D.	Distribution of Tax Rates & Levies	

CLASS	LEVY PERCENTAGE	LEVY BY CLASS	VALUATION BY CLASS	TAX RATES
Residential	91.1657%	\$16,841,547.12	\$1,102,196,200	\$15.28
Open Space	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Commercial	4.7561%	878,620.82	57,501,300	\$15.28
Industrial	2.1866%	403,942.79	26,435,600	\$15.28
Personal	1.8916%	349,445.80	22,869,290,	\$15.28
<hr/>				
TOTAL	100%	\$17,777,477.48	\$1,209,002,390	

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

	FY 2007	FY 2008	% Change
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE:	5,363,425	6,094,161	13.6%
RECEIPTS:			
Property Tax	16,710,416	17,644,634	5.6%
Community Preservation Surcharge	389,675	408,677	4.9%
Motor Vehicle & Other Taxes	921,944	867,104	-5.9%
Tax Titles & Deferrals	19,367	60,834	214.1%
Department & Misc Revenue	1,111,840	1,296,541	16.6%
State Aid & Grants	1,114,906	1,033,117	-7.3%
Bond/Note Receipts	720,000	932,000	29.4%
Interest on Investments	267,804	274,263	2.4%
Offset Payroll Deductions	1,026,152	1,081,399	5.4%
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	22,282,104	23,598,569	5.9%
EXPENDITURES:			
Payroll	3,304,336	3,485,642	5.5%
Vendor	4,348,181	5,447,348	25.3%
School District Assessments	11,951,124	12,409,810	3.8%
Retirement Assessment	361,410	410,254	13.5%
Debt Payments	1,586,317	1,430,469	-9.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	21,551,368	23,183,523	7.6%
ENDING CASH BALANCE:	6,094,161	6,509,207	6.8%

Prepared by Pamela Landry
Treasurer-Collector

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT FY 2008

Tax & Levy Year	Tax Outstanding as of 7/1/07	New Commitments	Amount Collected	Exemptions & Abatements	Refunds	Tax Takings & Deferrals	Tax Outstanding as of 6/30/08
2008 Real Estate	\$0.00	\$17,515,218.87	\$17,220,751.83	\$48,129.06	\$12,828.37	\$86,318.66	\$172,847.69
2007 Real Estate	\$184,302.15	\$0.00	\$137,674.54	\$1,914.07	\$2,583.08	\$44,231.04	\$3,065.58
2008 Supplemental RE Tax	\$0.00	\$154,815.23	\$69,950.73	\$1,055.17	\$11,669.60	\$0.00	\$95,478.93
2007 Supplemental RE Tax	\$5,478.31	\$0.00	\$5,478.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2008 Comm Pres Act	\$0.00	\$423,356.80	\$406,642.94	\$8,706.89	\$377.45	\$1,968.62	\$6,415.80
2007 Comm Pres Act	\$3,509.17	\$0.00	\$3,043.07	\$57.42	\$631.14	\$1,048.28	\$8.46
2008 Personal Property	\$0.00	\$262,259.86	\$257,773.92	\$752.26	\$424.44	\$0.00	\$4,158.12
2007 Personal Property	\$2,752.48	\$0.00	\$512.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,240.13
2006 Personal Property	\$1,851.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,851.98
2005 Personal Property	\$671.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$671.92
2004 Personal Property	\$909.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$909.28
2008 Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$796,558.90	\$670,225.59	\$22,038.46	\$3,182.82	\$0.00	\$107,477.67
2007 Motor Vehicle	\$109,888.93	\$131,892.40	\$226,731.37	\$11,116.06	\$3,695.78	\$0.00	\$7,629.68
2006 Motor Vehicle	\$10,525.48	\$46,055.45	\$45,110.25	\$7,300.12	\$413.65	\$0.00	\$4,584.21
2005 Motor Vehicle	\$3,034.19	\$6,844.17	\$7,719.50	\$369.59	\$400.21	\$0.00	\$2,189.48
2004 Motor Vehicle	\$3,196.16	\$0.00	\$266.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,929.28
2003 & Prior Motor Vehicle	\$6,499.37	\$1,109.75	\$909.09	\$2,980.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,719.08
Farm & Forest Excise Tax	\$3,666.00	\$0.00	\$3,666.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:	\$336,285.42	\$19,338,111.43	\$19,056,456.37	\$104,420.05	\$36,206.54	\$133,566.60	\$416,177.29

\$57,002.03

Interest & Fees Collected:

\$19,113,458.40

Total Collected:

Prepared by: Pamela Landry
Treasurer-Collector

TOWN OF STOW
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET (Unaudited)
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
June 30, 2008

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds		General Long-Term Debt Account Group	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Project Funds	Trust And Agency Funds			
Assets							
Cash and Interest Bearing Deposits	\$ 1,094,162	\$ 4,076,093	\$ 210,615	\$ 1,357,464	\$ -	\$	6,738,334
Cash and Investments Held by Trustees				970,732			970,732
Receivables:							
Real Estate Taxes	175,913						175,913
Personal Property Taxes	9,831						9,831
Less Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions	(88,147)						(88,147)
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	128,529						128,529
Farm Animal Excise Taxes							0
Tax Liens	178,422	4,317					182,739
Supplemental Taxes	95,479						95,479
Tax Foreclosures	140,367						140,367
Ambulance	131,286						131,286
CPA Surcharge		6,416					6,416
Other	9,496	25,190					34,686
Due From Other Funds	195,603	207,089					195,603
Due From Other Governments							207,089
Amount to be Provided for Notes and Bonds Payable					8,740,000		8,740,000
Total Assets	\$ 2,111,629	\$ 4,319,105	\$ 210,615	\$ 2,328,196	\$ 8,740,000	\$	17,709,545

TOWN OF STOW
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET (Unaudited)
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
June 30, 2008

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Project Funds	Trust And Agency Funds	General Long-Term Debt Account Group	
Assets						
Liabilities						
Warrants Payable	\$ 74,052	\$ 38,238	\$ 628	\$ 3,288	\$ -	\$ 116,206
Accrued Payroll	91,567	6,427				97,994
Amounts Withheld from Employees and Other Liabilities	50,491			378,122		428,613
Due to Other Funds		162,591		33,012		195,603
Deferred Revenue:						
Personal Property and Real Estate Taxes	122,975					122,975
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	128,529					128,529
Farm Animal Excise Taxes						0
Tax Liens	178,422	4,317				182,739
Supplemental Taxes	70,101					70,101
Tax Foreclosures	140,367					140,367
Ambulance	124,003					124,003
CPA Surcharge		6,416				6,416
Other		17,123				17,123
Notes Payable			932,000			932,000
Bonds Payable					8,740,000	8,740,000
Total Liabilities	1,021,195	235,112	932,628	414,422	8,740,000	11,343,357

TOWN OF STOW
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET (Unaudited)
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
June 30, 2008

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Project Funds	Trust And Agency Funds	General Long-Term Debt Account Group	
Assets						
Fund Equity						
Retained Earnings (Deficit)			(725,299)			(725,299)
Reserved for Expenditure	243,000	2,250,446	3,286			2,496,732
Reserved for Encumbrances	5,990					5,990
Reserved for Appropriation	316,105	592,265				908,370
Reserved for Extraordinary Expenditures						0
Reserved for Deficits						0
Designated for Revolving Funds	525,339	1,165,771		1,767,729		75,511
Undesignated	1,090,434	4,083,993	(722,013)	1,913,774		3,458,839
Total Fund Equity	\$ 2,111,629	\$ 4,319,105	\$ 210,615	\$ 2,328,196	\$ 8,740,000	\$ 17,709,545
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity						

Prepared by: Julie Costello
Town Accountant

TOWN OF STOW
 SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN FUND EQUITY
 STATE GRANTS & REVOLVING FUNDS
 June 30, 2008

	Beginning Fund Equity	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Fund Equity
STATE GRANTS:				
Public Safety	\$ 27,090	\$ 29,780	\$ 37,980	\$ 18,891
Education Grant	2,469	-	-	2,469
Culture & Recreation	4,210	11,460	3,585	12,085
Council on Aging	1,135	4,889	6,024	-
Library	10,530	8,550	13,018	6,062
Other Grants	847	32,597	28,336	5,108
TOTAL STATE GRANTS:	\$ 46,282	\$ 87,276	\$ 88,943	\$ 44,615
REVOLVING FUNDS:				
Recreation	\$ 17,146	\$ 112,560	\$ 119,686	\$ 10,020
Inspectors	9,481	42,487	34,173	17,795
Ambulances Services	-	6,196	6,119	78
TOTAL REVOLVING FUNDS:	\$ 26,627	\$ 161,243	\$ 159,977	\$ 27,893

Prepared by:
 Julie Costello
 Town Accountant

TRUST FUND FINANCIAL REPORT - FY 2008

The following Town trust funds are managed by Abbey Capital LLC and as of 12/31/08 were invested as follows: Government Money Market Fund (30%), Certificates of Deposit (67%), and Equities (3%).

Stabilization Fund	Beginning Balance 7/1/2007	\$354,046.78	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Receipts	\$64,066.33	
	Investment Earnings	\$18,010.60	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2008		\$436,123.71
Affordable Housing Fund	Beginning Balance 7/1/2007	\$0.00	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Receipts	\$157,605.34	
	Investment Earnings	\$2,056.07	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2008		\$159,661.41
Cemetery Perpetual Care Non-Expendable	Beginning Balance 7/1/2007	\$100,025.00	
	Receipts	\$4,925.00	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2008		\$104,950.00
Expendable	Beginning Balance 7/1/2007	\$36,366.13	
	Disbursements	(\$1,735.72)	
	Investment Earnings	\$6,189.26	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2008		\$40,819.67
Conservation Fund	Beginning Balance 7/1/2007	\$55,003.78	
	Disbursements	(\$10,802.75)	
	Receipts	\$12,740.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$2,836.77	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2008		\$59,777.80

TRUST FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RANDALL LIBRARY

The policy of the Randall Library Trustees is to spend interest and capital gains in excess of inflation generated by the trust funds for the purchase of library materials, primarily books. Trust funds are combined and are co-managed by the Board of Trustees to target a 60%/40% split between equity and income-based securities, respectively. Highly rated, professionally managed mutual funds are primarily used as investment vehicles.

Based on the Beusch formula method of calculating annual disbursements by the Trustees, a disbursement of \$20,000 was authorized and used for the benefit of Randall Library patrons. The current and past year ending values, cash flow and fund performance for the 2008 Calendar Year are shown in the CY 2008 Report.

Respectively submitted,
Rob Aldape, Treasurer, Randall Library Trustees

Statement of Sources & Uses of Funds, CY '08:

January 1, 2008 Opening Balance		556,110.75
Sources of Funds:		
Contributions and Donations		
Merwin Memorial	500.00	
Second Century Fund	2,500.00	
Hale High School Fund	15,000.00	
Refunds	360.41	
Net Investment Income	21,466.08	
Capital Gain	(162,658.23)	
Total	(122,831.74)	
Uses of Funds:		
Books	(10,738.07)	
Periodicals	(2,818.95)	
Reference	(5,294.33)	
DVD	(3,087.53)	
Children's Programming	(1,996.38)	
Audio	(2,842.79)	
Equipment & Furniture	(1,830.07)	
Total	(28,608.12)	
December 31, 2008 Ending Balance	404,670.89	404,670.89

Randall Library Trust Funds Statement of Assets and Liabilities, CY '08

Assets	01/01/08 Balance	12/31/08 Balance
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Family Federal Savings Account	1,580.93	0.00
Family Federal Checking	1,940.64	13,283.13
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	3,521.57	13,283.13
Investment Trusts		
Combined Trust Funds	552,589.18	391,387.76
Total Assets	556,110.75	404,670.89
Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Overall Total	556,110.75	404,670.89

RANDALL RELIEF FUND

Balance January 1, 2008	\$ 55,763.72
Interest received	415.81
Contributions received	0
Repayments received	0
Payments	(2,000.00)
	<hr/>
Balance December 31, 2008 (Citizens Bank Insured Money Market Account)	\$ 54,179.53

RANDALL TOWN FUND

Balance January 1, 2008	\$ 20,000.00
Previous accumulated CD interest earned	1,551.96
Current interest earned	1,059.32
Paid to Town Treasurer	(1,807.63)
Payable to Town Treasurer	(803.65)
	<hr/>
Balance December 31, 2008 (Citizens Bank 3-year Certificate of Deposit)	\$ 20,000.00

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Relief Fund and Randall Fund Trustees

Louise E. Peacock
Jeffrey D. Smith

Dorothy G. Sonnichsen, Treasurer

HALE HIGH SCHOOL FUND
INCOME/EXPENSE
7/1/07 - 6/30/08

INCOME

Dividends	\$ 8,551.72
Bond Interest	12,934.48
Mutual Fund Income	<u>1,800.43</u>
Total Income	\$ 23,286.63

EXPENSE

Avidia Bank - Management Services	<u>6,352.69</u>
Total Expense	\$ 6,352.69

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS
AS OF 6/30/08

<u>Assets Held</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Percent of Portfolio</u>
<u>Stocks</u>		
ADRS	\$ 9,289.00	
Common Stock	\$149,771.05	
Funds – Domestic	\$ 20,515.32	
Funds – International	<u>\$ 48,419.65</u>	
Total Stocks:	\$227,995.02	45.14%
<u>Bonds</u>		
Agencies	\$106,086.72	
Corporate	<u>\$126,793.62</u>	
Total Bonds:	\$232,880.34	46.11%
<u>Money Market</u>		
Money Market	\$ 44,225.40	8.75%
 GRAND TOTAL	 <u>\$505,100.76</u>	 100.00%

Respectfully submitted,

Trustees of the Hale High School Fund

Ray S. Frost
Jeffery D. Smith
Wayne A. Fletcher

Robert F. Derby
Linda Hathaway

EDUCATION

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

I am pleased to report that the District is in excellent shape. We continue to perform admirably with respect to our mission: "To educate all students to their fullest potential." It is because we hire excellent candidates and provide them with the support, supervision, and resources needed to do an important job, well. Your support means all the difference when it comes to making sure our teachers have the resources they need. Our class sizes are the envy of the surrounding communities, our use of technology is second to none, and the materials we use are state-of-the-art.

We have a strong financial footing with budgets that meet our needs. The School Committee has done an admirable job of working with the towns, parents, and administration in crafting a funding source that is adequate, fair, and equitable. The administration works very hard at managing these resources extremely well to get the most out of each dollar. As a result, over the last five years we have managed to rebuild our excess and deficiency fund, maximize our state-required reserve fund, and keep up with our deficit bond payments. This fiscal planning will serve us well in the next few years during these uncertain economic times.

As for our academic performance, our comprehensive pre-kindergarten through eighth grade program fosters student success. We are especially proud of the work our teachers and support staff did throughout the 2007-2008 year in drafting the Pacing Guides for student learning in all content areas. This work is very helpful in ensuring that all standards are covered during the course of the school year. Over the summer our Teaching and Learning Department edited these guides and published them to our intranet for teacher access. This past fall we started our standards-based unit design and assessment work for units listed on the Pacing Guides. This work enables us to meet our goal of parity across the district.



Supreme Court Case Simulation. Emily Jia, Delaney Douglas, Rachel Zelle, Julia Sprung, Billy Jabs, Mackenzie Bowman-Snoddy and Tina Orlando are preparing to deliberate the case, *Texas v. Johnson* on the constitutionality of flag burning. Advising the group is Kevin Keaveney, Hale Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher.

Student accomplishments continue to be considerable. Many of our students are accomplished artists, musicians, athletes, equestrians, and actors. Their extracurricular activities mold them into well-rounded community contributors. Marjie Lam has been named as a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. In addition, eleven other students from our senior class achieved Commended Student status in the National Merit Program. They are as follows: Ramesh Govindan, Sean Killackey, Kelly Macko, Marc Macleod, Starr Miyata, Nick Papanastassiou, Molly Porcher, Rebecca Shoer, Nick Sozio, Alexandra Spear, and Aaron Wassall. The 2008-2009 Worcester County Superintendents' Association Certificate of Academic Excellence has been awarded to Ramesh Govindan. Lindsay Ormond and Allie Spear recently received the President's Volunteer Service Award through their local Girl Scout Troop.

Over 500 students participated in interscholastic athletics at the high school in 2008. The boys' indoor track team claimed the 2008 MIAA Division III State Championship in February. Senior

Anthony Raduazo (Bolton) won the 2 Mile Run with a time of 9:30.89. Anthony then teamed with Joe Doyle (Lancaster), Brendon Aylaian (Stow), and Coby Horowitz (Stow) to win the 4x800 Meter Relay. Led by Brent Walkoff (Bolton) and Jeff Stefanis (Stow), the boys' tennis team finished with a regular season record of 15-2 last spring. The Chieftains went on to win their first two playoff matches and advanced to the Central Mass Division II Finals. The Nashoba girls' lacrosse team won the league title and advanced to the MIAA playoffs in their inaugural season. Co-captains Catherine Philbin (Lancaster) and Megan Powell (Bolton) were instrumental in the team's success. Captains Michelle Slattery (Bolton), Marissa Goodhue (Stow), Jen Harding (Lancaster), and Erin Mannion (Berlin) helped the Nashoba girls' soccer team win the league title and return to the MIAA playoffs in 2008.

Margaret Morgan, Principal of Hale Middle School, was elected to the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Board of Directors and was appointed to the DESE Global Education Advisory Committee. Brad George, Technology Engineering Teacher at Hale Middle School, was appointed to the DESE Science and Engineering Advisory Committee. Greg Irvine, Principal of Center and Pompositticut Schools, was nominated to the Scholastic Book Company Principal Advisory Board. Lin Winin, Assistant Principal of Center and Pompositticut Schools, was selected to present at the National Gifted and Talented Conference in Orlando.

The faces in our schools change as time passes by. A number of staff retired at the end of the 2008 school year in June: Susan Cimasi, Patricia Bailey, Michael Allard, Dawn Rysdon, and Carol Constantino.

Our buildings are in excellent shape. The District takes great pride in the work of our maintenance crew and building custodians. We use state-of-the-art equipment to maintain each corridor, classroom, and large group space. The fields, too, are a major part of our educational program. While a capital plan supported by our School Committee was not endorsed at Town Meeting, there was work done on the main stadium field to level it and fill in ruts. The track is more of an issue and work will be planned for maintaining the use of this important community resource.

We also are doing well on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Tests (MCAS) in grades three through eight. Overall, our District scores meet adequate yearly progress, a requirement under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). On the tenth grade MCAS test, our students performed in the top ten percent of the state in both English Language Arts and mathematics. One hundred percent of our students passed the Technology and

MCAS Tests of Spring 2008										
Percent of Students at Each Performance Level										
Grade and Subject	Advanced/ Above		Proficient		Needs Improvement		Warning/ Failing		Students Included	CPI
	DIST	STATE	DIST	STATE	DIST	STATE	DIST	STATE		
GRADE 03 - READ	26	15	52	41	18	33	4	11	270	92
GRADE 03 - MATH	39	25	40	36	16	25	4	14	272	91
GRADE 04 - ELA	6	8	54	41	34	39	5	13	265	85
GRADE 04 - MATH	23	20	34	29	37	38	6	13	267	84
GRADE 05 - ELA	19	13	60	48	17	30	4	8	250	93
GRADE 05 - MATH	34	22	33	30	26	30	6	17	251	87
GRADE 05 - SCIENCE/TECH	24	17	47	33	25	38	4	12	251	89
GRADE 06 - ELA	24	15	61	52	12	24	3	8	232	95
GRADE 06 - MATH	47	23	35	33	10	26	7	18	232	92
GRADE 07 - ELA	14	12	75	57	10	23	2	8	245	96
GRADE 07 - MATH	29	15	46	32	19	29	6	24	246	90
GRADE 08 - ELA	21	12	70	63	8	18	2	7	263	97
GRADE 08 - MATH	36	19	37	30	20	27	6	24	262	87
GRADE 08 - SCIENCE/TECH	8	3	53	36	33	39	5	22	262	86
GRADE 10 - ELA	48	23	41	51	8	21	3	4	247	97
GRADE 10 - MATH	71	43	18	29	8	19	3	9	246	96
GRADE 10 - SCIENCE/TECH	42	14	45	43	10	31	3	12	229	95

Engineering sub-test on the first try, two years in a row.

