

The Board of Appeals meets on the first Monday of each month, as needed, in the Town Building. Applications may be obtained from the Town Clerk's office or the Town's web page. Information regarding procedure may be obtained by contacting Catherine Desmond, Secretary to the Board.

Respectfully, submitted,

Arthur R. Lowden, retired
John Clayton, Jr., Clerk
Edmund C. Tarnuzzer, Jr.
Michele L. Shoemaker
Charles A. Barney, Associate
Lee Heron, Associate

William F. Byron, Jr., Associate
Bruce E. Fletcher, Associate
Ruth K. Sudduth, Associate
Andrew J. DeMore, Associate

Catherine A. Desmond, Secretary

TOWN SERVICES

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Stow Agricultural Commission is charged with maintaining the viability of agriculture in Stow. This includes advising other Town boards on matters pertaining to agriculture, resolving conflicts between agriculture and residential uses, and promoting agriculture in town.

Residents are reminded that Stow has a right-to-farm bylaw, which reiterates State laws in our Town Bylaws. As part of this bylaw, we provide a notification form for use in transfers of property that lets people know that farms are active in Stow.

The Stow AgCom is working on an inventory of farms in town. At present we have a list of more than 20 families involved in agriculture. If you have a farm you want to be included in our inventory, please contact us. We can be contacted by mail at the Town Offices, 380 Great Road, or through our website <http://stowagcom.org>, or through the Agricultural Commission page on the Town website <http://www.stow-ma.gov>.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Martin-Sullivan
Liz Painter

Dwight Sipler
Kathy Steege

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department issued a total of 255 Building Permits in 2010. We inspected the construction of the Center School Phase I foundation and utility work, commercial expansion, new homes, kitchen & bath remodeling, home additions and wood & pellet stoves. Construction at Arbor Glen was completed, but Villages at Stow and Derby Woods continued at a steady pace. In the Lower Village, construction of the Shaw's Supermarket Addition and the Red Ginger

Restaurant build-out were completed. In addition we attended seminars for new building codes, energy codes & fire safety as required under the continuing education requirements set forth by the Department of Public Safety. In addition to the duties as Building Inspectors, we are also in charge of the following municipal properties: Town Building, Town Hall, West School, and the Crescent Street Garage.

We have maintained the existing Town Buildings as follows:

Town Hall

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

Town Building

Regular maintenance items included changing air filters, grease for the air handling units and the hot water circulating pumps. Annual inspections were completed for the elevator, smoke alarm system and the sprinkler system. 87 lighting fixtures were replaced with new high efficiency Super T-8 florescent lights. The emergency generator connection contract was bid in July and installation of the manual transfer switch and wiring were 95% complete by December. A small 3rd Floor office space for the Town Nurse & Veterans Agent was also 95% built out by December.

West School & Crescent Street Garage Building

These buildings were checked periodically for security. The Historical Commission provided a historical plaque for the West School that was installed by the Building Department. In addition, exterior painting of the wood trim was completed under the tax work off program.

Randall Memorial Library

We provided assistance to the Library Trustees in the determination of future interior & exterior work required at the library. Slate roof repairs and sealing of the flat roof were completed. Several heavy rainstorms in May caused interior flooding through the foundation walls. We assisted the Library in assessing the damage and arranged for mold and mildew clean up.

In summary, I want to thank all the Town Departments for their support, particularly members of the Fire Department who are integral in the building permit process. Of course, many thanks to Judie Scraggs and Sheila Deleo for their dedicated service in the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig D. Martin P.E., Building
Commissioner

Judith Scraggs, Administrative Assistant
Sheila Deleo, Clerk

Inspectors

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

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

Raymond Smith, Gas Inspector
 Adam Sahlberg, Deputy Gas Inspector

Robert Smith, Deputy Gas Inspector

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN 2010

Number of Permits	Type of Construction	Construction Value
27	Single Family Dwelling	\$8,339,569.00
85	Remodeling and Additions	\$2,539,779.00
76	Strip & Re-roof, Re-siding & Windows	\$844,999.00
3	Swimming Pools	\$87,500.00
8	Commercial	\$583,379.00
3	Schools	\$24,600,000.00
9	Outbuildings	\$252,200.00
12	Temporary Tents	N/A
19	Wood/Pellet Stoves	\$49,291.00
10	Demolition Permits	\$103,187.00
1	Retaining Wall	\$47,000.00
2	<u>Wireless</u>	<u>\$71,000.00</u>
255	Totals	\$37,517,904.00

