

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 Kristen Domurad, 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,

Stephen Quinn, Chairman
Lori Clark, Vice Chair
Kathleen A. Willis
Ernest E. Dodd
Leonard H. Golder
Brian Martinson, Voting Associate Member

Malcolm FitzPatrick, Associate Member
Donna M. Jacobs, Associate Member

Karen Kelleher, Planning Coordinator
Kristen Domurad, Administrative Assistant

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

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

Conservation Land Updates

Land Preservation: Pulte Homes of New England, LLC, transferred Title to Open Space Parcel B, a 20-acre parcel of land currently in agriculture located at Arbor Glen on Hudson Road, to the Town of Stow. The Conservation Commission will continue to manage the parcel for agriculture.

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

There were numerous instances of trees down across trails after snow and high winds; the Steward removed the obstructions and potential hazards from Marble Hill, Gardner Hill, Heath

Hen Meadow Brook Woodland and Flagg Hill Conservation Area. Seasonally, trail entrances are mowed at Wheeler Road and Gates Lane for improved access to Spindle Hill; Orchard View trail connection; Lanes End; Heritage Lane; and at Pompositticut School for Marble Hill. The meadow located on the Woodhead parcel of Flagg Hill is mowed annually to enhance the habitat for Eastern Bluebirds and other open meadow species of birds and animals.

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

Community Gardens: In 2010 the Stow Community Garden grew to eighty-three garden plots. At the request of some of our gardeners a field was prepared containing twenty-six plots for perennial gardens. These plots can be used to grow perennial and annual vegetables, flowers, herbs and non-invasive berries. The care and maintenance of these plots are the responsibility of the individual gardeners. Seventeen of these plots were rented by returning gardeners in addition to their annual plots. A third pitcher pump well was added to provide water for the new field.

Most of the gardeners who rented annual plots returned to their same plots this year and new gardeners joined us. The annual field was plowed and harrowed this spring in preparation for planting and rent stayed the same. Four 30x50 plots were grown for the Stow Food Pantry and donations were given by other gardeners. In 2011 three 30'x50' plots and two 30'x25' plots will be added and are already spoken for.

Public Hearings

Hearings for residential construction, wetland delineations/resources and restoration projects as a result of enforcement action continued at a brisk pace, including Harvard Acres well permits, Lake Boon Drawdown and Herbicide Treatments for weed management, review of plans for the Center School Project, a subdivision off West Acton Road, 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, Center/Hale School expansion, Assabet River Sediment & Dam Removal Study, Open Space Committee and Community Preservation Committee.

The Commission held 42 public hearings for projects during the year. A total of \$3,522 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 \$1,170.

Cooperative Efforts and Long Range Planning

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

The Conservation Commission has assisted the Stow Conservation Trust in drafting a conservation restriction for the open space parcel of the Derby Woods subdivision off Harvard Road and for the Corzine Woodlands. Once approved and accepted by the Board of Selectmen and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, the Conservation Commission will accept title of the open space at Derby Woods. The Commission is also currently involved in working with the Board of Selectmen to advance an effort to place a water supply well on a conservation land parcel off Deerfield Lane and assisting with securing the necessary approvals to allow this to happen.

In 2009, the Commission joined the SuAsCo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), a group of like-minded conservation professionals and volunteers to be part of collaboration in the management of invasive species control issues. By joining this cooperative effort, Stow will have access to a network of expertise and labor as well as funding that is obtained by CISMA for regional invasive species control efforts.

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.

In 2009 the Selectmen appointed Ingeborg Hegemann Clark and Rebecca Mattison as Stow's representatives on the Study Coordination Team for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Assabet River Sediment and Dam Removal Feasibility Study, and assisted in submitting comments to the Army Corps on behalf of the Town.

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

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

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

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 continues at a steady pace, 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,

Rebecca Mattison, Chair
Kathy Sferra
Helen Castles, Vice Chair
Douglas Moffat
Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
David Coppes
Bruce Trefry, Associate

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

Patricia Perry, Coordinator
Maureen Trunfio, Secretary

BOARD OF HEALTH

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

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

During 2010 we continued our work with the Medical Reserve Corps and Fire and Police Chiefs, on the Town's Emergency Planning Program. Money from Emergency Preparedness grants distributed by the Department of Homeland Security comes to the Town through the MRC to allow planning, purchase, and storage of materials necessary in case of a natural or manmade disaster. This year we also received Federal grant money to support our H1N1 "swine flu" clinics.

In November we held our regular seasonal flu clinic. This clinic is run as a drill to test our Emergency Dispensing Site plan under the direction of the Department of Homeland Security. The town receives funds to help produce the plan and run the drills. 316 people attended the clinic and received both H1N1 and regular flu in one inoculation. We wish to thank all of the MRC volunteers who stepped forward to help prepare for and run these clinics. We couldn't have done it without them and their willingness to donate their time and effort in helping this program run so well is much appreciated.