The School Committee is committed to continuous improvement. The Committee reviews its goals annually, adding strategic action steps it wants to take to meet its goals. This past year the Committee recognized the following goals or action steps:

- To design a systemic delivery model for foreign language instruction by expanding our current eighth-to twelfth-grade program
- To develop a Response to Intervention (RTI) for At-Risk Students
- To develop a model for reporting standards in all curricula areas for grades one through eight
- To explore time on learning opportunities and set forth strategies that maximize current use of the school day
- To implement the School-Wide Enrichment model
- To address transition between grade levels

Each of these action steps is an important effort in our continuous improvement as a district. We believe that each of these steps targets a population of students that we believe needs the focus to move to their next level. All of these steps have as an essential question, “*What is the student's response to intervention?*” This question requires all of us to have data to support our answer. This work has helped us hone in on the types of assessments we use, and what kinds of interventions are working, both of which help us to develop a better understanding of how students learn. The more we know about how students learn, the more efficient we are in aligning instruction with need. This means time becomes better used and the school year becomes more valuable to the students. As you know, the Massachusetts Frameworks, the foundation upon which our curricula is built, is rich with expectations. Getting all students to meet standards by 2014 (the target year for NCLB) is an unprecedented expectation. While we are well on our way to getting there, we still need to sharpen our skill set for those students with challenging learning profiles, social and emotional needs, and family obligations. Research has shown that improving instructional practice has a direct impact on student achievement.



Chieftains celebrate their victory of over Clinton

Our special education programs and services are an integral part of our educational offerings. We have spent the last five years developing, refining, and implementing programs to meet the needs of all of our learners. While this is a monumental task, it is important for all families to know their children's needs can be met within District. It is a cornerstone of our belief system that all children can learn. It is also an efficient way to utilize resources. The additional programming means the financial resources stay right here within the District. Transportation costs are reduced, and the additional staffing can be used in a variety of supporting roles across the schools. The District completed its process of phasing in a continuum of services this year with the addition of a self-contained program at our high school. This program is for students who can be included for many classes but need more intensive services for math and English. This year we brought the RISE program to Bolton to provide continuity of services pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, all under one administration.

There are many reasons to be proud of Nashoba Regional School District. Internally, we believe we are doing everything possible to meet the needs of our ever-changing student population. We

know we need to continue to be learners ourselves so that we can meet these needs even more efficiently. We pledge to remain one of the reasons so many people settle in Stow.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael L. Wood
Superintendent of Schools

Brian Burke, Stow Representative
Lynn Colletti, Stow Representative
David Horne, Stow Representative

NASHOBA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2008

Doug Koury – President
Rachel Healy – Secretary *

Lindsey Horowitz – Vice President
Amy Callahan – Treasurer *

Essie Faye Ablavsky
Fabien Anawar Ahmed
Samuel Clark Albert
Daniyar Alykeev
Axel Nikolas Anderson
Julian Meredith Anding
Marco Louis Balducci
Nicole Elizabeth Balin
Jessica Ann Basile
Heather Marie Bates
Elizabeth Lauren Bell
Joanna Marie Benoit
Marissa Jean Bilancieri
Andrew Charles Bolton
Christine Astley Bolton
Wesley Michael Boudreau
Jessica Ann Bourassa
David Louis Breen
Jason Wyeth Breitenwischer
David Thomas Broomfield
Sarah Elizabeth Brown
Alyssa Rogers Browne
Jillian Marie Bucciero
Alyssa Rae Burgoyne
Jonathan Michael Burke
Keaton James Burns
Björn Johan Emil Burr Nyberg
Amy Beth Callahan
Ryan Joseph Camilleri
Samantha Jill Campbell
Angela Marie CampoBasso

Cory Barrett Chow
Evan Cirioni
Kevin Michael Cody
Ethan Joseph Cole
Maryette Yvette Collett
Ethan James Conklin
Caroline Marie Corley
Michelle Lee Cormier
Colin Hunt Costello
Sarah Elizabeth Cozzens
Matthew Christopher Crowley
Shane Douglas Crozier
Kendra Lee Curley
Jocelyn Ann Cushion
Steven George Danowitz
Jillian Eve Darden
Matthew Christian Dauplaise
Sarah Elizabeth Davey
Elliot Bennet Dawson
Everton Medina De Araujo
Rose Elizabeth Decker
Evan Bradford Delaney
Marie Elizabeth DeLuca
Francis Joseph DeMeo
Jared Alexander DeSisto
Benjamin Conrad DiMario
Laurel Eve DiMasi
Heather Jane Dunnells
Monet Izabeth Eliastam
Amy Dorhamer Fadden
James Robert Fairfield

NASHOBA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2008

Amanda Leigh Farrell
Ryan Henry Farrell
Kaley Elizabeth Fawcett
Samantha Joy Fenwick
Lucas Jameson Fiehler
Gregory Allan Fish
Sam Stafford Fitzgerald
Shane Wesley Foster
Caroline Bessie Fraser
Jasmine Rhiana Funkhouser
Marissa Elaine Gabel
Erika Julie Gjestebj
Rebecca Erin Goddard
James Douglas Gold IV
Megan Lynn Goodnow
Emma Jane Gosselin
Kyle Martin Grasso
Dustin August Greene
April Marie Greenlaw
Caitlin Ryan Gribbons
Matthew Guven
Jaime Lee Hamilton
Daniel Eric Hansen
Ellen Charles Hartford
Madison Andrea Hawkins
David James Hayden
Michael John Hayes
Rachel Beth Dieterle Healy
Julie Kathryn Heislein
Ryan Andrew Herrick
Amanda Marie McGrath-Hewitt
Rebecca Elizabeth Hoover
Lindsey Marie Horowitz
Charlene Alexandra Houseman
Alexander Burton Hunt
Emily Reynolds Huxtable
Alessandro Iannuccilli
Kristi Genevieve Ingles
Amy Elizabeth Jacaruso
Emily Ann Jacobs
Travis Edward Johnson
Khurstyn Virginia Jones
Elizabeth Ann Keck
Molly Diana Kelly
Timothy Michael Klouda
Lisa Marie Kootz
Hillary Irene Kotilainen
Douglas David Koury
Meghan Ann LaFlamme
Shane Peter Lamontagne
Amy Sarah Lane

Risa Louise Langelo
Tyler James Lanigan
Mary Anna Larrousse
Heather Marie Laythe
Colin Williams LeBaron
Katherine Murphy Ledoux
Alicia Marie Lee
Riley Philip LeFrancois
Thomas Bovard Leland
Philip Damian Lena
David Christopher Leonardi
Devin Joshua Littlefield
Robert Edward Lombardo
Caitlin Louise MacBrien
Alexander James Mackie
Blake Charles MacLeod
Max Macrae
Michael Duke Maggio
Thorsten Malzer
Elizabeth Marie Manseau
Rosie Marie Manzo
Travis Alexander Maxim
Kelly Elizabeth McCue
Elizabeth Luisa McKean
Lauren Marie McMullen
Andrew Christopher McNemar
Kaitlin Elizabeth Medeiros
Emily Jane Mejia
Mark Gerard Melone
Bianca Lee Merritt
Jeffrey Norman Mills
Katherine Marjory Morse
Alyssa Marie Mpelkas
Kathleen Faith Murtland
Kendal Leigh Newton
Torrey Christoffer Nielsen
Joseph Shaughnessy O'Loughlin
Meaghan Kathleen O'Toole
Elizabeth Onyinyechukwu Ojukwu
Mary Ogechukwu Ojukwu
Samantha Lee Ormond
Eric Michael Paglia
Alexander Michael Paladini
Emma Jane Parmentier
Matthew Joseph Passafiume
Prayag Pradeep Patil
Alyssa Corrin Pavlin
Sophia Peduzzi
Jill Marie Perreira
Michael Kenneth Pesanelli
Catherine Alison Philbin

NASHOBA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2008

Daniel Joseph Piazza
Ashley Emma Piermarini
Hannah Esther Pirez
Zachary David Pittman
William Hollis Poirier
Katherine Elissa Polido
Benjamin Howard Poulson
Margaret Anne Powell
Timothy Michael Publicover
Thomas Michael Quinn
Anthony Rocco Raduazo
Jessica Morgan Ray
Natalie Bell Reed
Todd Nathan Reeves
Cameron Thorne Rhodes
Brittany Layne Richardson
Giulia Sara Rizzo
Margaret Emily Robinson
Jennifer Marie Rollo
Geoffrey Donald Rosen
Evan Nathaniel Rothfuss
Olivia Wrenn Rugo
Layne Thomas Sadler
Olivia Renee Saisa
Erika Ann Schiffer
Scott Andrew Schryver
Cristina Anne Shea
David John Siewierski
Simeon Metodiev Simeonov
Nicholas Edward Sirois
David Alan Sleeper
Holly Weight Smith
Olivia Sierra Smith
Nicholas Boyd Sommer
Mark Henry St. Fleur
Nicholas David Stadtherr
Andrew James Staszewski
Peter Jeffrey Steere
John Nicholas Stefos
Ian Charles Stevenson
Rebecca Angharad Stewart-Owen
Christopher George Sullivan
Daniel Francis Sullivan
Rachel Elizabeth Tepper
Samantha Mary Tobia
Christopher Dryden Traylor
Steven Edward Traylor
Matthew Paul Trombetta
Nicholas Gary Trueblood
Reed Allen Tucker
Ashley Jillian Vannasse
Katherine Martha Velten
Valerie Alexandra Villegas-Hoag
Sara Vitti
Andrew James Wade
Victoria Lynn Walkoff
Alex Christopher Warila
Jesse Mattern Way
Adrienne Michelle Wickham-Gobert
Christopher Lance Winkler
Danielle Leigh Winkler
Chelsea Jean Wrzesinski
Elizabeth Meagan Christie Zayka

MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

About Minuteman

Minuteman High School is a four-year career and technical high school serving our member towns: Acton, Arlington, Belmont, Bolton, Boxborough Carlisle, Concord, Dover, Lancaster, Lexington, Lincoln, Needham, Stow, Sudbury, Wayland, and Weston, as well as 47 other cities and towns in Eastern Massachusetts. Minuteman combines rigorous academics and preparation for college with relevant career and technical programs. The school also provides career development programs for adults as part of our self-sustaining Community Education Program.

Enrollment

As of October 1, 2008, 25 high school students were enrolled at Minuteman providing a full time equivalent (FTE) of 25 students that reside in Stow. Minuteman offers a part time program where Nashoba Regional High School students are able to take part in elective technical training courses on a half-day basis. Currently, very few Nashoba Regional students take advantage of this unique program designed to give juniors and seniors the opportunity to explore career majors and still stay a part of Nashoba Regional High School. The District offers 'Post Graduate' programs to Nashoba Regional High School students who are seeking to enhance their own economic opportunity at Minuteman via skill development.

2008 STOW GRADUATES AND AWARDS

- Taylor Anding, HVAC
- Colin Aucoin, Carpentry
- Kaitlyn Cinquina, Culinary Arts
- Jonathan Evers, Metal Fabrication
- Bethany Funkhouser, Culinary Arts
- Elizabeth Haberkorn, Early Childhood Education (Valedictorian)
- David Herbst, Metal Fabrication
- Erica Linstrom, Culinary Arts
- Scott Morse, HVAC
- Sarah Nichols, Culinary Arts
- Adam Radl, Computer Programming
- John Rice, Culinary Arts

At the 2008 graduation, Colin Aucoin received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence and the Stow Lions Club Award. Kaitlyn Cinquina received the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Jonathan Evers received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, Vocational Program Award, President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, and the John Hayward Memorial Scholarship. Elizabeth Haberkorn received the National Honor Society, the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, Vocational Program Award, Academic Achievement Award - World Languages, Portfolio Award, President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, and the Minuteman Chapter of the National Honor Society Award. Erica Linstrom received the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, DAR Old Concord Chapter Good Citizens Award, Francis Koppeis Mary S. Indelicato Scholarship, Minuteman Players Drama Club Award, and the Minuteman Gourmet Club Pastry Kit Award. Sarah Nichols received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, Academic Achievement Award - Physical Education, President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Minuteman Players Drama Club Award, Richard Rooney Memorial

Award, and the Stow Lions Club Award. Adam Radl received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients, Vocational Program Award, and the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. John Rice received the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Minuteman Alumni Association Scholarship, and the Minuteman Players Drama Club Award.

These awards are given to students of superior academic achievement and significant participation in school or community activities.

SkillsUSA Awards – Stow Students

SkillsUSA Conference results: Elizabeth Haberkorn placed first in the District competition for Preschool Teaching Assistant. Erica Linstrom placed second in the District competition and was a bronze State Medalist recipient for Commercial Baking. Katie Mikoski placed second in the District competition for Medical Assisting. Elizabeth Piantedosi was a bronze State Medalist recipient for the Tech Prep showcase. Adam Radl placed third in the District competition and was a silver State Medalist recipient for Computer Maintenance Technology. Christopher Sproul placed third in the District competition for Medical Assisting.

Class of 2008 Graduate Achievement Highlights

- 92% graduated and entered college, became employed in their field of study, or enlisted in the US military.
- 100% successfully passed the state-required MCAS tests in English and Math.
- 60% college acceptance, 33% career bound in field and 3% military
- 100% of Dental graduates passed the National Dental Board examination.
- 100% of Early Childhood Education graduates were certified by the Department of Early Education and Care.
- 100% of Cosmetology graduates passed the state board examination.
- Medical Occupation graduates achieved 100% in college acceptance.
- Christopher Hanson, a Robotics program graduate from Medford, was honored as the Massachusetts Vocational Student of the Year by the Minuteman Career & Technical High School Committee, the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, and the State Commissioner of Education.
- Elizabeth Haberkorn, an Early Childhood Education student from Stow graduated Valedictorian of the Class of 2008.
- Student speakers at the Class of 2008 graduation ceremony were Valedictorian Elizabeth Haberkorn of Stow, Salutatorian, Michael Lavy of Waltham, and Class President Erica Linstrom of Stow.

Leadership, Governance and Communication

- Dr. Edward A Bouquillon was hired as superintendent beginning in the 2007-2008 school year.
- A new Mission Statement was approved by the staff in March of 2008:
“Minuteman collaborates with parents, communities, and business leaders to serve a diverse student body with multiple learning styles. Through a challenging, integrated curriculum our students develop the academic, vocational, and technical skills necessary to be productive members of a global community. We value life-long learning that fosters personal and professional development in a safe and respectful environment. Minuteman is committed to preparing all students for success.”

- The School Committee re-organized to include 4 sub-committees: Finance, Curriculum Instruction and Assessment, Capital and Facilities Planning, and Personnel. A taskforce was formed to review and revise all District policies.
- A revised organizational chart was approved, resulting in the elimination of several administrative positions, the creation of site-based teams, clear lines of responsibility and the introduction of Career Clusters.
- A Communications Team was formed that seeks to provide a more consistent and transparent message both internally and externally regarding the new mission of Minuteman.

Curriculum and Instruction

- The Art program has been restored to the Minuteman Curriculum. More than 160 students have enrolled in 3 levels of classes and a waiting list has been established. A Health class has also been established to supplement a well-rounded student education. Music will be restored.
- Career and Technical programs are now aligned along 5 Career Clusters: Trade and Industrial; Human and Commercial Services; Business and Information Technology; Agriculture and Transportation; and Science and Technology. Clustering allows for common core curriculum to be delivered in clusters to 9th and 10th grades students.
- Since the Fall of 2008 all 9th grade students partake in daily English and Math instruction, rather than the long-established “week on-week off” schedule, thus providing consistent academic instruction in preparing for required MCAS score increases by the state department of education.

Assessment and Program Evaluation

- Minuteman developed a Non-traditional Exploratory Program through which all students learn about the viability and challenges of men and women in non-traditional careers, such as Automotive Technology, Carpentry and Construction, Computer Science, and Engineering for women and in Medical Careers, Cosmetology / Barbering, and Office Technology for young men. The students learn about these careers through a series of hands-on exercises, guest speakers and alumni panelists, and field site visits to industry partners.
- Minuteman is moving towards a ‘modified inclusion model’ for Special Education students. Professional development for staff continues as we implement this proven strategy.
- Minuteman will be undergoing its third New England Association of Schools and Colleges Decennial re-accreditation site visit in March of 2009.
- Minuteman students performed very well on the 2008 MCAS: 94% pass rate in Math, 99% pass rate in English, 100% pass rate in Chemistry, 92% pass rate in Biology.

Professional Development

- The Minuteman staff has prioritized two professional development topics for the 2007 – 2010 timeframe. Based upon feedback from our EQA report, several half-day training sessions on summative and formative assessment methodologies are being held. In addition, the development of Professional Learning Communities is happening for 40 staff with several outside resources.

Student Access, Participation and Support

- Minuteman reorganized the assignment of guidance counselors to provide incoming 9th graders with a dedicated guidance counselor. Our research had shown that many freshmen felt that they needed additional support as they made the adjustment to Minuteman.
- In addition to having a dedicated 9th grade counselor, the re-assignment strategies now include counselors covering the career clusters. This provides the counselors with a more thorough knowledge of the career areas and the staff.

- Minuteman offers 16 sports with three levels (Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshmen) throughout the school year. Over the past 7 years the number of participants has doubled in many of the sports offered. Minuteman maintains a no-cut and no athletic fee policy. In addition, Minuteman students have access to more than 30 clubs and activities.
- The Minuteman Parent Association meets monthly and supports all aspects of the Minuteman community. In addition, they assist in fundraising for scholarships awarded at graduation. The goal of the MPA is to help support student access and achievement in all areas including but not limited to academic, vocational, athletic, and extra-curricular activities.
- A new website is to be launched in February 09 – www.minuteman.org

Financial and Asset Management Effectiveness and Efficiency

- The Minuteman FY09 budget was passed unanimously at \$17,001,622, which represented a 1.53% increase after removing the Middle School Tech Programs. Healthcare and utility increases, as well as the NEASC re-accreditation increased the budget. Decreases in the FY09 salary budget were due to the reduction of administrators, removing the Middle School Tech Program from the full district assessment and replacing several career and technical teachers with technical assistants in programs experiencing enrollment dips.
- Staff was reduced by 4.5 FTE positions in the FY09 budget. Budgets continue to be tightly managed as Minuteman seeks to ‘right size’ itself and reduce its per-pupil expenditures.
- The FY08/09 Capital funds were used for major systems repairs, implementing the approved Technology Plan, upgrading the reception area, adding a Welcome Center, relocating the IT office, and renovations of common areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward A. Bouquillon, Superintendent
Thomas Markham, Assistant Superintendent

Alice DeLuca, Stow Representative

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

I hereby submit the annual report for the Stow Police Department for the calendar year of 2008.

The Stow Police Department advertised for a full-time dispatcher and began the process to replace a full-time police officer who retired. Officer Kim Doughty retired this year after serving our community for 16 years. Prior to her becoming a Stow Police Officer, she was a full-time Officer with the Concord Police Department. Officer Kimberly Doughty was also our D.A.R.E. Officer for three years and prior to her retirement she spent time working with our senior citizens. We wish Officer Doughty the best in her retirement.

Brenda Taylor was appointed a Public Safety Dispatcher by the Board of Selectmen and resigned in February 2008. Brenda worked for the Groton Police Department as the Chief’s Secretary prior to her employment as a dispatcher with our department. She left our department to work with an organization that assists the Department of Social Services. We wish Brenda the best in her new place of employment.

Darlene Trefry was hired to fill the dispatcher's position. Darlene had been an active member of the Police Department for about 17 years as a part-time secretary, part-time dispatcher and a volunteer assisting with the DARE program.

A major improvement that took place this year was our police radio system. Our ability to communicate from a cruiser or portable radio to the dispatcher at the police station was impossible from many areas within Stow. This situation created serious safety issues for police officers performing their daily duties. A common practice was to use a cell phone to contact dispatch since the cruiser and portable radios could not reach the police station radio system. While researching cell tower locations to move our repeater system, and speaking with members of the planning board and cell tower owners, I accidentally found out that the roof of the fire station was the same height as the top of our antenna tower at the police station. Stow resident and Planning Board member Ernie Dodd connected me with Stow resident Marshall Cross, an expert in this field of technology. He volunteered his time and confirmed the fire station location was one that would work for us. We hired a company to mount a 24-foot fiberglass antenna and with the help of Hudson Fire Department and Hudson Light and Power bucket truck, we were able to complete this project for only a few thousand dollars. For the first time ever, we have the ability to communicate from any location in Stow using a portable or cruiser radio to our dispatch center at the police station.

Crime and calls for service in our community during this year were similar to previous years. One area where we experienced an increase was in Identity Theft, as did most police agencies across our country and around the world. With the invention of the Internet and other technology comes more ways for criminals to do their dirty work. We receive several calls every week from residents who think they may be a victim. Some find a problem after reviewing their credit card statements, a charge for some item or service they do not recall buying. Or while connected to the Internet a notice appears advising them to purchase anti-virus software to save their computer and, you're asked to supply all your credit card information, something that your Internet provider tells you they never ask for, but many people fall for it and become a victim.

Telephone frauds continue, such as a lucky resident who won millions of dollars, but before she could collect her millions, she had to pre-pay the taxes, which amounted to a few thousand dollars. A great deal if it were true, this type of fraud originates from China, South Africa, Nigeria and Canada. In another case, two individuals walked into Shaw's, and purchased gift cards using credit cards with the stolen identity of several police officers from California. This theft investigation led a Stow Officer to many stores in the Leominster area, obtaining photographs from security cameras and statements from employees. As a result, these subjects were identified and we currently hold arrest warrants for them. They are members of a group from New York City who were stealing personal information from people all over the United States. Some basic things we all need to remember are: never give personal information over the phone or Internet unless you initiated the contact; and purchase a shredder and destroy all unwanted documents that have your personal information on it before discarding. These people do not care who they hurt, and they will take every penny you have and move on to another victim. A common phrase we all hear from time to time is, "if it sounds too good to be true it probably is".

An arrest took place this year for an offense that does not happen often in our community. Stow Police Officers apprehended a subject wanted by the Framingham Police Department for murder. It all began when Framingham Police sent a teletype message to all area cities and towns to be on the lookout for a certain type vehicle along with a description of the occupants. A short time later, a Stow Officer saw a vehicle of similar description in town. Dispatch contacted

Framingham Police for more information and it was determined the vehicle was in fact the one wanted in connection with a murder. A short time later, this vehicle was seen leaving the area and was followed to a location on Great Road where it was stopped. Maynard Police assisted Stow Officers when it was determined the wanted subject was hiding in the trunk. Not knowing if the suspect was armed, the traffic on Great Road was stopped a safe distance away, prior to opening the trunk, in case gunshots were exchanged. When the trunk was opened, the suspect was found wrapped up and hiding in blankets. He was taken into custody without a problem. This person was turned over to the Framingham and State Police Detectives assigned to the District Attorney's Office. He is now awaiting trial for murder.

The Public Safety Communication Center is located at the police station. All 911 calls are received at this location. The dispatch center employs four full-time and one part-time dispatcher, covering 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The dispatchers are responsible for answering 911 calls, and emergency and business lines for police, fire and ambulance. They also dispatch police, fire and ambulance personnel, record all call information and radio communication, and handle the general public that come into the station for information.

We encourage the leaders of the youth groups in the community to make an appointment to tour our station and see first hand how our communications center works. There is a lot of equipment and information to be learned. They are all very professional and helpful, so feel free to call them if you need assistance, or have any questions.

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) classes are taught by Officer Darren Thraen. The Stow Police Department, in cooperation with the Nashoba Regional School District, is in its sixteenth year instructing D.A.R.E. to the fifth grade students at Center School. The program is a fourteen-week course instructed in one-hour sessions throughout the school year. A graduation ceremony is the last lesson of the program and that takes place at Hale Middle School. The graduation is a special and rewarding evening for students, parents, teachers and the community leaders who attend the ceremony.

The following describes Officer Thraen's involvement with the D.A.R.E. Program. He was asked to participate in Center School's parent open house where he outlined the D.A.R.E. curriculum to the fifth grade parents so they knew what to expect during the school year. This was followed by a question-and-answer period. He spent time teaching the students how to resist alcohol, drugs and tobacco by informing them of the health and legal consequences involved with this type of behavior. Students are also instructed how they are pressured into alcohol, drug and tobacco use by their peers and the media. The course is interactive with the students participating in skits and role-playing, as well as lecture. D.A.R.E. has become a very popular with our students.

After one year off, Officer Thraen is back at the Hale Middle School teaching D.A.R.E. to the eighth grade students. The Middle School program is taught in nine lessons, which take place over the course of the school year. This program reinforces material that the students learned in fifth grade, and includes new and appropriate information for the students who are about to enter High School.

The D.A.R.E. program is made possible because of the support and efforts of many: the Stow Police Department, school personnel, students, parents and several citizens in the business community who support the program through donations or by volunteering their time. Thank you all from Officer Thraen for the much-appreciated support of the D.A.R.E. program.

With funds provided from the Community Policing Grant, the Police Department participates in Springfest, a town-wide “Family Fun Day”. We provide many inflatable objects, such as moonwalks, obstacle courses, and slides for the kids, plus we hand out youth-size Stow Police baseball caps to all the children. Sno-cones and cotton candy are also hot items. This is free for everyone.

The Town-wide Emergency Notification System was used by the Board of Health to inform residents of the Flu Clinic that was held at the Hale Middle School and also during the ice storm in December; multiple messages were sent to inform residents on the projected restoration of power and opening of a shelter at Meeting House. Remember to register your new cell phone numbers simply by going to the Police, Fire or Town web page and click on the Swift Reach 911 icon. If you don’t have the Internet, drop a note to the Police Department and we will enter the information for you.

A “Light Tower” was purchased mutually by the Police and Highway Department to be shared by all town departments. This equipment is an Ingersoll-Rand Lightsource/generator powered by a diesel engine with four 1000-watt bulbs. It can be used to light up intersections, major accident crashes, and for any activity at night to make it safer for the general public.

In closing, I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, and all other departments. Most importantly, I wish to thank members of the Police, Fire and Highway, and Public Safety Dispatchers for their continued support of the Police Department. Last, but not least, a special thanks to the residents of Stow for their continued support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Trefry, Chief of Police

Rachel R. Belanger, Administrative Assistant

Full-Time Officers:

William L. Bosworth, Sgt
Ralph Marino, Sgt.
Timothy Lima, Sgt.
Steven B. Sturtevant, Detective
Gary P. Murphy, Prosecutor
David J. Goguen
Kimberly H. Doughty
Darren J. Thraen
Sean M. Collins
Michael J. Sallèse

Special Police Officers:

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
James F. Finneran
Robert F. Blanton
John Connors
Michael Smith
Lee Heron
Enrico Maldari

Public Safety Dispatchers:

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
Darlene Trefry
Justine St. John – part-time

Police Matrons:

Deborah L. Richardson
Rachel R. Belanger
Darlene D. Trefry

Auxiliary Police Officer:

Darlene Trefry



POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Accidental 911 Calls	120	112	82	Domestic Disturbances	6	6	6
911 Calls	1469	1718	960	Found/Lost Property	60	53	39
Alarms	224	196	165	General Complaints	298	426	415
Animal Calls	216	170	84	House Checks	1741	1568	2173
Annoying Calls	13	9	5	Larcenies	29	29	45
Assaults	22	14	3	Medical Calls	298	295	288
Assist Citizens	394	323	334	Missing Persons	3	8	8
Assist Other Agency	250	227	193	MV Accidents	105	132	150
Auto Theft	2	2	1	MV Stops	2411	2737	2886
Burglary	16	11	11	Suspicious Activity	258	267	270
Bylaw Violations	12	20	39	Threats	4	6	1
Citations	1207	1289	1885	Vandalism	31	37	32
Disturbances	24	26	27				
Disabled MV Calls	97	105	102				
				TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	13,993	14,710	14,833

FIRE / RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department continues to provide the Town of Stow with Emergency Fire and Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The dedicated individuals of this department work tirelessly, around the clock, responding to a wide variety of emergency calls.

2008 was again a very busy year for the Fire Department. Your department responded to 838 combined fire and medical calls. Some of the major calls we answered are as follows: We responded to a structure fire on Great Road as well as responding mutual aid to Maynard for a structure fire on Douglas Avenue and Waltham Street, Hudson for structure fires on Mason Street and Apsley Street, Harvard for Still Road for a church fire, Bolton for a house fire on Still River Road, and to assist Concord at the Verill Farm fire in September. Your department also responded mutual aid to assist with brush fires in Bolton and Hudson. Stow Fire Department responded to the District 14 Strike Task Force Team to assist with station coverage for the Town of Northborough during a strip mall fire in February and also was requested to respond to Princeton to assist their Fire Department in relief efforts during the ice storms in December. In July the department assisted multiple residents with water problems, trees and wires down due to the heavy rains we received.

The department responded to 70 motor vehicle accidents. Fire Prevention was once again a major focus for your Fire Department in the year 2008. Under the direction of Captain John Paul Benoit, the Fire Department completed 384 inspections for smoke detectors, wood stoves, oil burners and propane tank installation for all new construction as well as homes being sold. Our department also issued 481 Open Burning Permits.

The Fire Department continues to upgrade our education program for the children of Stow. During Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department, in conjunction with the S.A.F.E. program, visits schools and day care centers to teach the children about general safety. At other times during the year, again working with the S.A.F.E. program, we perform other educational events (such as an open house) where the children learn about fire prevention. The Fire Department members also conduct many tours and safety talks throughout the year.

Training for our emergency personnel continues to be a major focus. As the scope of our jobs continues to change and broaden, it is essential that your Fire Fighters and E.M.Ts be properly trained in all areas of Firefighting and E.M.S. services as well as Hazardous Materials, Confined Space Rescues, Auto Extrication, Firefighter & E.M.T. Safety and Survival, and Water & Ice Rescue. Members of the department conduct training drills monthly and on weekends. We also attend classes offered by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the National Firefighting Academy.

Apparatus and Maintenance

Stow Fire is fortunate to have an excellent mechanic on staff as a full time firefighter/EMT. Firefighter Greg Vogel holds the position of Department Mechanic and other members of the department assist when possible. He does an excellent job keeping everything running, saving the fire department and the Town of Stow lots of money and minimizing equipment down time. We continue to provide maintenance to all our equipment and current apparatus in-house whenever possible.

Thanks From the Chief

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Stow Fire Department for your help and support during this past year. Your dedication, commitment and professionalism make a department that we can all be proud of.

I would also like to thank all the citizens of the Town of Stow, the business community, the Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen, Building Inspector and all other town departments for their support of the Fire Department. I would especially like to thank the Police Department, Communications Center and the Highway Department for all your help and support during the year. The State Fire Marshall, Stephen Coan also deserves special thanks for his help and support over this past year.

A special thanks to the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for all their ongoing support especially with the recent December ice storm and emergency shelter operations.

Thank you all! I look forward to another year of progress and teamwork in the Town of Stow.

Respectively submitted,

Mike McLaughlin, Fire Chief

Lisa McNiff, Administrative Assistant

Full-time Firefighters:

John Paul Benoit, Lt.
Gregory A. Vogel
Mark W. Guerin
Lisa McNiff

Call Firefighters:

Charlie Boyle
James Byrne
Christopher Camelio
Kristin Clayton
Christopher Devoe
David Doucette
Rene Doucette
Scott Dwinells
Richard Ellis
Jeremy Fiorvanti
Michael Gallagher
Tim Gray
Becky Hagarty

Ray Hegarty
Peter Holman
Scott Landry
Stephen Landry
Christopher Lazuka
Lisa McNiff
Tim Neufell
Tom Neufell
Paul Nevala
Liana Pratt
James Rodgers
Michael Scimeca
Suzanne Siewierski
Larry Stafford
Larry Stafford
George Taylor
Michael Trioli
Eddie Warren
Christopher Whitley
Shawn Whitney

2008 FIRE / RESCUE DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

TOTAL INCIDENTS = 838

Accidents		Missing Persons	
MVA	70	Incidents	2
Motorcycle	1		
Aircraft	0	Mutual Aid Given	
		Medicals	46
Fires		Motor Vehicle Accidents	10
Structure	4	Station Coverage	4
Car	3	Structure Fire	6
Chimney	4	Brush Fire	1
Brush	5		
Illegal Burning	6	Rescues	
Oven	2	Animal	0
Transformer	0	House L/O	7
Dumpster	0	Ice	0
Tree	0		
		Details	
Assists		Blasting	2
Police	6		
Public	12	Tree/Wires Down	
		Tree Down	6
Municipal Fire Alarm Boxes Rec'd		Wires Down	0
Fire	17		
		Special Service	
Investigations		Incidents	2
Alarm	104		
Carbon Monoxide	64	Water Emergencies	
Electrical	3	Incidents	17
Natural Gas/Propane	8		
Odor	9	Non-Emergency Incidents	
Outdoor Smoke	15	Inspections Performed	134
Smoke in Bldg	5	Open Burning Permits Issued	481
Suspicious Package	1		
Arcing Wires	8	Other Statistics	
		Life Flight	0
Medical Emergencies		MA Ladder Truck	1
Incidents	291	ALS Intercepts	97
Strike Team	2		
Lift Assist	10		
Life Line Activations	3		
Mutual Aid Amb Rec'd	33		
Well Being Checks	11		
Walk In	9		
Hazmat			
Incidents	10		

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

The Stow Fire Department responded to 27 Brush Fires and investigations of outdoor smoke calls in the year 2008.

The Town Forest and other conservation lands were patrolled regularly for down trees and limbs that block the fire roads. Brush cutting was also performed where required to keep the roads open for Fire Apparatus.

The open burning season was once again very busy for the Fire Department. 481 burning permits were issued from January 15 until April 30, 2008. Those who wish to burn brush must be sure to come to the Stow Fire Station to obtain a burning permit for the day you wish to burn. You must also call the Fire Department before you begin burning (after 9:00am). The number to call is 897-4537. We allow burning between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm with permission from the Fire Department depending on staffing and weather conditions. This allows us to have the appropriate personnel available in case your fire gets out of control.

I would like to thank the State Forest Fire Division and the Sudbury Fire Tower for all their help in locating and extinguishing some of these fires.

Respectively submitted by

Mike McLaughlin
Forest Warden

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Following the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, which voted to support a renovation/addition at Center Elementary School, the previous committee was disbanded and the Elementary School Building Committee was formed under state guidelines and met for the first time in September 2007. As outlined by the selectman, our duties were to:

Direct and oversee the renovation and addition to the Center School, as recommended by the School Building Task Force and approved by the residents of Stow in May 2007. To include bringing a firm estimate of cost to Town Meeting for approval (expected May 2008). To include hiring design services, contractor and other professionals as required. The Committee shall use the final report of the School Building Task Force as well as the Stow Schools Master Plan in their work. Committee members will need to be versed in the requirements of the Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA) and ensure that the building project meets all the requirements for potential reimbursement.

Throughout 2008, we have been moving our project forward, working with the MSBA to ensure compliance with all regulations. In a perfect world, we would be ready for this annual town meeting with a proposal for construction costs. But delays and high demands from across the state for the MSBA's attention have thwarted our best efforts.

In the spring of 2008, we were assigned to Regionalization Assessment, as the MSBA wanted to ensure that Maynard's needs could not be met simultaneous to meeting Stow's needs. We presented a

compelling case to the MSBA in March, explaining both our regional school district and its agreement as well as the deliberate process our town has gone through to get to the support we received at the 2007 annual town meeting. The MSBA agreed that a change in regional schools was not an option and moved us to the next stage. We were able to post for and hire an Owner's Project Manager, Construction Monitoring Services Inc (CMS) of Marlboro in November. CMS will now represent us through the hiring of a designer as well as serve as our eyes and ears throughout the construction process. In January, we were finally approved to post for design services and received twelve applications. The choice of designer will be made by the MSBA Design Review Board, which includes three voting representatives of Stow's ESBC. At this time, we anticipate bringing a construction proposal to a special town meeting in Fall 2008.

Throughout this process, we have been working in parallel on some issues that we believe are critical to this project. Fundraising, under the direction of Greta Morgan, has been on our minds since we began. Though it's still early, Greta has researched options for possible sources as well as a structure to accept tax-deductible donations. With her help, the Board of Selectmen approved a plan to set up a fund within the town accounts to accept future donations. Craig Martin was the author of our first grant award for up to \$400,000 from Intel/Organization for the Assabet River to pay for systems to manage stormwater and groundwater recharge. Under the leadership of David Korn, we are researching options to ensure our new school is energy efficient and taking advantage of new technologies, services and funds to help alleviate the costs of such measures.

We encourage residents to keep track of our progress through the town website, where all meetings, minutes and documents are updated regularly.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen S. Sturgis, Co-Chair , Selectman
Amy Finkel Hastings, Co-Chair; Architect
Michael Wood, Superintendent
Stephen Quinn, Planning Board
Craig Martin, Building Inspector
Gary Bernklow, Finance Committee

Lynn Colletti, School Committee
David Korn, Associate Member
Greta Morgan, Associate Member
Lisa D'Alessio, Associate Member
Gregory Irvine, Ex-officio; Principal, Pompo & Center Schools

LAND USE TASK FORCE

The Board of Selectmen established the Land Use Task Force to "conduct a thorough analysis of land in Stow and report back to Town Meeting." Our work includes analysis of current and future land needs, and an analysis of land in town that is: town-owned and unrestricted, or held for conservation. In addition we are developing a process for the town to use for responding effectively to land coming out of Chapter 61 restrictions.

The task force has been working through the year and still is completing its work plan. We expect to be finished to present to the 2009 Annual Town Meeting. We have held one Town Forum and plan to hold another on specific aspects of our work. It is our sincere wish that the efforts of this committee will lead to an improved understanding of land resources, land restrictions, and needs for everyone in the town. As voters in Stow, we all need to understand what the likely and realistic options are when considering future land decisions for various town needs.

We are a research and education body. Our purpose is only to gather information, get the facts straight, and describe the possibilities and liabilities of various options in the future. That said, the Land Use Task Force is comprised of citizens with a variety of perspectives on land use issues and needs in Stow.

Respectively submitted,

Rick Lent, Chairman
Michael Kopczynski
Kathy Sferra
Dorothy Spaulding
Kathleen Willis
Jason Robart, Selectmen's liaison

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Overview of Master Plan Committee

The Town Charter requires the Master Plan to be updated every five years. In 2000, the Master Plan Committee agreed to undertake an update of the 1996 Master Plan. The Board of Selectmen appoints the committee. It currently includes a representative from the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Board of Health, Finance Committee, Conservation Commission and two members at large.

Broad Outline of the Plan

Our primary concern has been housing because housing policy has a major effect on almost every major issue confronting Stow. We want Stow to be a multigenerational community with a variety of housing options that does not exclude either younger or older populations. We would prefer a Stow where young people can afford to live and start a family and older residents can afford to stay instead of moving away because they can no longer bear the high real estate tax burden on a fixed income.

We want to protect open space in Stow, but we acknowledge that our current zoning rules encourage sprawl. We believe that village development (i.e. zoning changes that would permit smaller lots and provide for mixed use zoning) is suitable for the Lower Village and Gleasondale. Village development and housing partnerships working together can promote a multigenerational community and help mitigate further sprawl.

We cherish the rural flavor of Stow but we recognize that the state's laws require Stow to accept further growth and development. We feel that it is critical that Stow should find an equitable way to share both the benefits and burdens of development.

Current Activities

The Master Plan Committee seeks input from the citizens of Stow. The committee recently hired the Ciccolo Group to help:

- Improve outreach to the town, including our recent survey
- Improve communication with the town as seen in our recent public hearing
- Review our plan and help bring it into compliance with recent regulations

The update of the plan is really an ongoing process and all interested citizens are encouraged to become informed and educated about Master Plans, what they entail, and their purpose. The meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Rising, Chair, Board of Health
Stephen Dungan, Board of Selectmen
Karen Kelleher, At Large
Charles Kern, Finance Committee

Rebecca Mattison, Conservation Commission
Roy Miller, At Large
Kathleen Willis, Planning Board

MINUTEMAN ADVISORY GROUP ON INTERLOCAL COORDINATION (MAGIC)

The Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) is a group of thirteen communities northwest of Boston that work collaboratively on issues of mutual concern. Begun in 1984 and formalized in 1986, MAGIC currently consists of the following member communities:

Acton	Bolton
Bedford	Boxborough
Carlisle	Littleton
Concord	Maynard
Hudson	Stow
Lexington	Sudbury
Lincoln	

MAGIC began as a group of local communities interested in promoting planning, retaining community characteristics as an attractive place to live & work, and providing a mechanism to communicate, cooperate, and implement mutual goals. For twenty-four years, MAGIC has focused on managing the impacts of rapid growth as they affect transportation, water quality and quantity, wastewater treatment, open space, affordable housing, local planning capacity, and local budgets.

MAGIC:

- Reviews and provides comments to communities and state agencies on significant projects,
- Assists and advises communities on growth & development policies and actions
- Helps to develop & promote coordinated community and natural resource protection plans, programs, & techniques
- Coordinates & evaluates proposed infrastructure improvements
- Hosts semi-annual meetings with legislators
- Comments on key transportation planning documents

Each community has two representatives, a selectmen or planning board member and a designee of the chief elected official. Both representatives are appointed by official boards - either the Board of Selectmen or the Planning Board. Each community has one vote, as does MAPC, also considered a member. Communities contribute annually to fund expanded services such as the study of Conflicting and Compatible Land Uses, and the Economic Development White Paper.

MAGIC meets every month except August. Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday evening, but these dates are subject to change. The meetings rotate among participating towns. They are open to the public, and local officials and others are welcome.

By linking the core elements of housing, economic development, transportation, infrastructure and open space, MAGIC offers communities a broader view of challenging issues and provides leadership on issues vital to Stow's future. For additional information regarding MAGIC, please contact Christine Wallace, MAGIC Subregional Coordinator, at (617) 451-2770 ext. 2060 or via e-mail at cwallace@mapc.org, or contact Donna Jacobs, Stow's representative to MAGIC at donna.jacobs@verizon.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jacobs, Stow MAGIC Representative

STOW ASSABET RIVER RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE

The Annual Town Meeting voted to purchase a trail and public access easement on the rest of so-called "Track Road". We expect to pass papers on the parcel soon. This purchase will give the Town a trail link along the Assabet River from Sudbury Road to the Maynard town line, nearly two miles of trail.

The Committee walked with the Martin family on the old railroad route through Honey Pot Hill Orchards. A rail trail on the old roadbed would be too intrusive to orchard operations, according to the orchard owners.

We have looked at alternate ways to connect to the trailhead in Hudson. The Town commissioned a study of a 31 acre parcel for multiple Town uses, including the rail trail. The parcel runs from Sudbury Road to the Assabet River. The study, funded 75% by the state, concluded that the asking price is several times the appraised value to the Town, and that Sudbury Road is currently not suitable for rail trail use. The MBTA has given the former Central Massachusetts Railroad roadbed to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. DCR plans to build that trail, which runs from Hudson through Sudbury, Wayland and Weston. The railroad touched only a tiny corner of Stow at Chestnut Street, but the DCR trail could be used to link to the Assabet River Rail Trail through the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge and the Sudbury State Forest or Bruen Road.

The Committee will continue to look for alternate routes. We welcome your input.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Rising, Chairman
Scott Arsenault
Ralph Fuller

Ross Perry
Kirk Teska
John Sangermano, Associate

SUASCO WATERSHED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

"SuAsCo" stands for the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers. Any rain falling within the SuAsCo watershed eventually drains into these rivers. The watershed is a 377-square mile area encompassing, partially or wholly, 36 Massachusetts towns. Acton, Carlisle, Framingham, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, Northborough, Southborough, **Stow**, and Sudbury are all completely within the watershed. The towns of Ashland, Bedford, Berlin, Billerica, Bolton, Boxborough, Boylston, Chelmsford, Clinton, Concord, Grafton, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Lincoln, Littleton, Lowell, Natick, Sherborn, Shrewsbury, Tewksbury, Upton, Wayland, Westborough, Westford, and Weston are partially within the SuAsCo Watershed.

Retaining the natural beauty and rural character of the SuAsCo Watershed is a challenge as this is one of the most rapidly growing areas in Massachusetts, and is facing severe resource challenges. Rapid growth and development have made land expensive, which makes open space and habitat protection increasingly more difficult. Many stretches of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers routinely fail their water quality standard for nutrient enrichment and experience both severe flooding and low flow concerns. Water shortages are evidenced as many towns post water bans during the summer. The rivers' capacity to handle nutrients is severely stressed by non-point sources (stormwater) and wastewater treatment plant discharges.

To rise to these challenges, the watershed community formed the SuAsCo Watershed Community Council to bring together the expertise and vantage points of diverse interest groups to collaboratively tackle the critical challenges facing this important watershed region. The SuAsCo Watershed Community Council's mission is to build a community-based alliance that promotes the sustainable economic and environmental well-being of the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River (SuAsCo) Watershed; in other words to promote blue waters and a green economy.

The SuAsCo Council is comprised of representatives from business and industry; municipal government; environmental organizations; and state, federal and regional agencies. This community-based alliance is a unique non-profit organization whose mission is accomplished through education and collaboration.

In 2006, the Executive Office of Environment Affairs approved the SuAsCo Watershed Action Plan (WAP). The WAP identifies the priority issues in the SuAsCo Watershed and the top actions needed over the next 5 years to address those problems and improve the watershed's environmental health. The Plan is driven by existing municipal reports and research data, as well as by public opinion. The FINAL Watershed Action Plan is available on the Council's website (click the link; PDF file is 10 MB).

The SuAsCo Council sponsors the "Stormwater Community Assistance Program (SWCAP)" which annually provides outreach materials to municipalities to address two of the six minimum control measures under the federally mandated Stormwater Phase II Regulations: Public Education & Outreach and Public Participation & Involvement. The Council has assembled a team of diverse watershed professionals including engineering consultants, municipal and state officials, science teachers, and interested citizens to create the annual SWCAP outreach materials, and tailor them to each town. Simply by practicing the "good housekeeping tips" found on the Stormwater Matters website (www.stormwatermatters.org), stormwater will be cleaner as it flows into our lakes and rivers. Cleaning up stormwater not only benefits your neighborhood, it also benefits the entire network of water bodies and land that make up our watershed. We all need clean water for drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, and for protecting wildlife.

In December of 2008, the SuAsCo Council held its 10th annual River Visions watershed-wide public forum. The 2008 Forum was entitled "Greening the SuAsCo Watershed: LEED, LID and Other Tools for Responding to Climate Change". The forum focused on the use of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles for constructing resource efficient buildings, Low Impact Development (LID) for managing stormwater, and other sustainable development strategies.

Selectman Kathy Farrell is Stow's representative to the SuAsCo Steering Committee. For more information about the SuAsCo Watershed Community Council, please call Nancy Bryant, Executive Director at 978-461-0735 or via email at info@suasco.org, or visit the SuAsCo Council's website at www.suasco.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Farrell, Selectman and Stow SuAsCo Representative

OUR HERITAGE

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Commission celebrated the 325th year since Stow's incorporation. In keeping with the occasion, we sponsored blacksmith Dean Rantz, who demonstrated his skill again in front of the Larsen Blacksmith Shop next to Center School during Spring Fest. Members of the Historical Commission's Textile History subcommittee demonstrated spinning and weaving. In August, we awarded a special "Stow 325" certificate to the most historical float in the Lake Boon Boat Parade.

We continued to work on plans for a new inventory of historical sites to replace the now out-dated 1983 inventory. Community Preservation Funds will be requested to help pay for this project. Work continues on determining the fate of the Larsen Blacksmith Shop.

Additional restoration of stone walls at the Lower Village Cemetery was completed by the beginning of the winter season. Community Preservation Act funds as approved by Town Meeting paid for the labor. We were very pleased with the results and are appreciative of the efforts of the Cemetery Committee and

CPC in carrying this forward. We were asked for information regarding the use of CPA funds for repairs to the First Parish Church, necessitating a site visit to the steeple of the church. Information from the state on former church projects that used CPA funds were provided by church representatives. Additionally, we made a site visit to the Whitney Homestead in September, resulting from inquiries by the Stow Council on Aging as they considered requesting the town to purchase it for their use.

The Historical Commission was pleased to be instrumental in arranging for Dr. Donald Freeman Brown to be presented with the historic Boston Post Cane as the oldest Stow resident.

Once again, the Historical Commission sponsored events at the Stow West School Museum. Four summer Sunday programs were sponsored in part by the Stow Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The first program was “A Hundred Years Ago Today,” celebrating events of the year 1908, and what life was like in a small New England town at that time. We were honored with the visit of Dr. Brown, who was born in 1908. The second program, “For the Children’s Sake,” celebrated children and their toys and clothes “in the old days.” Whimsical Old-time music was provided by the group “October Rose.” In August, we had another successful “ice cream festival” with homemade peach ice cream made on the spot to music provided by the Stow Minutemen. In September, Jennifer Hofmann returned to her role as the teacher of a one-room school.

The Stow West School also hosted visitors from Stow Council on Aging and from Steppingstones School—our visitors come in all ages! We are once again grateful to the Girl Scouts of Troop 2527 for helping to clean the school house and, under the guidance of Janet Kresl Moffat, expand a garden of native plants.

The Commission has made plans to renew the historical plaque program. Beginning in 2009 local residents will be able to apply for markers for their historical structures, which, upon approval, they will be able to obtain through a New England vendor. Our first plaque will be placed on the Stow West School. Instructions for obtaining plaques will be available early in 2009 and request forms will be available at Spring Fest.

We ended the year with a Yuletide celebration cosponsored by the Ancient Documents Committee and the Stow Historical Society with music provided by the Stow Minutemen.

We miss our long time chairman, John Makey, who stepped down to associate membership when his term expired in July. Linda Stokes, our representative to Community Preservation Committee, moved up to full membership on the commission. Ralph Fuller, the author of the popular Stow Independent column “325 Things About Stow,” came on to the board as an associate member.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Fletcher
Karen Gray
Susan McLaughlin
Joe Mishley
Linda Stokes

Lewis Halprin, Associate member
John Makey, Associate member
Robert McDonald, Associate member
Douglas Moffat, Associate member
Janet Kresl Moffat, Associate member
Bill Byron

Ralph Fuller, Associate member

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE

The Ancient Documents Committee entered its 35th year of organizing, cataloging and preserving town records in the Town Vault. Many thanks go to Linda Hathaway, Town Clerk, for her support and enthusiastic interest in Stow history.

Gifts were received from Marion Fletcher, William Whitman of Falmouth, MA, Hartley family, Caroline Collings, Martha Perkins, Elizabeth Currier Barclay of Lexington and Frank Jensen.

Genealogical information was researched for the following names: Boaz and Edward Brown, Osborn and Gibson families, John Brown, Alice Brown, Deacon John Whitman and the Gates family. A gift of two volumes of genealogical records of the Gates families of America was received from Edward Charles Gates of Florida.

Members assisted the Stow Historical Society in the refurbishing of the historical china display upstairs at Randall Library. Many thanks go to Serena Furman of Stow, professional museum designer and consultant, for her advice and hands-on commitment.

Both Lew Halprin and Ralph Fuller, committee members, have been submitting columns on Stow history to the local newspaper, using research materials from the Town Vault. Halprin initially wrote a column called "From the Vault" for another newspaper, and now writes "Past Tense" for the Stow Independent. Also for the Independent, Fuller writes "325 Things to Know About Stow," to mark the 325th anniversary of this town in 2008. Both are very readable columns highlighting events, people, facts and figures from Stow's history.

Using material from the Town Vault, members presented a program in March for third grade students from Center School, based on a children's story written about Charles Gleason, one of three stories about young boys in Stow in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, written by Martha Perkins at the time of Stow's Tercentenary. Committee members also cooperated in a dramatic production, "The Time Trap," based on the same children's stories and produced by The Militia Circle-Farm Road and Stow Youth Players. The presentation took place during Springfest, marking Stow's 325th anniversary.

The committee meets the first and third Fridays, October through June. New members who have an interest in Stow history are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Sipler, Chair
Karen Gray
Karen Green
Lew Halprin
Bob Walrath
Linda Hathaway, Ex-officio

Bill Byron, Associate
Bill Clack, Associate
Ralph Fuller, Associate
Liz Moseley, Associate
Jody Newman, Associate
Dorothy MacDonald, Genealogist

TOWN CLERK

One of the Town Clerk's responsibilities is chief election officer for the town and 2008 was an extremely busy and exciting year in this office. Three Stow residents ran for the State Representative position vacated by retiring State Representative Patricia Walrath. The state legislature voted to change the Presidential Primary date and an election law, both relatively close to the respective elections. In late November 2007, the legislature voted to move the Presidential Primary from March 4th to February 5th. A week prior to the November 2008 election, the legislature changed the election law related to local residency requirements. Changing both an election law and the primary date on short notice created additional work and training for city and town clerks and our election workers. We were relieved when our elections were over without any major incidents or problems.

Voter turnout in Stow ranged from a low of 359 voters at the annual town election in May to a record turnout at the polls for the Presidential election in November. 4,024 voters out of 4,667 registered voters cast ballots in the November election for a respectable eighty-six percent voter turnout. Several neighboring towns had higher percentages than Stow, but I am pleased with Stow's turnout.

We were able to handle the large turnout with little difficulty by having more voting booths set-up, including thirty new ones, and by having more election staff available to assist the voters. The longest wait occurred prior to the polls opening, when people started lining up thirty minutes before the polls opened. The polls opened at 7 a.m. and by 8 a.m. four hundred eighty-one voters had cast their ballots!

Most people do not know the amount of work that goes into election preparation nor the number of people involved, especially with high-interest elections like November's election. Assisting with polling place set-up was the volunteer crew consisting of Lew Halprin, George Scraggs, Al Tyler, Ralph Bernklow, and Ross Perry, along with Betsy MacGilvra and Tahna Hallet. The Planning Department made signs for the polling place, and volunteers in the Council on Aging helped with various preparation tasks. The staff at Hale School was also helpful, especially the custodians, the school librarian, Principal Morgan and Barbara Colleton. Then there are the election workers at the polls. The polls are open thirteen hours and the workers may be there as many as fifteen or sixteen hours assisting with opening and closing the polls. A special thank you to our dedicated election workers.

One of our dedicated election workers, Diane Lowden, passed away in October. She worked at town meeting and elections for many years. Diane, a former teacher at Pompo, was a pleasure to work with and she will be missed by all of us.

Besides elections and voter registration the town clerk is responsible for licensing dogs, collecting fines, registering businesses, processing vital records relating to births, marriages, deaths, and adoptions; administering the oath of office to town officials, board and committee members; recording filings for the planning board and zoning board of appeals, keeping the minutes for town meeting, collecting street list/census data, assisting with compliance with the Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law, and a myriad of other tasks. The town clerk's duties are actually directed by seventy-three chapters and four hundred fifty-one statutes of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Charter and the Stow General Bylaws.

Several people worked with me during the year. Kay Desmond, Assistant Town Clerk, is responsible for street numbering, typing all of the vital record index cards, and the vitals log book. She also assists with town meeting and various other projects over the course of the year. This position is funded for only 250 hours per year.

Kay has been Assistant Town Clerk since 1970 when my grandfather (Francis Warren) appointed her to the position previously held by my grandmother, Mary Warren. Kay is a wealth of knowledge and asset to this office and the town.

Ellie Beaudette retired as the part-time office assistant in July, though she came back to help during the very busy fall election period. We welcomed Sheila DeLeo as the new part-time office

assistant in August. She helps keep the office running smoothly and works fifteen hours a week in the clerk's office and ten hours per week in the Building Department.

Volunteer Bill Byron assisted, again this year, with the tedious task of opening all the census envelopes and collating the census forms by street address. Over 2,400 forms were sent out at the beginning of January and about 80% of the forms were returned by the end of February. A second mailing was done in March.

I look forward to next year and the new challenges that a new year brings.

2008 Vital Records

BIRTHS	65
DEATHS	16
MARRIAGES	6

Individual vital record listings are omitted as a security precaution to deter identity theft.

Town Clerk 2008 Financial Transactions

Fees Collected

Vital record copies, bylaws, maps, etc	\$ 1,984.40
Fines, bylaw violations, late fees	2,985.00
Business Certificate filings	540.00
Fuel storage tank registrations	10.00
Raffle permit	10.00
Dog Licenses	10,668.00
Kennel Licenses	565.00
<u>Total Fees Collected</u>	<u>\$ 16,742.40</u>

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
FEBRUARY 5, 2008**

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of January 8, 2008, the State Election was held in Hale Middle School Gymnasium/Auditorium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m.

After examining the ballot box and finding it empty and in good order, the counter was set to zero. The ballot box was then locked and the keys delivered to the Warden who declared the polls open.

During polling hours, one hundred seventeen absentee ballots were opened, recorded and cast into the ballot box. There were fourteen spoiled ballots. There were two Democratic provisional ballots. It was determined that one provisional voter qualified to vote in Stow and one provisional ballot was counted. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m. There were 2,546 total ballots cast in the Primary (1,572 Democratic, 971 Republican, 3 Green-Rainbow, and zero Working Families). Voter turnout was 57%. There were 4,462 registered voters. The final results are as follows:

REPUBLICAN PARTY - 971 VOTES CAST

RACE/CANDIDATES	TOTAL
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Presidential Preference

John McCain	397
Fred Thompson	1
Tom Tancredo	0
Duncan Hunter	0
Mike Huckabee	33
Mitt Romney	512
Ron Paul	19
Rudy Giuliani	3
No Preference	2
Blanks	1
Write-ins	3

State Committee Man

Brian P.Burke	764
Paul R.Ferro	48
Blanks	158
Write-ins	1

State Committee Woman

Jeanne S.Kangas	591
Blanks	379
Write-ins	1

Town Committee

Group One (1)

William M. Monnie	329
Margaret T. Monnie	284
John R.Cain, Jr	288
Kelly Ann Konash	311
Constantine Stamos	344

Town Committee**Group Two (2)**

Walter Robert Dilling, Jr.	325
John R. Mileski	343
Daniel J. Beaudette	337
Donald G. McPherson	367
Eugene B. Bunce	370
Richard A. Konash	334
Edward R. Perry, Jr	383
Brian P. Burke	457
Blanks	24647
Write-ins	11

DEMOCRATIC PARTY - 1572 VOTES CAST**Race/Candidates Total****Presidential Preference**

John R.Edwards	17
Hillary Clinton	760
Joseph R.Biden, Jr	3
Christopher J.Dodd	0
Mike Gravel	0
Barack Obama	777
Dennis J. Kucinich	3
Bill Richardson	2
No Preference	6
Blanks	2
Write-ins	2

State Committee Man

James McGowan	1017
Blanks	551
Write-ins	4

State Committee Woman

Kathleen Donaghue	1039
Blanks	532
Write-ins	1

Town Committee

Leonard H.Golder	712
Kathleen King Farrell	826
Stephen M.Dungan	815
Daisy Dearborn	735
Mary E.Algeo	670
Patricia A. Walrath	1059
Mary Kate Hogan	687
Sharon Lee Brownfield	672
James P.Cohen	668
Gregory D.Jones	752
John F.Zettler	677
Shirley A.Burchfield	731
Weston A.Fisher	691
Blanks	45298
Write-ins	27

GREEN-RAINBOW PARTY -3 Ballots Cast

RACE/CANDIDATES **TOTAL**

Presidential Preference

Jared Ball	0
Ralph Nader	1
Elaine Brown	0
Kat Swift	0
Cynthia McKinney	1
Kent Mesplay	0
No Preference	0
Blanks	0
Write-ins	1

State Committee Man

Blanks	3
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State Committee Woman

Blanks	3
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Town Committee

Blanks	3
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WORKING FAMILIES PARTY Zero ballots cast

No Nominations

ELECTION WORKERS

Warden

Philip T. Detsch

Dep. Warden

Newton P. Wesley

Clerk

Judith A. Scraggs

Ballot Box Officers

Ann F. Luxner

Checkers & Ballot Counters

Mary E. Algeo

Janet Derby

Anne C. Draudt

Lisabeth H. duBois

Pamela G. Gjestebly

Utahna G. Hallet

Betty Holly

Elizabeth D. MacGilvra

Eila J. Makey

Joanne C. Newman

Diane L. Parker

Betty M. Sauta

Dolores M. Wesley

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 5 and 6, 2008
(First Session)**

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of March 26, 2008, posted by the Constable on April 25, 2008, the annual town meeting was called to order by Deputy Moderator Gary Horowitz at 7:00 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School on May 5, 2008.

Moderator Horowitz read to the meeting a message from Moderator Edward Newman, who was unable to preside over this meeting because of a health problem. The moderator responsibilities are, therefore, turned over to Deputy Gary Horowitz and Assistant Elizabeth Painter.

Dr. Horowitz called attention to the special flag display on the stage that honors the 325th anniversary celebration of the incorporation of the Town of Stow on May 16, 1683. The flags had been made for the 300th celebration in 1983 by Girl Scout Cadette Troop 864 of Stow. The several flags range from that of 1775 to the current 50-star flag. All will be carried by Girl Scouts in the Springfest parade on May 17th.

The meeting rose for an invocation recited by Moderator Horowitz, who then led the meeting in the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*. Town officials were introduced: Selectmen, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Town Counsel, Town Administrator, Selectmen's Administrative Assistant, Finance Committee and others. A list of non-voters who may be heard during the course of the meeting was approved.

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously that Gary Horowitz be elected to serve as Deputy Moderator and that Elizabeth Painter be elected to serve as Temporary Moderator and Assistant Moderator for the ensuing year. Following the vote, they were sworn in by Town Clerk Linda Hathaway.

Moderator Horowitz recognized those individuals who passed away in 2007 having served the Town in several capacities.

On motion of Selectman Dungan, it was voted unanimously that the reading of the warrant and return of the constable thereon be waived but made a part of the record of this meeting, and that the Moderator be permitted to refer to each article by subject matter instead of reading each article in its entirety.

ARTICLE 1. Town Officers Not Elected by Ballot

On motion of Selectman Dungan, it was voted unanimously that the members of the Board of Selectmen be elected to serve as Field Drivers for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2. Reports of Selectmen and Other Officers and Committees

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously that the reports of the Selectmen and other Town Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions be accepted as printed in the Town Report of 2007.

ARTICLE 3. Reports of Special Committees

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously that the reports of the Master Plan Committee and School Building Task Force be accepted as printed in the Town Report for 2007.

At this point, Ellen Sturgis, chair of the School Building Task Force Committee, reported to the meeting with an update as to why there is no proposal on the warrant for a school building project. The 2007 annual town meeting had appropriated \$2.2 million for design and pre-construction at Center School. The Elementary School Building Committee was formed and began meeting in September 2007. There were several events leading up to a meeting with the Mass. School Building Authority in March

2008. The project is now moving forward to the "feasibility study" category. MSBA reimbursement will be at a minimum of 46%; however, the committee is awaiting a firm answer. A fiscal year 2011 vote is expected for the school proposal, estimated at \$33 million, with occupancy in fall 2012.

Finance Committeeman David Walrath presented an overview of the Town's financial situation. The Fiscal 2009 operating budget does not require a Proposition 2-1/2 override; however, there are two debt exclusion questions on the annual election ballot. All departments were held to a minimum increase in spending and 3% cost-of-living wage increases. Finances are tight but look reasonably good for now.

ARTICLE 4. Wage and Salary Schedules

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to amend Article 11 of the General Bylaws of the Town, Personnel Administration, by deleting from Section 20.h. the existing Salary Schedules A, B, C, D and E, and inserting in place thereof new Schedules A, B, C, D and E, as printed in the warrant.

**TOWN OF STOW
WAGE & SALARY SCHEDULES
Effective July 1, 2008 (3%)**

**SCHEDULE A
ANNUAL RATE POSITIONS**

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Police Chief	69,942	72,486	76,301	82,658	93,499
Police Lieutenant	63,285	68,061	71,644	75,225	77,615
Supt. of Streets	62,582	66,491	70,406	74,313	78,229
Fire Chief	62,072	64,556	68,282	74,492	80,695
Town Accountant	57,413	60,980	64,573	68,163	71,755
Treasurer-Collector	49,378	52,466	55,552	58,636	61,723
Building Inspector	48,338	51,357	54,379	57,401	60,423
Library Director	45,998	48,874	51,747	54,627	57,499
Town Clerk	41,336	43,791	46,369	48,941	51,519

**SCHEDULE B
HOURLY RATE POSITIONS**

GROUP A

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Parks & Commons Worker	10.51	11.40	12.37	13.28	14.18
Cemetery Worker	10.51	11.40	12.37	13.28	14.18
Custodian	10.51	11.40	12.37	13.28	14.18

GROUP B

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Asst. Town Clerk	15.49	16.68	17.92	19.42	20.86
Capital Program Comm. Secretary	11.93	12.82	13.79	14.94	16.05

GROUP C

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Board of Appeals Secretary	16.29	17.75	19.15	20.62	22.02
Town Secretary	12.82	13.98	15.08	16.24	17.36
Highway/Tree/ Grounds Worker	12.82	13.98	15.08	16.24	17.36

GROUP D

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Highway/Tree Grounds Driver-Laborer	15.88	16.89	17.88	18.85	19.83

GROUP E

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Highway Dept. Equipment Operator	17.35	18.43	19.50	20.60	21.65
Tree Worker (Moth)	17.35	18.43	19.50	20.60	21.65
Maintenance Person	17.35	18.43	19.50	20.60	21.65

GROUP F

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Highway Dept. Mechanic	18.39	19.46	20.70	21.85	22.97
Crew Chief	19.13	20.24	21.53	22.71	23.90

GROUP G

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Highway Dept. Foreman	20.42	21.70	22.96	24.25	25.49

SCHEDULE C
SINGLE RATE POSITIONS PAID ANNUALLY

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Registrar of Voters	123.00
Assistant Registrar of Voters	247.00
Animal Control Officer	15,960.00
Animal Inspector	3,313.00
Director of Summerthing	2,479.00
Beach Director	5,342.00
Cemetery Superintendent	32,782.00
Veterans' Agent	1,343.00
Council on Aging Secretary	859.00

SCHEDULE D
SINGLE RATE POSITIONS PAID HOURLY

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Election Warden	9.45
Election Clerk	9.45
Election Teller	8.36
Election Clerical Assistance	8.36
Lifeguard	10.38
Lifeguard (W.S.I.)	12.26
Beach Checker	8.36
Summerthing Assistant	8.36
Street Lister	9.02
Street Listing Clerk	8.36
Street Numberer	8.36
Per Diem Firefighter (call)	13.11
Apprentice Firefighter (call)	12.71
Firefighter (call)	14.52
Emergency Medical Technician (call)	14.52
Firefighter/EMT (call)	15.18
EMT -w/Defib & Epi Pen (call)	15.85
Firefighter/EMT - w/Defib & Epi Pen (call)	16.51
Officers - Fire or Medical (call)	17.84
Police Officer - part-time	20.30
Police Matron	17.91
Auxiliary Police Officer	13.25
Dispatcher - part-time	16.87

SCHEDULE E
FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL SINGLE RATES

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Deputy Fire Chief (call)	896.00
Fire Engineer	777.00
Fire Captain (call)	596.00
Fire Lieutenant (call)	478.00
Fire Medical Officer	358.00
EMS Quartermaster	239.00

EMS Schedule Coordinator	180.00
EMS Assistant Coordinator	299.00
EMS Records Coordinator	358.00

ARTICLE 5. General Budget for Fiscal Year 2009

Selectman Ellen Sturgis moved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,848,342.00, as recommended by the Town Administrator and Selectmen for Items 1 through 74 inclusive, as printed in the warrant under the column entitled "*FY2009 Budget Town Admin/Selectmen Recommended*", each item to be considered a separate appropriation for the purposes designated and the same to be expended only for such purposes.

Deputy Moderator Horowitz read off each group of line items, and the following were held for questions or clarification: 7, 14, 16, 21, 22, 35, 40, 51, 52, 66, 67, 70 and 71. Those items not held were put to a vote, and those sums as printed in the warrant carried unanimously.

Item 7 - Town Building Clerical Wages: A voter questioned what appears to be a doubling of the current figure. Town Administrator William Wrigley explained that the increase represents 1,000 hours at \$15 for needed clerical assistance divided equally to the offices of the Selectmen, Building Inspector and Accountant. The sum of \$31,973.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 14 - Assessors' Clerical Wages: A voter asked how many people are included in the figure. There are two, one of whom is due a step increase and longevity payment in FY2009. The sum of \$56,454.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 16 - Treasurer-Collector Salary: This is a single position that is due a step increase in FY2009, representing a 4.9% increase overall. The sum of \$55,552.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 21 - Town Clerk Expenses: The increase over FY2008 is due to expenses associated with the primary and presidential elections in the fall of 2008. The sum of \$14,745.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 22 - Conservation Commission Clerical Wages: There was no question. The sum of \$60,840.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 35 - Fire and EMS Wages: A voter noted the recommended figure was less than the department request. Mr. Wrigley explained that the department requested more than the 3% cost-of-living wage increase for its call members. The recommended figure is in line with the 3% increase to be granted other town personnel. The sum of \$423,872.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 40 - Supt. of Streets Salary: The recommended figure includes a step increase in FY2009. The sum of \$78,229.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 51 - Council on Aging Executive Director Salary: When the current director was hired in 2007 there were not sufficient funds to cover her salary. The recommended figure will provide an increase to the next step as had been agreed. The sum of \$51,138.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 52 - Council on Aging Expenses: The Council relies on volunteers to carry out its mission. The Friends of the Council do not have enough funds to support the van operation. The sum of \$76,584.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 66 - Educational Incentive: The recommended increase will provide payment to two new hires with degrees, plus two now eligible. The sum of \$57,500.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 67 - Group Insurance: A voter asked if the Town is part of the state insurance program. Mr. Wrigley advised that the Town's program is competitive with the State and with more offerings. Any change in the Town's group insurance will involve negotiation with the several unions. The sum of \$559,698.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 70 - Nashoba Regional School District Assessment: A voter asked if track reconstruction is included in the FY2009 budget. The response was in the negative. If the special article is not successful, funding will be part of the school budget for FY2010. The sum of \$12,607,229.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 71 - Minuteman Voc-Tech Assessment: Questions were asked about enrollment overall and of Stow students. Minuteman Supt. Dr. Edward Bouquillon advised that the assessment is not tied to per pupil costs, rather a percentage of the region. The sum of \$963,952.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

The total general budget for FY2009 at \$19,848,342.00 was approved as printed in the warrant.

General Government

1 Moderator Salary	\$ 37.00
2 Moderator Expenses	45.00
3 Selectmen Administrative Asst. Salary	42,999.00
4 Selectmen Expenses	11,770.00
5 Town Administrator Salary	104,172.00
6 Town Administrator Expenses	500.00
7 Town Building Clerical Wages	31,973.00
8 Finance Committee Wages	3,735.00
9 Finance Committee Expenses	450.00
10 Accountant Salary	42,436.00
11 Accountant Clerk Salary	0.00
12 Accountant Expenses	1,525.00
13 Principal Assessor Salary	57,189.00
14 Assessors' Clerical Wages	56,454.00
15 Assessors' Expenses	7,650.00
16 Treasurer-Collector Salary	55,552.00
17 Treasurer-Collector Clerical Wages	43,499.00
18 Treasurer-Collector Expenses	38,800.00
19 Town Clerk Salary	51,519.00
20 Town Clerk Other Wages	25,736.00
21 Town Clerk Expenses	14,745.00
22 Conservation Commission Clerical Wages	60,840.00
23 Conservation Commission Expenses	4,280.00
24 Planning Board Clerical Wages	98,723.00
25 Planning Board Expenses	4,510.00
26 Board of Appeals Clerical Wages	6,996.00
27 Board of Appeals Expenses	3,370.00
28 Municipal Building & Property Wages	24,983.00
29 Municipal Building & Property Expenses	60,488.00
30 Town Reports Expenses	<u>9,050.00</u>
General Government Total	\$864,026.00

Public Safety

31	Police Chief Salary	\$ 93,499.00
32	Police & Dispatch Wages	1,040,475.00
33	Police & Dispatch Expenses	86,300.00
34	Fire Chief Salary	80,695.00
35	Fire & EMS Wages	423,872.00
36	Fire & EMS Expenses	80,000.00
37	Building Inspector Salary	60,423.00
38	Building Dept. Clerical Wages	18,013.00
39	Building Dept. Expenses	<u>5,625.00</u>
	Public Safety Total	\$1,888,902.00

Public Works and Facilities

40	Supt. of Streets Salary	\$ 78,229.00
41	Highways & Grounds Wages	427,168.00
42	Highways & Grounds Expenses	112,600.00
43	Snow & Ice Removal Expense	150,000.00
44	Municipal Lighting	13,500.00
45	Gasoline & Diesel Fuel Expense	90,000.00
46	Cemetery Salary & Wages	39,882.00
47	Cemetery Expenses	<u>9,915.00</u>
	Public Works and Facilities Total	\$ 921,294.00

Human Services

48	Sanitary Agent Wages	\$ 17,995.00
49	Health Department Wages	74,662.00
50	Health Department Expenses	8,560.00
51	Council on Aging Executive Director Salary	51,138.00
52	Council on Aging Wages	76,584.00
53	Council on Aging Expenses	12,408.00
54	Veterans' Agent Salary	1,303.00
55	Veterans' Agent Expenses	<u>200.00</u>
	Human Services Total	\$ 242,850.00

Culture and Recreation

56	Library Director Salary	\$ 57,499.00
57	Library Wages	76,913.00
58	Library Expenses	56,692.00
59	Recreation Wages	45,263.00
60	Recreation Expenses	23,550.00
61	Lake Boon Commission Wages	2,745.00
62	Lake Boon Commission Expenses	710.00
63	Historical Commission Expenses	525.00
64	Memorial Day Expenses	950.00
65	Lighting of Clock Expenses	<u>100.00</u>
	Culture and Recreation Total	\$ 264,947.00

Town-Wide Expenses

66	Educational Incentive	\$ 57,500.00
67	Group Insurance	559,698.00
68	Insurance & Bonds	128,800.00
69	Telephone	<u>25,956.00</u>
	Town-Wide Expenses Total	\$ 771,954.00

Education

70	Nashoba Regional School District Assessment	\$12,607,229.00
71	Minuteman Voc-Tech Assessment	<u>963,952.00</u>
	Education Total	\$13,571,181.00

Debt Service

72	Principal, Long-Term Debt	\$ 847,000.00
73	Interest, Long-Term Debt – Bonds	473,188.00
74	Interest, Temporary Loans – Revenue	<u>3,000.00</u>
	Debt Service Total	\$ 1,323,188.00

TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET.....\$19,848,342.00

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted to take the following articles out of the order in the warrant and take action on Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36 and 37, as said motions are printed in the Consent Calendar, a copy of which has been provided to the voters at this meeting, without debate on any such articles and provided that upon the request of any voter at this meeting made before the vote is taken on this motion, an article shall be dropped from the Consent Calendar and shall be acted upon in the ordinary course and order of business at this town meeting.

Articles 16, 30 and 35 were dropped from the Consent Calendar at the request of voters. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the articles within the Consent Calendar.

ARTICLE 6. Reserve Fund

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 for a Reserve Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008.

ARTICLE 7. Tax Title Proceedings

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated for tax title proceedings for tax taking and Land Court foreclosure, including costs and legal expenses related thereto; to be expended by the Treasurer-Collector.

ARTICLE 8. Audit of Financial Records

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,200.00 for a Town financial audit.

ARTICLE 9. Revolving Fund for Inspection Fees

Voted to authorize, upon the recommendation of the Selectmen, a revolving fund pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 for FY2009, to which shall be credited all permitting fees received for wire, gas, plumbing and fire alarm permits and for weights and measures sealing, to a limit of \$40,000.00 for Fiscal 2009, to be expended by the Selectmen without further appropriation, for the purpose of payment of fees to the inspectors administering such permits and reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the Town.

ARTICLE 10. Revolving Fund for Advanced Life Support Services

Voted to authorize, upon the recommendation of the Selectmen, the establishment of a revolving fund pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 for FY2009, to which shall be credited all fees received for advanced life support services provided by the Town of Stow, to a limit of \$40,000.00 for FY2009, to be expended by the Fire Department without further appropriation, for the purpose of payment of all costs associated with providing advanced life support ambulance services.

ARTICLE 11. Transfer to Conservation Fund

Voted to appropriate and transfer from the Conservation Land Maintenance Account to the Conservation Fund the sum of \$2,772.50, to be expended by the Conservation Commission.

ARTICLE 12. Conservation Fund Addition

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the balance remaining in the Conservation Fund, to be expended by the Conservation Commission.

ARTICLE 13. Transfer from Wetlands Protection Fund

Voted to appropriate and transfer from the Wetlands Protection Fund the sum of \$4,255.00 as additional appropriation to the Conservation Commission, to be expended by the Conservation Commission in performing its duties under the Wetlands Protection Act.

ARTICLE 14. Agricultural Preservation Fund Addition

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,550.00 to be added to any balance previously appropriated, to be expended by the Agricultural Commission for the purpose of performing its duties.

ARTICLE 15. Update of Property Valuations

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be added to any balance previously appropriated for the purpose of updating property valuations in the Town to full and fair cash value, to be expended by the Assessors.

ARTICLE 16. Town Records Binding and Repair

Removed from Consent Calendar and acted upon separately.

ARTICLE 17. Election Equipment

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500.00 for the purchase of polling equipment and supplies.

ARTICLE 18. Highway Department

Voted to raise and appropriate the sums of money for Highway Department purposes as set forth in the schedule below:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. For the Road Machinery Account | \$33,091.00 |
| 2. For repairs on private ways | \$10,000.00 |

ARTICLE 19. Highway Road Construction

Voted to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$206,033.00 from FY2008 apportionment for construction, reconstruction and/or improvements to town roads, as requested by the Board of Selectmen; to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth.

ARTICLE 20. Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to be added to any balance previously appropriated for the purpose of satisfying the compliance requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, in accordance with State regulations; to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health.

ARTICLE 21. Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from the previous appropriation, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health for the purpose of providing for household hazardous waste collection.

ARTICLE 22. Emerson Hospital Home Care

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,100.00 to be added to any balance remaining from the previous appropriation, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health for the purpose of providing home care services and communicable disease follow-up services to Stow residents.

ARTICLE 23. Community Nurse

Voted to transfer from the Concord Health Services Account the sum of \$6,113.00, or any other remaining balance, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health for the purpose of creating a Community Nurse account to provide routine medical services to Stow residents.

ARTICLE 24. Solid Waste Disposal Container

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from the previous appropriation, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health for the purpose of renting a container and disposing of solid waste that has been dumped on town land and roadsides.

ARTICLE 25. Medical Reserve Corps Expenses

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health for the purpose of providing equipment and operating expenses for the Medical Reserve Corps.

ARTICLE 26. Stow Cultural Council

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 to be added to any balance remaining from previous appropriations to produce cultural activities and programming in Stow, including \$2,000.00 of these funds to be used to support Springfest activities.

ARTICLE 27. Selectmen's Engineering/Consulting Expenses

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated for this purpose, to be expended by the Board of Selectmen for engineering and consulting services including, but not limited to, the Board's implementation of the Town's Master Plan.

ARTICLE 28. Planning Board Engineering/Consulting and Master Plan Expenses

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated for this purpose, to be expended by the Planning Board for Planning Board engineering/consulting services and master plan expenses.

ARTICLE 29. Purchase of Information Technology Equipment

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,530.00 to be added to any balance remaining from previous appropriation, to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator for the purchase of computer equipment, software and services for various town departments; and to authorize the Town Administrator to sell, trade or otherwise dispose of existing equipment in connection therewith.

ARTICLE 30. Legal Services

Removed from the Consent Calendar and acted upon separately.

ARTICLE 31. Police Officer & Firefighter Medical Payments

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated, in anticipation of possible claims presented to the Town under the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 41, Section 100, for the payment of medical and other allowable expenses incurred by police officers or firefighters injured in the performance of and within the scope of duty.

ARTICLE 32. Weights and Measures Testing

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,600.00 to be added to any balance remaining from a previous appropriation for the purpose of funding the Town's weights and measures testing.

ARTICLE 33. SwiftReach 911 Notification System

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500.00 to be expended under the direction of the Chief of Police for the purpose of paying for a town-wide telephone emergency notification system known as SwiftReach Networks.

ARTICLE 34. Police Station Air Conditioning

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000.00 to be expended under the direction of the Chief of Police for the purpose of replacing the main air conditioning unit in the Police Station.

ARTICLE 35. Transfer from Overlay Surplus Account

Removed from the Consent Calendar and acted upon separately.

ARTICLE 36. Community Preservation Expenses

Voted to appropriate from Fiscal Year 2009 Community Preservation Fund annual revenues the sum of \$37,500.00 to be expended for wages and expenses associated with the creation, implementation and maintenance of Community Preservation programs, in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act, including but not limited to office supplies, clerical assistance, property surveys, appraisals, attorney's fees and other professional services, recording fees, printing and all other necessary and proper expenses for Fiscal Year 2009, in accordance with a budget to be prepared for the Town Administrator.

Report of Community Preservation Committee re Article 36

On May 5, 2008 the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant article and recommend to Town Meeting to appropriate \$37,500 for wages and expenses associated with the creation, implementation and maintenance of Community Preservation programs, in accordance with Mass. General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act.

ARTICLE 37. Community Preservation Reserves

Voted to reserve for later appropriation monies from the Community Preservation Fund Balance collected from both the Community Preservation Act Surcharge and the State Trust Fund Distribution and collected from Fiscal Year 2009 Community Preservation Fund Annual Revenues, in accordance with the undertaking of Community Preservation projects.

Preservation of Historic Resources	\$75,000.00
Preservation of Open Spaces	\$75,000.00
Affordable Housing	\$75,000.00

Report of Community Preservation Committee re Article 37

On February 25, 2008 the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant article and recommend to Town Meeting to appropriate \$75,000 (\$225,000 total) for each of the three reserve funds (Historic Preservation, Open Space & Recreation and Affordable Housing), in accordance with Mass. General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act.

=====**End of Consent Calendar**=====

ARTICLE 16. Town Records Binding and Repair

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to be added to any balance previously appropriated for the purpose of binding and repairing town records in accordance with Mass. General Laws Chapter 66, Section 9; to be expended by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 30. Legal Services

On motion of Selectman Dungan, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from any previous appropriation for the purpose of funding the Town's general legal account.

ARTICLE 35. Transfer from Overlay Surplus Account

On motion of Selectman Dungan, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from the Town's Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$40,000.00 for the purpose of adding \$20,000.00 to the Town's FY2008 Legal Account and for adding \$20,000.00 to the Town's FY2008 Snow and Ice Account.

ARTICLE 38. Capital Requests

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously to discuss the items of this article individually and vote upon each separately as to the amount to be appropriated for each item, as set forth in separate motions proposed.

ARTICLE 38-1. Cemetery Tractor

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,600.00 for the purpose of purchasing a four-wheel drive diesel tractor and mower/loader combination for use by the Cemetery Department.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 38-2. Police Cruiser

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a police cruiser for use by the Police Department.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 38-3. Network Domain

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a network domain for use by the Town offices.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 38-4. Highway Department Truck

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$40,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a one-ton dump truck for use by the Highway Department.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 38-5. Highway Department Dump Body

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a dump body and sander/spreader combination for use by the Highway Department.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 38-6. Center School Repairs

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be expended by the Nashoba Regional School District for the purpose of making repairs to Center School.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 38-7. Hale School Repairs

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$62,000.00 to be expended by the Nashoba Regional School District for the purpose of making repairs to Hale Middle School.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

Kathleen Farrell moved to amend the amount to \$50,000.00 to omit gymnasium floor repair. The motion failed to carry.

ARTICLE 38-8. Town Building Third Floor

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted by a hand count of 95 Yes to 84 No to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$55,000.00 to be expended under the direction of the Building Department for the purpose of finishing an area for working space on the third floor of the Town Building.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were not in favor.

ARTICLE 38-9. Town Building Roof Replacement

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$48,000.00 to be expended under the direction of the Building Department for installing a new roof for the Town Building.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 38-10. Mobile Data Terminals

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$36,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing mobile data terminals for emergency vehicles for use by the Fire/Rescue Department.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 39. Fire Truck

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to borrow the sum of \$195,000.00 to finance the repairs and improvements to Fire Engine Number 11, or to finance the purchase of a new fire truck to replace Fire Engine Number 11. Such borrowing is to be undertaken by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, provided that an affirmative vote on this article shall be null and void and of no further effect unless the Town approves by an affirmative vote a ballot question to exempt the amount appropriated from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half, so-called.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

NOTE: The vote on ballot question 1 at the May 13, 2008 annual town election was in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 40. Nashoba Regional High School Track & Field Rehabilitation

Prior to a motion on this article, School District Committee member Brian Burke informed the meeting that the Bolton town meeting had failed to vote affirmatively on the article that sought to approve

indebtedness of \$1,280,000 as authorized by the Regional School District Committee for the purpose of constructing a synthetic turf field and new track at the high school. A conference ensued among the district officials, the Selectmen and Town Counsel regarding procedure at this point. All three towns of the district must approve to allow the proposal to move forward. Bolton has closed its meeting, so there is no chance of reconsideration.

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to **take no action** on Article 40.

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m. to reconvene on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School.

**MAY 6, 2008
(Second Session)**

Deputy Moderator Gary Horowitz called to order the second session of the annual town meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School.

A report on progress achieved at the first session was reviewed. Town officials and others were again introduced.

Robert Wilber, chair of the Community Preservation Committee, presented an overview of that body and introduced its members. CPC funds are to be designated for affordable housing, historic preservation and open space and recreation. There has been a 100% match each year of those monies realized from the 3% surcharge on real estate tax bills. Mr. Wilber reviewed the various projects that were funded through the fund, and those projects to be considered at this meeting.

ARTICLE 41. Stone Wall Restoration at Lower Village Cemetery

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$19,500.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Reserve for Historic Preservation purposes, in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act, to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Committee, in consultation with the Historical Commission, for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of stone walls at the Lower Village Cemetery, including the wall along Pompositticut Street and continuing behind the cemetery.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

Report of the Community Preservation Committee

On February 25, 2008 members from the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant article and recommend to Town Meeting that \$19,500 be expended from the Community Preservation Historic Reserve Fund for a Stone Wall Restoration Project, in accordance with Mass. General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act.

ARTICLE 42. Assabet River Rail Trail - Sudbury Road to White Pond Road

Selectman Stephen Dungan moved that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$227,000.00 from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund Balance, to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee, in consultation with the Stow Assabet River Rail Trail Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act, for the purchase of an interest in certain land between Sudbury Road and White Pond Road formerly owned by the Boston & Maine Railroad and shown on a plan marked "Land in Stow and Maynard, Mass., Boston and Maine Railroad - to George Morey, J. F. Kerwin, Asst. Chief Engineer, June 1961", recorded with the Middlesex Registry of Deeds in Book 9920, Page 557, or any portion thereof, either in fee simple or as an easement of approximately 9,900 feet in length along the former railroad roadbed and suitable for the construction of a portion of the Assabet River Rail Trail and for public

access, including legal, appraisal, engineering and other costs or fees incidental thereto; and further to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend any and all grants, gifts, transfers, and/or reimbursement available for such acquisition, and to enter into any and all agreements and execute any and all documents as may be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purpose of this article.

Donald Rising of the River Rail Trail Committee spoke about the project that has been in planning for many years. The Hudson-to-Marlborough section has been constructed and is in use. This easement of approximately 1.7 miles is essential to complete the trail through Stow. Options for connection to the Hudson terminus are being pursued. A federal grant of \$40,000 is expected.

The Finance Committee was in support of the article in spite of the purchase price being in excess of the assessed value.

Report of the Community Preservation Committee

On March 3, 2008 members from the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to approve the warrant article and recommend to Town Meeting that \$227,000 be expended from the Community Preservation Unreserved Fund Balance for the Albright Rail Trail Easement in accordance with Mass. General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act.

Daniel Barstow of Pine Point Road moved to amend by adding the following language at the end of the main motion: "To sustain the open and rural character of Stow and celebrate the scenic and fragile beauty of the Assabet River, this land shall be maintained in its current state, with the trail accessible as an unpaved walking trail. This option is in compliance with "Rail Trail" guidelines, provides public access to this beautiful and serene trail, and avoids the costs of development, environmental impact and upkeep requirements of paving, fencing, parking, security, litter and other potential build-outs."

Discussion ensued. The question was raised as to whether the motion to amend was within the "four corners" of the original motion that deals with acquisition of an easement. Mr. Rising pointed out that the acceptance of federal funds will require that the surface be wheelchair accessible with paving. The amendment could put in jeopardy federal funds. Others added that a paved surface would be more acceptable for walkers, strollers, bicycles, etc. The Finance Committee recommended against the amendment due to unintended side effects.

A call for the question (amendment) was made and passed. A vote on the motion to amend was taken, and it **did not carry**. There was a call for the question on the original motion, but it failed to carry by the necessary two-thirds. Discussion continued for a short time.

Finally, a vote was taken on Mr. Dungan's motion. The **main motion carried** by a vote declared by Moderator Horowitz to be more than the two-thirds required.

ARTICLE 43. Senior Tax Relief

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted to accept the provisions of Section 4 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, and further to act under the aforesaid statutes to increase by 100 percent the amount of property tax exemption granted to persons who qualify for said exemption under clauses 17, 17C, 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 37, 37A, 41, 41B and 41C of Section 5 of Chapter 59 of the Mass. General Laws and Acts and amendments thereof or additions thereto, for FY 2009.

The Finance Committee was in favor of the article.

ARTICLE 44. Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously, as amended, to accept the governance provisions of the Town of Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, to read in its entirety as

printed in the handout, and amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Section 18 to Article 3, Town Affairs, to read as printed in the handout.

The amendment to add the following language to Section G. Acts of Trustees, was passed unanimously: "Any single borrowing shall be capped at \$200,000."

SECTION 18. Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

There shall be a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, the purpose of which shall be to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable housing in the Town of Stow for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households. The Trust shall be governed by Trustees in accordance with Mass. General Laws Chapter 44, Section 55C and the authority granted by Town Meeting, as revised from time to time.

Pursuant to a vote at the Stow 2005 Annual Town Meeting and pursuant to the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 44, Section 55C adopted at the Stow 2005 Annual Town Meeting, the Town of Stow hereby establishes the specific powers of the Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust for the benefit of all of the inhabitants of the Town of Stow in the manner and under the terms and conditions set forth herein. To the extent that this Article is in conflict with Article 38 of the 2005 Annual Town Meeting, the terms, conditions and enabling authority of this Article shall control.

A. Name of the Trust

The Trust shall be called the "Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust", herein referred to as the Trust.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the Trust shall be to provide for the preservation and creation of affordable housing in the Town of Stow for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households.

C. Tenure of Trustees

There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of seven Trustees who shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. One of the Trustees shall be a member of the Board of Selectmen. Only persons who are residents of the Town of Stow shall be eligible to hold the office of Trustee. The chairman of the Town of Stow Local Housing Partnership shall be an ex-officio member with no right to vote. Trustees shall serve for a term of two years, except that three of the initial trustee appointments shall be for a term of one year. The Board of Selectmen may reappoint trustees for succeeding terms, and there is no limit on the number of terms that a Trustee can serve. Any Trustee may resign by written instrument signed and acknowledged by such Trustee and duly filed with the Town Clerk. If a Trustee shall die, resign, or for any other reason cease to fulfill the duties of a Trustee hereunder before his/her term of office expires, a successor shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to fill the remainder of the term of such vacancy provided that said appointment and acceptance in writing by the newly appointed Trustee are filed with the Town Clerk. Upon the appointment of any Trustee and the filing of such appointment with the Town Clerk, the title to the Trust estate shall thereupon and without the necessity of any conveyance be vested in such succeeding Trustee jointly with the remaining Trustees. Reference to the Trustee shall mean the Trustee or Trustees for the time being hereunder. Trustees may be removed at any time for cause by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen following a properly noticed public hearing. Cause shall include, but not be limited to, violation of any local, state, or federal law; non-participation in business of the Trust; incapacity to perform the duties of a Trustee; acts of the Trustee, that in the opinion of the Board of Selectmen, are negligent or detrimental to the Town of Stow or the Trust.

D. Meetings of the Trust

The Trust shall meet at least quarterly at such time and at such place as the Trustees shall determine. Notice of all meetings of the Trust shall be given in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Mass. General Laws Chapter 39, Sections 23A, 23B and 23C. A quorum at any

meeting shall be a majority of the Trustees qualified and present in person. Minutes of all meetings shall be kept with the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Mass. General Laws Chapter 39, Sections 23A, 23B and 23C.

E. Powers of Trustees

The Powers of the Trust shall be the following, except that any purchase, sale, lease, exchange, transfer or conveyance of any interest in real property is subject to a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the Trustees:

- (1) to accept and receive property, whether real or personal, by gift, grant, devise, or transfer from any person, firm, corporation or other public or private entity, including without limitation grants of funds or other property tendered to the Trust in connection with provisions of any zoning bylaw or any other bylaw;
- (2) to purchase and retain real or personal property, including without restriction investments that yield a high rate of income or no income;
- (3) to sell, lease, exchange, transfer or convey any personal, mixed, or real property at public auction or by private contract for such consideration and on such terms as to credit or otherwise and to make such contracts and enter into such undertakings relative to trust property as the Trust deems advisable notwithstanding the length of any such lease or contract;
- (4) to execute, acknowledge and deliver deeds, assignments, transfers, pledges, leases, covenants, contracts, promissory notes, releases and other instruments sealed or unsealed, necessary, proper or incident to any transaction in which the Board engages for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Trust;
- (5) to employ advisors and agents, such as accountants, appraisers and lawyers as the Trust deems necessary;
- (6) to pay reasonable compensation and expenses to all advisors and agents and to apportion such compensation between income and principal as the Trust deems advisable;
- (7) to apportion receipts and charges between incomes and principal as the Trust deems advisable, to amortize premiums and establish sinking funds for such purpose and to create reserves for depreciation, depletion or otherwise;
- (8) to participate in any reorganization, recapitalization, merger or similar transactions; and to give proxies or powers of attorney with or without power of substitution to vote any securities or certificates of interest and to consent to any contract, lease, mortgage, purchase or sale of property, by or between any corporation and any other corporation or person;
- (9) to deposit any security with any protective reorganization committee and to delegate to such committee such powers and authority with relation thereto as the Trust may deem proper and to pay out of Trust property, such portion of expenses and compensation of such committee as the Trust may deem necessary and appropriate;
- (10) to borrow money on such terms and conditions and from such sources as the Board deems advisable, to mortgage and pledge trust assets as collateral;
- (11) to carry property for accounting purposes other than acquisition date values;
- (12) to make distributions or divisions of principal in kind;

- (13) to comprise, attribute, defend, enforce, release, settle or otherwise adjust claims in favor or against the Trust, including claims for taxes and to accept any property, either in total or partial satisfaction of any indebtedness or other obligation and subject to the provisions of state statutes, to continue to hold the same for such period of time as the Trust may deem appropriate;
- (14) to manage or improve real property and to abandon any property which the Trust determines not to be worth retaining;
- (15) to hold all or part of the Trust property un-invested for such purposes and for such time as the Trust may deem appropriate;
- (16) to extend the time for payment of any obligation to the Trust; and
- (17) to adopt rules and regulations governing the conduct of the Trust and the Trustees, consistent with the General Laws.

F. Funds Paid to the Trust

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all monies paid to the Trust in accordance with any Town of Stow zoning bylaw, exaction fee, or private contribution shall be paid directly into the Trust and need not be appropriated or accepted and approved into the Trust.

Funds appropriated by the Town of Stow Town Meeting for payment into the Trust become Trust property and these funds need not be further appropriated to be expended except as set forth in paragraph E herein. All monies remaining in the Trust at the end of any fiscal year, whether or not expended by the Trust, remain Trust property. The Trust shall comply with any conditions stipulated in the article's motion for monies appropriated by the Stow Town Meeting.

G. Acts of Trustees

A majority of Trustees may exercise any or all of the powers of the Trustees hereunder, unless otherwise provided, and may execute on behalf of the Trustees any and all instruments with the same effect as though executed by all the Trustees. No Trustee shall be required to give bond. No license of court shall be required to confirm the validity of any transaction entered into by the Trustees with respect to the Trust Estate. Any expenditure by the Trust to any one party in a cumulative amount exceeding \$200,000.00 or any borrowing (capped at \$200,000.00) or donations to any charitable organization by the Trust shall also be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen prior to finalizing the transaction. Any single borrowing shall be capped at \$200,000.00.

H. Liability

Neither the Trustees nor any agent or office of the Trust shall have the authority to bind the Town of Stow, except in the manner specifically authorized herein. The Trust is a public employer and the Trustees are public employees for the purposes of General Laws Chapter 268A. The Trust shall be deemed a municipal agency and the Trustees special municipal employees for the purposes of General Laws Chapter 268A. The Trustees shall be provided the same scope and degree of municipal insurance coverage as is provided to other appointed board and commission members within the Town of Stow.

I. Taxes

The Trust is exempt from General Laws Chapter 59 and 62, and from any other provisions concerning payment of taxes based upon or measured by property or income imposed by the Commonwealth or any subdivision thereto.

- J. Custodian of Funds
The Town of Stow Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Trust. The books and records of the Trust shall be audited annually by an independent auditor in accordance with accepted accounting practices for municipalities. Cost associated with the independent audit shall be borne by the Trust.
- K. Governmental Body
The Trust is a governmental body for purposes of Section 23A, 23B and 23C of General Laws Chapter 39.
- L. Board of the Town
The Trust is a board of the Town for purposes of General Laws Chapter 30B and Section 15A of General Laws Chapter 40; but agreements and conveyances between the Trust and agencies, boards, commissions, authorities, departments and public instrumentalities of the Town shall be exempt from said Chapter 30B.
- M. Duration of the Trust
This Trust shall be of indefinite duration until terminated by a vote of the Stow Town Meeting. Upon termination of the Trust, subject to the payment of or making provisions for the payment of all obligations and liabilities of the Trust and the Trustees, the net assets of the Trust shall be transferred to the Town of Stow and held by the Board of Selectmen for affordable housing purposes. In making any such distribution, the Trustees may, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen, sell all or any portion of the Trust property and distribute the net proceeds thereof to the Town of Stow. The powers of the Trustees shall continue until the affairs of the Trust are concluded. Once the Stow Town Meeting has voted to terminate the Trust, the Board of Selectmen shall approve all financial transactions made on behalf of the Trust.
- N. Registry of Deeds
The Board of Selectmen may authorize the Trustees to execute, deliver and record with the Registry of Deeds any documents required for any conveyance authorized hereunder.
- O. Titles
The titles to the various Articles herein are for convenience only and are not to be considered part of said Articles nor shall they affect the meaning or the language of any such Article.
- P. Compensation of Trustees
Trustees shall not receive a salary, stipend, bonus or other means of compensation for their service as a Trustee, nor shall they be eligible for any benefits from the Town of Stow. Trustees may be compensated for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for travel and other Trust-related expenses. All such out-of-pocket expenses shall be fully documented with receipts for expenses prior to payment by the Trust.
- Q. Amendments
The provisions of this Trust can only be amended by a vote of the Stow Town Meeting.
- R. Conflicts of Interest
The Trust shall be considered a public employer and the Trustees shall be subject to the conflict of interest provisions of General Laws Chapter 268A.
- S. Annual Report
The Trustees shall prepare an annual report describing the activities of the Trust on a calendar year basis. The annual report shall be submitted to the Stow Board of Selectmen by February 12th of each year. The annual report shall list all financial transactions conducted by the Trust including all revenues and costs, provide a balance sheet of liabilities and assets of the Trust, list an inventory of

all affordable housing units created, sold, and/or managed by the Trust, and any other pertinent information related to the business of the Trust. Ten paper copies and an electronic copy of the annual report shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 45. Street Acceptance - Farm Road

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to accept the laying out of the following named street and establish it as a town way, together with all drainage and other easements related thereto and included in the Order of Layout, the boundaries and measurements shown on the plan referred to in the description, which plan shall be included in the Order of Layout of the Selectmen to be adopted with respect to such way and related easements and filed in the office of the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 82, Section 21-23:

Farm Road in Stow, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, as shown on the following plans of land:

- Plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan, Stow, Massachusetts, Red Acre Estates", prepared by Neponset Valley Survey Associates, Inc., and Joseph R. Henry & Associates, Inc., dated January 14, 1988, revised March 4, 1988, and revised March 23, 1988, recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 1227 of 1988 in Record Book 19226, Page 551.
- Plan entitled "Plan of Land in Stow, Mass. Owned by Quality Homes Realty Trust", dated December 21, 1988, revised on January 27, 1989, by David W. Perley, C.E., recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 266 of 1989 in Record Book 19701, Page 191.
- Plan entitled "Plan of Land in Stow, Mass. Owned by Quality Homes Realty Trust", dated March 8, 1989 by David W. Perley, C.E., recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 267 of 1989 in Record Book 19701, Page 192.

And to authorize the Selectmen to acquire by purchase, eminent domain, gift or otherwise for highway purposes the fee or any lessor interests that may be necessary for such town ways.

ARTICLE 46. Street Acceptance - Militia Circle

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to accept the laying out of the following named street and establish it as a town way, together with all drainage and other easements related thereto and included in the Order of Layout, the boundaries and measurements shown on the plan referred to in the description, which plan shall be included in the Order of Layout of the Selectmen to be adopted with respect to such way and related easements and filed in the office of the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 82, Section 21-23:

Militia Circle in Stow, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, as shown on the following plans of land:

- Plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan, Stow, Massachusetts, Red Acre Estates", prepared by Neponset Valley Survey Associates, Inc., and Joseph R. Henry & Associates, Inc., dated January 14, 1988, revised March 4, 1988, and revised March 23, 1988, recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 1227 of 1988, in Record Book 19336, Page 551.
- Plan entitled "Plan of Land in Stow, Mass. Owned by Quality Homes Realty Trust", dated December 21, 1988, revised on January 27, 1989, by David W. Perley, C.E., recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 266 of 1989 in Record Book 19701, Page 191.
- Plan entitled "Plan of Land in Stow, Mass. Owned by Quality Homes Realty Trust", dated March 8, 1989 by David W. Perley, C.E., recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 267 of 1989 in Record Book 19701, Page 192.

And to authorize the Selectmen to acquire by purchase, eminent domain, gift or otherwise for highway purposes the fee or any lessor interests that may be necessary for such town ways.

ARTICLE 47. Street Acceptance - Whispering Way (portion)

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to accept the laying out of the following named street from Station 0+48.16 to Station 9+85.83 and establish it as a town way, together with all drainage and other easements related thereto and included in the Order of Layout, the

boundaries and measurements shown on the plan referred to in the description, which plan shall be included in the Order of Layout of the Selectmen to be adopted with respect to such way and related easements and filed in the office of the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 82, Section 21-23:

Whispering Way in the Wildlife Woods Subdivision in Stow, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, as shown on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan, Wildlife Woods, Stow, Massachusetts", prepared for Bentley Builders, dated May 15, 1997 and revised through October 27, 1999, which plan is recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan No. 1013 of 2000 in Record Book 31831, Page 286.

And to authorize the Selectmen to acquire by purchase, eminent domain, gift or otherwise for highway purposes the fee or any lessor interests that may be necessary for such town ways.

ARTICLE 48. General Bylaw Amendment - Animal Control

Selectman Kathleen Farrell moved that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws by amending Article 6 (Police Regulations), Section 7, Animal Control, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

Marcia Rising of the Board of Health pointed out the amendments that change certain portions of the existing bylaw. One notable change is that the Board of Health, as appointing authority of the Animal Control Officer, will henceforth hold hearings on dog matters rather than the Board of Selectmen.

Douglas Moffat moved to amend by retaining from Definitions, Public Nuisance, 1., the words, "*between the hours of 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM*", so as to read "Is found at large between the hours of 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM". Ms. Rising explained the reason for striking out those words is that dogs should be under the control of the owner, either by voice command or other means, at all times. Dogs risk injury or worse if allowed to roam after dark. Discussion ensued on the proposed amendment. When put to a vote, Mr. Moffat's motion to amend **did not carry**.

A voter moved to amend by striking from Definitions, Dangerous/Vicious Dog, 1. "Molests and/or intimidates pedestrians or passersby". Discussion on the proposed amendment continued until a call for the question, which passed unanimously. When put to a vote, the motion to amend **did not carry**.

The **main motion carried** by a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE 6. POLICE REGULATIONS

SECTION 7. Animal control

a. Definitions

Adoption: The delivery of a cat, dog, or other animal to any person eighteen (18) years of age or older for the purpose of harboring the animal as a pet.

Animal: Every non-human species of animal, both domestic and wild, living or deceased.

Animal Control Officer: Any officer appointed by the Board of Health to enforce this bylaw.

Animal Shelter: Any facility or kennel operated by a humane society, the town, or its authorized agents for the purpose of impounding animals under the authority of this bylaw or state law for care, confinement, return to owner, adoption, or euthanasia.

At Large: Any dog shall be deemed to be at large when it is off the premises of its owner or keeper, and not under the direct control of a person demonstrating the ability to properly control the dog.

Commercial Kennel: A kennel maintained as a business established for, or to include, the boarding, grooming, breeding, or sale of dogs.

Dangerous/Vicious Dog: Any dog that attacks, bites, injures, or kills humans or domestic animals without provocation; or which, because of temperament, conditioning or training, has a known propensity to attack, bite, injure or kill humans or domestic animals. The term "dangerous/vicious dog" shall mean and include, but is not limited to, any dog that:

1. Molests and/or intimidates pedestrians or passersby;
2. Has bitten and/or attacked any person;
3. Has bitten, attacked or killed other domestic animals;
4. Has been found by the Board of Health, after notice to its owner or keeper and a public hearing to be a dangerous/vicious dog by virtue of being a menace to public health, safety or welfare.

Keeper: Any person, corporation or society, other than the owner, harboring or having in his possession any dog.

Kennel: More than three (3) dogs six (6) months or age or older on a single private premise.

License Period: The time between January first of any year to December thirty-first of the same year, both dates inclusive.

Livestock or Fowl: Animals or fowl kept or propagated by the owner for food or as means of livelihood; also deer, elk, cottontail rabbits, northern hares, pheasants, quail, partridge and other birds, and quadrupeds determined by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement to be wild, and kept by or under a permit from said department(s) in proper housing and/or suitably enclosed yards. Such definition shall not include dogs, cats or other pets.

Owner: Any person, partnership or corporation in whom is vested the ownership, dominion or title of one or more animals.

Public Nuisance: Any dog that unreasonably annoys humans, endangers the life or health of other animals or person(s), or substantially interferes with the rights of citizens, other than its owner(s), to the enjoyment of life or property. The term "public nuisance" shall mean and include, but is not limited to any dog that:

1. Is found at large;
2. Damages the property of anyone other than its owner or keeper;
3. Excessively makes disturbing noises, including but not limited to continued and repeated howling, barking, whining or other utterances causing unreasonable annoyance, disturbances or discomfit to neighbors or others in close proximity to the premises where the dog is kept or harbored;
4. Is found off the owner's property and not wearing a current tag.

b. 1. Individual Licenses and Tags

A person residing in the town of Stow who at the beginning of the license period is, or who during a license period becomes, the owner or keeper of a dog six (6) months old or over, will cause the dog to be licensed within thirty (30) days. The Town Clerk shall issue dog licenses and tags on a form. The Town shall permit licensing through the mail.

Any owner or keeper of a dog who moves into the town of Stow, and has a valid current dog license from another municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall within thirty (30) days obtain a dog license upon the forfeiture of the old license and a fee of one dollar (\$1.00).

On the license form the Town Clerk shall record the name, address and telephone number of the owner or keeper of the dog and the name, breed, color, gender and age of the dog. Each tag issued will be valid for the specific animal described on the form and is not transferable. The tag will include the license number, the phrase "Town of Stow" and the year of issue.

The owner or keeper of a dog shall cause each dog, when off the premises of such owner or keeper, to wear around its neck or body a collar or harness to which he/she shall securely attach the license tag. In the event of loss of tag, a substitute tag will be issued by the Town Clerk for a fee of two dollars (\$2.00).

The Town Clerk shall not issue a license for any dog unless the owner or keeper provides the Town Clerk with a veterinarian's certificate verifying the dog is currently vaccinated against rabies.

The fee for each dog licensed shall be ten dollars (\$10.00), either male or female, neutered or spayed. The Town Clerk shall charge a late fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for every dog license issued after the fifteenth of April as defined in the General Bylaws Article 3, Section 10.

Upon presentation to the Town Clerk of a certificate of training, no fee shall be charged for a dog specially trained and used to assist, lead or serve a physically or mentally challenged person.

b. 2. Commercial Kennel License

A kennel maintained as a business for the boarding, grooming, breeding or sale of dogs shall be subject to the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw, Section 3.2.2.5. Upon approval of the Zoning Board of Appeals, a commercial kennel license may then be obtained upon written application to the Town Clerk. The fee for such kennel license shall be thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for no more than four (4) dogs, sixty dollars (\$60.00) for five (5) to ten (10) dogs, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for more than ten (10) dogs. Each kennel shall be available for inspection by the Animal Control Officer, a police officer or the Stow Board of Health at any time to ascertain compliance with all state, county and local laws and bylaws. The late fee for a kennel license is 2.5 times the license fee.

The Town Clerk shall issue a kennel license without charge to any charitable corporation incorporated exclusively for the purpose of protecting animals from cruelty, neglect, or abuse and for the relief of suffering animals.

A veterinary clinic within the town of Stow shall not be considered a commercial kennel unless it contains an area for grooming or selling of dogs or for boarding of dogs for other than medical purpose.

Any person or corporation maintaining a kennel for thirty (30) days without a proper license shall be in violation of this provision.

b. 3. Kennel License

Every person maintaining a kennel shall have a kennel license. (Chapter 140, Section 137A Kennel Licenses, Mass. General Laws) The late fee for a kennel license is 2.5 times the license fee. The fee for such kennel license shall be thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for no more than four (4) dogs, sixty dollars (\$60.00) for five (5) to ten (10) dogs, and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for more than ten (10) dogs.

c. Vaccination of Dogs and Cats Against Rabies

Under Section 145B of Chapter 150 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the owner or keeper of a dog or cat six (6) months of age or older shall cause the dog or cat to be properly vaccinated against

rabies by a licensed veterinarian. Upon vaccination the veterinarian shall issue a tag, which shall show the year the vaccination was given, a rabies tag number, and the name of the veterinary clinic or hospital. The owner/keeper of unvaccinated dogs or cats living in or brought into the Town of Stow shall be punished by a fine to be determined by the Animal Control Officer of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00), which shall be paid to the Town of Stow.

d. Enforcement/Impoundment

It shall be the duty of the Animal Control Officer, or any other person appointed by the Board of Health, to cite and/or impound any dog found running at large or any dog that is a public nuisance. Such animal shall be held at an authorized animal shelter, returned to owner, adopted, or euthanized as described in Chapter 140, Section 151A of the Massachusetts General Laws. The Officer that so impounds any animal shall keep a record of each animal so impounded which shall contain the following information: breed, color and sex of the animal, distinctive markings or characteristics of the animal; name and address of the owner (if known) along with the license number; the final disposition of the animal, the name, address, phone number of any person adopting such dog; and if destroyed, method and name of technician who administered euthanasia. Such records shall be kept by the Animal Control Officer for a period of twelve (12) months from date of impoundment. A copy shall be forwarded to the Board of Health upon disposition of the animal, and the Board of Health shall retain copies as provided by law.

e. Violations/Penalties

The Animal Control Officer, any police officer of the Town of Stow, or any other person so appointed by the Board of Health, may impose a fine upon the owner or keeper of a dog so found to be at large, dangerous or a public nuisance. Such fines shall not be more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the first offense, nor more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the second offense, and not more than the maximum allowed by law for subsequent offense(s).

f. Boarding Fees

An owner or keeper of any dog so impounded for violation of this bylaw shall, in addition to any applicable fees and penalties, pay to the Town of Stow a pick up fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per dog and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per day while such dog is impounded, nor more than the actual cost to the Town of Stow for the boarding and care of such animal in any commercial kennel or animal hospital.

g. Redemption of Dogs

The owner or keeper of a dog so impounded may claim the dog as provided by law upon the occurrence of the following:

1. The owner or keeper presents a valid dog license and certificate of rabies vaccination;
2. The owner or keeper pays all boarding and other fees;
3. The owner or keeper gives his/her name and address;
4. If the dog does not have a current rabies vaccination, the owner or keeper must present a receipt from a licensed veterinarian showing prepayment of a rabies vaccination;
5. If the dog is unlicensed, the owner must secure or pay for a license before redemption.

h. Vicious or Barking Dogs; Other Applicable Sections of General Laws

The provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 140, Sections 157 and 158 shall be applicable to vicious or barking dogs and all other applicable sections of Chapter 140 or other sections of the General Laws or rules and regulations adopted thereunder pertaining to dogs, or to

any animals as may be regulated by law, shall apply and be enforceable by the Town, as if said sections were fully set forth herein.

i Emergency Fees for Dogs and Cats Injured on Public Ways

Any veterinarian who renders emergency care or treatment to, or disposes of any dog or cat injured on any public way in the Town of Stow shall receive payment of costs from the owner of such dog or cat, if known or, if not known, shall receive the sum of sixty dollars (\$60.00) from the Town of Stow for such care, treatment and/or disposal.

Care, treatment and/or disposal shall be for the purpose of maintaining life, stabilizing the animal or alleviating pain or suffering until the owner of such dog or cat is identified, or for a period of twenty-four (24) hours, whichever is sooner. Any veterinarian who renders such emergency care or treatment to, or euthanizes or disposes of such dog or cat shall notify the Animal Control Officer of Stow and, upon notification, the Animal Control Officer shall assume control of such dog or cat.

ARTICLE 49. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Wireless Communications Facilities Moratorium

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting Section 3.12 in its entirety, as printed in the warrant.

Report of the Planning Board

This article proposes to delete the Wireless Communications Facility Moratorium section (3.12) of the Zoning Bylaw, which no longer is necessary as the Wireless Communications Facility Bylaw has since been replaced with the Wireless Service Facility Bylaw (Section 5.3). At its meeting of April 1, 2008 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT the proposed amendment to delete Section 3.12, as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 50. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Front, Rear and Side Yards

Selectman Thomas Ruggiero moved to amend the Zoning Bylaw Sections 4.3.2.6 and 4.3.2.7 to read in their entirety as stated in subsections (A), (B) and (D) of this article, as printed in the warrant, and to take no action on subsection (C).

Report of the Planning Board

This article is meant to clarify the inconsistencies between the dimensional setback requirements of the Zoning Bylaw and Board of Health regulations pertaining to septic systems and Building Code requirements pertaining to buildings and structures not requiring a building permit, and removing side and rear setback requirements for driveways. At its meeting of April 1, 2008 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting:

- Adopt the proposed amendment to Section 4.3.2.6 by changing subsection letters a), b) and c) to numbers 1), 2) and 3) and adding a new subsection 4), as printed in Article 50, subsection A of the warrant.
- Adopt the proposed amendment to Section 4.3.2.7 by adding a new subsection 1), as printed in Article 50, subsection B of the warrant.
- Move No Action on the proposed amendment to Section 4.3.2.7 by adding a new subsection 2), as printed in Article 50, subsection C of the warrant.
- Adopt the proposed amendment to Section 4.3.2.7 by adding a new subsection 3), as printed in Article 50, subsection D of the warrant.

Malcolm FitzPatrick moved to amend Section 4.3.2.6, 4) to read, "Septic system STRUCTURES which are totally at or below the existing ground surface level are allowed within the FRONT YARD and shall comply with requirements established by the Board of Health."

Discussion ensued. Ernest Dodd of the Planning Board pointed out that septic systems and their placement are an issue for the Board of Health. The language of the Board's proposed amendment refers those structures to the Board of Health requirements. The vote on Mr. FitzPatrick's motion to amend **did not carry** by a vote of Yes 29 and No 33.

Following more discussion, there was a call for the question, which passed unanimously.

The vote on the **main motion carried** by more than a two-thirds majority, as declared by the Moderator.

(A) Amend Section 4.3.2.6 by changing subsection letters a), b) and c) to numbers 1), 2) and 3), and adding a new subsection 4) to read in its entirety as stated below:

- 4.3.2.6 Front YARDS - Front YARDS shall be the distance measured in a straight line between the LOT frontage and the nearest point of any BUILDING or STRUCTURE, excluding roof overhangs. Roof overhangs shall not extend further than two feet into the minimum required front YARD.
- 1) A LOT having frontage on two or more STREETS shall have two or more front YARDS, each of which shall comply with the requirements of the front YARD provisions.
 - 2) In no case shall any BUILDING or STRUCTURE be located closer to the sideline of a STREET than the minimum required front YARD.
 - 3) Driveways are allowed with FRONT YARDS.
 - 4) Septic system STRUCTUREs are allowed within the FRONT YARD and shall comply with requirements established by the Board of Health.

(B) Amend Section 4.3.2.7 by adding a new subsection 1) to read in its entirety as stated below:

- 1) Septic system STRUCTUREs are allowed within the SIDE and REAR YARD and shall comply with requirements established by the Board of Health.

(C) Amend Section 4.3.2.7 by adding a new subsection 2)

NO ACTION

(D) Amend Section 4.3.2.7 by adding a new subsection 3) to read in its entirety as stated below:

- 3) Driveways are allowed within the SIDE and REAR YARD setbacks.

ARTICLE 51. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Historic Buildings and Structures/Wireless Service Facility

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw Section 5.3.7.6 by deleting the word "STRUCTURE" in subsection b. and inserting the words "BUILDING or STRUCTURE" in its place, and by changing subsection letters a. and b. to numbers 1) and 2), to read in their entirety as printed in the warrant.

Report of the Planning Board

This article is meant to clarify the fact that this section applies to Buildings and Structures. At its meeting of April 1, 2008 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT the proposed amendment to Section 5.3.7.6 of the Zoning Bylaw by deleting the word "STRUCTURE" in subsection b. and inserting the words "BUILDING or SRUCTURE" in its place, and by changing subsection letters a. and b. to numbers 1) and 2), as printed in the warrant.

5.3.7.6 Historic Buildings and Structures

- 1) Any WIRELESS SERVICE FACILITY located on or within a historic structure shall not alter the character-defining features, distinctive construction methods, or original historic materials of the building, or
- 2) Any alteration made to a historic BUILDING or STRUCTURE to accomplish a WIRELESS SERVICE FACILITY shall be fully reversible.

ARTICLE 52. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Trailers and Mobile Homes

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw Section 6.4 by adding the words "except as provided to Mass. General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3", to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

Report of the Planning Board

This article is meant to clarify the fact that Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 3 allows for temporary trailers as a dwelling unit for a period not to exceed 12 months while a residence is being rebuilt in the case of fire or catastrophic event. At its meeting of April 1, 2008 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT the proposed amendment to Section 6.4 of the Zoning Bylaw by adding the words "except as provided in MGL, Ch. 40A, s.3", to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

6.4 TRAILERS and MOBILE HOMES

No TRAILER or MOBILE HOME shall be moved onto any LOT within the Town for use as a DWELLING, except as provided in Mass. General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3.

ARTICLE 53. Transfer to Stabilization Fund

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee was in favor of the article.

ARTICLE 54. Transfer to Snow and Ice Account

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer the following funds from the associated accounts to be added to the FY2008 Snow and Ice Account.

Assabet River Rail Trail Land - Acct. 0200-10-199-70-78100-0000	\$16,150.50
Purchase of computer system - Acct. 0200-20-210-70-78540-0000	194.95
Purchase of Hurst Tool - Acct. 0100-20-220-70-77800-0000	80.00
Center School security system - Acct. 0100-30-310-70-78501-0000	960.00
Hale School security system - Acct. 0100-30-310-70-78502-0000	1,305.54
Purchase of backhoe - Acct. 0200-40-420-70-78729-0000	<u>3.59</u>
	\$18,694.58

The Finance Committee was in favor of the article.

ARTICLE 55. Balance Fiscal Year 2009 Budget

On motion of Finance Committee member David Walrath, it was voted unanimously to take **no action** on this article.

Prior to presenting the next motion, Selectmen Chair Stephen Dungan recognized Deputy Moderator Gary Horowitz, who presided over this meeting in the absence of Edward Newman. Job well done!

ARTICLE 56. Town Election

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously that the meeting be adjourned until the Annual Election on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, commencing at 7:00 a.m. at the Hale Middle School Gymnasium in said Town of Stow and then and there to act on Article 56 for such election of officers and ballot questions as listed in the warrant; and thereafter, at the close of the polls, to dissolve this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 p.m. to reconvene on May 13, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. for the Annual Election.

Checkers at the Door: Janet Derby, Carol Dudley, Utahna Hallet, Diane Lowden, Elizabeth MacGilvra, Judith Scraggs

Tellers for the Town Meeting: Robert Aldape, Sharon Brownfield, James Henry, Jean Lynch, Cynthia Perkins, Marcia Rising, Thomas Ryan, Debra Seith, Kent Seith, Kathleen Sferra, Dwight Sipler, Elizabeth Tobey, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Robert Walrath

Timekeeper: Catherine Desmond

Number of Voters Checked: Monday, May 5th 241
Tuesday, May 6th 137

Number of Registered Voters: 4,464

The amendments to the General Bylaws adopted under Articles 44 and 48 were approved by the Attorney General on August 25, 2008. Posted as a Town Bulletin on October 3, 2008.

The amendments to the Zoning Bylaws adopted under Articles 49, 50, 51 and 52 were approved by the Attorney General on August 25, 2008. Posted as a Town Bulletin on October 3, 2008.

**ANNUAL ELECTION
MAY 13, 2008**

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of March 26, 2008, the Annual Election was held in Hale Middle School Gymnasium/Auditorium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m.

After examining the ballot box and finding it empty and in good order, the counter was set to zero. The ballot box was then locked and the keys delivered to the Warden, who declared the polls open.

During polling hours nineteen absentee ballots were opened, recorded and cast into the ballot box. There were two spoiled ballots. There were no provisional ballots. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m., with 360 ballots cast. Voter turnout was 8%. There were 4,464 registered voters. The final results were announced as follows:

Selectman

(one - three year term)

Stephen M. Dungan incumbent 287
Blanks & Scatterings 73

Assessor

(one - three year term)

John E. Smith (incumbent) 275
Blanks & Scatterings 85

Nashoba Regional School District Committee

(one - three year term)

Brian P. Burke (incumbent) 269
Blanks & Scatterings 91

Board of Health

(one - three year term)

Mary E. Cormier (incumbent) 289
Blanks & Scatterings 71

Planning Board

(one - five year term)

Ernest E. Dodd (incumbent) 256
Blanks & Scatterings 104

Randall Library Trustee,

(two – three year term)

Carolyn C. Howe (incumbent) 298
Tim Reed (incumbent) 39
Blanks 379
Write-ins 4

Note: The total number of votes in the ‘vote for two’ race will be two times the number of ballots cast.

Stow Housing Authority

(one – four year term)

Blanks 346
Greg Jones 3 (declined election, position is declared vacant)
Scatterings 11 (single votes)

Question 1.

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to finance the repairs and improvements to fire engine truck number 11 or to finance the purchase of a new fire truck to replace fire engine number 11?

Yes 267 No 87 Blanks 6

Question 2.

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay the Town’s apportioned share of the principal and interest on the \$1,280,000 indebtedness to be issued by the Nashoba Regional School District in order to finance the construction of a synthetic turf field and a new track at the Nashoba Regional High School?

Yes 80 No 243 Blanks 37

ELECTION WORKERS

Warden

Philip T. Detsch

Deputy Warden

Edward R. Perry, Jr.

Clerk

Judith A. Scraggs

Checkers & Ballot Counters

Mary E. Algeo
Janet Derby
Carol J. Dudley

Checkers & Ballot Counters

Pamela G. Gjestebj
Utahna G. Hallet
Betty Holly
Diane I. Lowden
Elizabeth D. MacGilvra

**STATE PRIMARY
SEPTEMBER 16, 2008**

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of August 12, 2008, the State Primary was held in Hale Middle School Gymnasium/Auditorium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m.

After examining the ballot box and finding it empty and in good order, the counter was set to zero. The ballot box was then locked and the keys delivered to the Warden, who declared the polls open.

During polling hours fifty-four absentee ballots were opened, recorded and cast into the ballot box. There were thirteen spoiled ballots. There were no provisional ballots. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m., with 1,172 ballots cast (1,064 Democratic, 108 Republican, zero Green-Rainbow, and zero Working Families.) There were 4,543 registered voters. Voter turnout was 26%. The final results were announced as follows:

Democratic Party Results – 1064 ballots cast

<u>RAC E/CANDIDATES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Senator in Congress	
John F. Kerry	783
Edward J. O'Reilly	262
Blanks	18
Write-ins	1
Representative in Congress	
Nicola S. Tsongas	877
Blanks	186
Write-ins	1
Councillor	
Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney	400
John J. Doyle	210
Thomas L. Walsh	62
Blank	391
Write-ins	1
Senator in General Court	
James B. Eldridge	782
Blanks	282
Write-ins	0
Representative in General Court	
Leonard H. Golder	69
Kate Hogan	422
Ellen S. Sturgis	554
Blanks	19
Write-ins	0
Registrar of Probate	
John R. Buonomo	598
Blanks	436
Write-ins	
Sean O'Donovan (announced)	18
Scatterings	12

Republican Party Results – 108 ballots cast

RACE/CANDIDATES TOTAL

Senator in Congress

Jeffrey K. Beatty	94
Blanks	10
Write-ins	4

Representative in Congress

Blanks	103
Write-ins	5

Councillor

Blanks	107
Write-ins	1

Senator in General Court

Steven L. Levy	93
Blanks	13
Write-ins	2

Representative in General Court

Sonny Parente	93
Blanks	15
Write-ins	0

Registrar of Probate

Blanks	106
Write-ins	2

GREEN-RAINBOW PRIMARY – No nominations for six positions on ballot – Zero ballots cast

WORKING FAMILIES PRIMARY - No nominations for six positions on ballot – Zero ballots cast

ELECTION WORKERS

Warden

Philip T. Detsch

Clerk

Judith A. Scraggs

Ballot Box Officers

Ann F. Luxner

Checkers & Ballot Counters

Mary E. Algeo

Ann Deluty

Janet Derby

Anne C. Draudt

Carol J. Dudley

Betty Holly

Elizabeth D. MacGilvra

Eila J. Makey

Utahna G. Hallet

Diane L. Parker

Pamela G. Gjestebly

Diane I. Lowden

**STATE ELECTION
NOVEMBER 4, 2008**

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of October 14, 2008, the State Election was held in Hale Middle School Gymnasium/Auditorium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m.

After examining the ballot box and finding it empty and in good order, the counter was set to zero. The ballot box was then locked and the keys delivered to the Warden, who declared the polls open.

During polling hours three hundred fifty-nine absentee ballots were delivered to the polls, opened, recorded and cast into the ballot box. There were thirty-one spoiled ballots. There were three provisional ballots. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m., with 4,021 ballots cast on November 4th.

Three overseas ballots were received between November 5-14th. The Board of Registrars held a duly posted meeting on November 14th and cast three ballots. The election night totals were adjusted accordingly.

Total ballots cast for the November 4, 2008 election was 4,024. There were 4,667 registered voters. Voter turnout was 86%.

The final results are as follows:

<u>RACE/CANDIDATES</u>	<u>Total</u> 11/4	<u>Total</u> 11/14	<u>Official Results</u>
President/Vice President			
Baldwin/Castle	3		3
Barr/Root	33		33
McCain/Palin	1592		1592
McKinney/Clemente	9		9
Nader/Gonzalez	33		33
Obama/Biden	2316	3	2319
Blanks	20		20
Write-ins	15		15
Senator in Congress			
John F. Kerry	2320	2	2322
Jeffrey K. Beatty	1472		1472
Robert J. Underwood	130		130
Blanks	98	1	99
Write-ins	1		1
Representative in Congress			
Nicola S. Tsongas	2887	2	2889
Blanks	1095	1	1096
Write-ins	39		39
Councillor			
Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney	2424	2	2426
Blank	1562	1	1563
Write-ins	35		35

Senator in General Court

James B. Eldridge	2098	2	2100
Steven L. Levy	1531		1532
Blanks	375	1	376
Write-ins	17		17

Representative in General Court

Kate Hogan	2220	2	2222
Sonny Parente	1431		1431
David A. Goulding	199		199
Blanks	166	1	167
Write-ins	5		5

Registrar of Probate

Tara E. DeCristofaro	2459	2	2461
Blanks	1545	1	1546
Write-ins	17		17

QUESTION 1: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2008?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for all categories of taxable income for the tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010.

The personal income tax applies to income received or gain realized by individuals and married couples, by estates of deceased persons, by certain trustees and other fiduciaries, by persons who are partners in and receive income from partnerships, by corporate trusts, and by persons who receive income as shareholders of "S corporations" as defined under federal tax law. The proposed law would not affect the tax due on income or gain realized in a tax year beginning before January 1, 2009.

The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for the tax year beginning on January 1, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010.

A NO VOTE would make no change in state income tax laws.

<u>Results Question 1</u>	<u>11/4</u>	<u>11/14</u>	<u>Official Total</u>
Yes	1431		1431
No	2527	2	2529
Blanks	63	1	64

QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2008?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would replace the criminal penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana with a new system of civil penalties, to be enforced by issuing citations, and would exclude information regarding this civil offense from the state's criminal record information system. Offenders age 18 or older would be subject to forfeiture of the marijuana plus a civil penalty of \$100. Offenders under the age of 18 would be subject to the same forfeiture and, if they complete a drug awareness program within one year of the offense, the same \$100 penalty.

Offenders under 18 and their parents or legal guardian would be notified of the offense and the option for the offender to complete a drug awareness program developed by the state Department of Youth Services. Such programs would include ten hours of community service and at least four hours of instruction or group discussion concerning the use and abuse of marijuana and other drugs and emphasizing early detection and prevention of substance abuse.

The penalty for offenders under 18 who fail to complete such a program within one year could be increased to as much as \$1,000, unless the offender showed an inability to pay, an inability to participate in such a program, or the unavailability of such a program. Such an offender's parents could also be held liable for the increased penalty. Failure by an offender under 17 to complete such a program could also be a basis for a delinquency proceeding.

The proposed law would define possession of one ounce or less of marijuana as including possession of one ounce or less of tetrahydrocannabinol ("THC"), or having metabolized products of marijuana or THC in one's body.

Under the proposed law, possessing an ounce or less of marijuana could not be grounds for state or local government entities imposing any other penalty, sanction, or disqualification, such as denying student financial aid, public housing, public financial assistance including unemployment benefits, the right to operate a motor vehicle, or the opportunity to serve as a foster or adoptive parent. The proposed law would allow local ordinances or bylaws that prohibit the public use of marijuana, and would not affect existing laws, practices, or policies concerning operating a motor vehicle or taking other actions while under the influence of marijuana, unlawful possession of prescription forms of marijuana, or selling, manufacturing, or trafficking in marijuana.

The money received from the new civil penalties would go to the city or town where the offense occurred.

A YES VOTE would replace the criminal penalties for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana with a new system of civil penalties.

A NO VOTE would make no change in state criminal laws concerning possession of marijuana.

<u>Results Question 2</u>	<u>11/4</u>	<u>11/14</u>	<u>Official Total</u>
Yes	2724	2	2726
No	1247		1247
Blank	50	1	51

QUESTION 3: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2008?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would prohibit any dog racing or racing meeting in Massachusetts where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of dogs occurs.

The State Racing Commission would be prohibited from accepting or approving any application or request for racing dates for dog racing.

Any person violating the proposed law could be required to pay a civil penalty of not less than \$20,000 to the Commission. The penalty would be used for the Commission's administrative purposes, subject to appropriation by the state Legislature. All existing parts of the chapter of the state's General Laws concerning dog and horse racing meetings would be interpreted as if they did not refer to dogs.

These changes would take effect January 1, 2010. The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would prohibit dog races on which betting or wagering occurs, effective January 1, 2010.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the laws governing dog racing.

<u>Results Question 3</u>	<u>11/4</u>	<u>11/14</u>	<u>Official Total</u>
Yes	2543	2	2545
No	1391		1391
Blank	87	1	88

QUESTION 4. THIS QUESTION IS NOT BINDING

Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation that:

- (1) reduces greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts by 80% by 2020; and
- (2) phases out tax incentives for energy-intensive projects, while expanding job creation programs for locally-owned businesses and cooperatives involved in renewable energy, conservation, and sustainable agriculture?

<u>Results Question 4</u>	<u>11/4</u>	<u>11/14</u>	<u>Official Total</u>
Yes	2723	2	2725
No	743		743
Blank	555	1	556

ELECTION WORKERS

Warden

Philip T. Detsch

Deputy Warden

Edward R. Perry, Jr.

Clerk

Judith A. Scraggs

Ballot Box Officers

Ann F. Luxner

Elizabeth A. Lindberg

Checkers & Ballot Counters

Mary E. Algeo

Ann L. Deluty

Janet Derby

Anne C. Draudt

Carol J. Dudley

Lisabeth H. duBois

Pamela G. Gjestebj

Utahna G. Hallet

Betty Holly

Elizabeth D. MacGilvra

Eila J. Makey

Alice L. Mortensen

Diane L. Parker

Betty M. Sauta

Polling Place Greeters & Voter Assistants

Marjorie A. Alessio

Daniel H. Blanton

Martha E. Bonn

Josephine C. Crowell

Donald G. McPherson

Isabel Prokopovich

Alexandra H. Spear

Linda Telfer

Kathleen A. Willis

A true copy. Attest: Linda E. Hathaway, Town Clerk of Stow

TOWN OF STOW

***County of Middlesex
Commonwealth of Massachusetts***



Established as the Plantation of Pompositticut, 1669

Incorporated as a Town, May 16, 1683



Land area given to seven surrounding towns



Area today 17.94 Square Miles

11,311.4 Acres Land; 167 Acres Water

11,478.4 Acres Total



Longitude:71⁰ Latitute:42⁰·26'

Altitude (above sea level) at Town Hall: 231 feet



Population per 2000 Federal Census: 5902

Population per 2008 Stow Census: 6,611

COMMITTEE MEETINGS CALENDAR

Affordable Housing Partnership	As needed
Agricultural Commission	As needed
Ancient Documents Committee	First & third Fridays, 10 a.m., Nov-Jun
Assabet River Rail Trail Committee	As needed
Assessors, Board of	Monthly, date varies
Cable License Advisory Committee	As needed
Capital Planning Committee	As needed
Cemetery Committee	Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall
Community Preservation Committee	Second & fourth Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission	First & third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Council on Aging	Second Thursday, 9:00 a.m.
Cultural Council	As needed
Elementary School Building Committee	Monday, at least twice a month, 7:00 p.m.
Finance Committee	Second & fourth Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Historical Commission	First Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall
Health, Board of	Monthly, date varies
Housing Authority	As needed
Lake Boon Commission	As needed
Land Use Task Force	First & third Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
Local Access Cable Advisory Committee	Monthly, date varies
Master Plan Committee	Monthly, date varies
Medical Reserve Corps	As needed
Minuteman Regional School Committee	Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Lexington
Municipal Affordable Housing Trust	First & third Mondays, 7 p.m.
Nashoba Regional School Committee	First & third Thursdays, 6 p.m., Bolton
Open Space Committee	As needed
Planning Board	Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Randall Library Trustees	Third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Library
Recreation Commission	Monthly at 6:30 p.m., date varies
Selectmen, Board of	Second & fourth Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	First Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Meetings held at Town Building unless otherwise noted. This calendar is for reference only. Official meeting notices are posted on the town bulletin board at Town Building and with the Town Clerk.

TOWN DEPARTMENT TELEPHONES

Emergency: Ambulance, Fire / Rescue, Police DIAL 911

Animal Control Officer	978-897-2784
Assessors, Board of.	978-897-4597
Building Department and Inspectors	978-897-2193
Cemetery Committee.	978-461-1403
Conservation Commission	978-897-8615
Council on Aging	978-897-1880
Fire / Rescue Department business	978-897-4537
Health, Board of.	978-897-4592
Highway Department	978-897-8071
Inspectors: Gas, Plumbing, Wiring	978-897-2193
Minuteman Regional High School	781-861-6500
Nashoba Regional School District	978-779-0539
Center School	978-897-0290
Hale Middle School	978-897-4788
Nashoba Regional High School	978-779-2257
Pompositicut School	978-897-5774
Planning Board	978-897-5098
Police Department business	978-897-4545
Randall Library	978-897-8572
Recreation Commission	978-461-1411
Selectmen, Board of	978-897-4515
Stow TV Office	978-897-7732
Town Accountant	978-897-5012
Town Administrator	978-897-2927
Town Clerk	978-897-4514 x1
Treasurer-Collector	978-897-2834
Tree Warden	978-897-8071
Veterans' Services Officer	978-562-6630 (H)

Mailing Address: 380 Great Rd., Stow, MA 01775-2127

Website: www.stow-ma.gov

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee has conducted several meetings with the various town committees and department heads and have considered the integral parts of the Town budget for this year.

The total of the budget for this year is \$28,711.50 higher than the total of the budget of last year and we do not have at this time any Free Cash to apply to this to reduce taxes for this year. It is therefore a forgone conclusion that we will have to raise more money by taxation in 1959. This means that if there is not enough new taxable property that either assessments or the tax rate will have to be raised.

We would like to call your attention to our recommendation for Article Twelve where we have recommended \$2,000.00 for re-roofing the Town Hall. We do not feel that the other suggested renovations are imperative at this time.

It should be noted that the school budget accounts for the increase in the total budget and that the reason for this increase is due mainly to teacher salary increases.

It is deemed necessary to borrow a large sum of money this year as in the past few years, in anticipation of revenue. Ten years ago this was not necessary. We take the liberty to quote from the Finance Committee report of 1949 so as to show conditions at that time.

“Our town, yours and mine, is one of the best small towns in the state in more ways than one; **it is debt free**, it is clean and it is a healthy place to live. There are very few of us who are free of debt, so bear in mind that in raising our recommendations you are putting a double debt on yourselves in taxes.”

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee feels that it is necessary to have new and proper zoning laws and a building code. These have a great bearing on finance and tax revenue to the town.

It is suggested that the Zoning Board of Appeals make proper charges to applicants for hearings before that board. This will help to make that board self-sufficient.

It is further suggested that all town officers, committees and department heads make a sincere effort to reduce expenses and curtail new expenditures as much as practicable.

We wish to thank all of the Town officials and department heads for their kind cooperation and assistance during the year.

ALBERT B. DRECHSLER,
ARTHUR W. TREFRY,
RICHARD D. CHARNOCK.

1958 TOWN REPORT

Selectmen's Report

One of the significant changes that is taking place within our town is the "maturing" of the functions of town government. The old established methods of procedure are no longer satisfactory in the present day and time. Much closer cooperation between the various boards is now necessary in order that records and procedures can be coordinated and standardized. These facts are obvious to the boards and are being dealt with as they become evident.

The new accounting system is working in a very satisfactory manner after a full year's operation.

Building permits issued during the past year totalled 23 as compared to 9 in 1957. This seems to indicate a healthy, but controlled, growth.

Your town hall was subjected to some major renovation work during the past year and we feel that the results are self-evident. Your board will make further recommendations for repairs for the coming year. This will be explained at the town meeting.

A second section of Hudson Road was completed under Chapter 90 construction during the year. In the present warrant we are recommending the completion of Hudson Road and a possible start on Sudbury Road under this chapter.

In conclusion, we wish to point out the need for the services of civic minded people in the administration of the town's business. If any citizens of the town feel that they would like to take an active part in civic affairs, we urge them to come forward and present their qualifications and desires so that they may be put to use for the good of the community.

ALVIN M. LITCHFIELD,
ROBERT P. BIRD,
JOHN K. WRIGHT,
Selectmen of Stow.