TOTAL PERMITS/CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN 2010

Number of Permits/Certificates	Fees Collected
255 Building Permits	\$73,659.45
343 Electrical Permits	\$27,349.00
238 Plumbing Permits	\$17,446.00
91 Gas Permits	\$4,336.00
33 Sign/Banner Permits	\$948.20
10 Annual Certificates	\$400.00
62 <u>Trench Permits</u>	<u>\$2,370.00</u>
1,032 Total Permits	\$126,508.65

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. It also works 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 last renewed in 2002 for ten years. Adams Russell provided Stow video cable service under this license for many years, and then sold its license to Cablevision, which sold it to AT&T. Today, Comcast holds that license.

In October 2007, Verizon submitted a request for a video cable license to offer cable service to Stow. Negotiations for the terms of this license took place and culminated with the Selectmen signing a 15-year cable license with Verizon on June 24, 2008. Verizon has provided fiber optic cable to most parts of the Town and currently offers full video cable service, along with high-speed Internet service and digital telephone service to those parts of town serviced by overhead wiring. Providing service to those needing underground wiring will begin after the ground thaws this spring. The number of Verizon cable customers is slowly growing, some with new service, some switching from Comcast, and others switching from satellite.

Both Comcast and Verizon offer many options within their video service packages, and both provide Stow's local access channel (Stow-TV) on Comcast channel 9 and on Verizon channel 32. In addition, Verizon provides Stow with a second local access channel (channel 33), which is used currently to carry the Stow bulletin board 24 hours a day and carries repeats of many of the government meetings more frequently than on channel 32.

Both licenses provide for a percentage of Comcast's and Verizon's income from Stow subscribers to be returned to the Town in order to support its Stow-TV local access channels. The Cable Committee is monitoring both Comcast's and Verizon's system to make sure all the terms of the license are being met and that all license payments are being made at the time specified by the license.

The broadband Internet service and the digital telephone service provided by both Comcast and Verizon are carried by the same cable each uses to provide Stow residents with video service. But only the video service requires a Stow license (and provides Stow with operational funds) since the Internet and telephone services are considered a 'data' service and are regulated by the State, not by Stow.

The Stow Cable License Advisory Committee has no control over the cost of service by either company, nor in the selection of programs offered by the companies over their video cable service. Subscribers need to call the company's customer service to resolve any problems of this nature. If the problem is related to providing service (not content or price) and cannot be resolved by customer service, contact the Stow Cable Committee to see if additional assistance can be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Lew Halprin, Chair
Bob Mong

Arny Buckman

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 this past year appointed an associate member, Stephen A. Gray. 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 all maintained by the Superintendent and seasonal part-time employees.

The main improvement this past year was the installation of a granite post fence at Brookside Cemetery. This project should be completed in the early spring. The Superintendent has also been working with the Historical Committee and the Community Preservation Committee to restore the stone wall at Lower Village Cemetery and to repair and restore many of the old markers that have been broken and are in need of repositioning. Many of these markers are showing their age due to being exposed to New England weather for hundreds of years.

The Committee again wants to recognize the outstanding work of Superintendent Robb "GH" Gledhill who, most of the time, maintains all three cemeteries by himself. He has been fortunate to have some seasonal help this past year, which allows him to work on other projects.

The Committee is always looking for anyone who would be interested in helping out with the maintenance of the cemeteries on a part-time basis. If you are interested, contact the Superintendent at the Office of the Cemetery Committee in the Town Hall.

The Committee wants to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and all the townspeople who supported us this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Dodge, Chairman
Roy A. Dudley
William E. Clayton

Stephen A. Gray, Associate
Robb Gledhill, Superintendent

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, 2010 was the ninth year of collections and state matching grants. In October 2010 Stow was awarded \$176,222 – a 39.86 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 \$2.5 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 \$600,000 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 2010

In May of 2010, Town Meeting attendees voted to appropriate \$20,000 of CPA Historic Reserve Funds for the purpose of restoring the final section of historic stone wall at Lower Village Cemetery, \$48,000 of CPA Historic Reserve Funds for the purpose of restoring historic headstones at Stow's 3 cemeteries, and \$80,000 from the CPA Open Space and Recreation Reserve Funds to purchase a conservation restriction from the Stow Conservation Trust on 30± acres of land on two parcels near Maple Street and Edgehill Road.

At a Special Town Meeting in November 2010 Town Meeting attendees voted to appropriate \$46,000 of CPA Open Space and Recreation Reserve Funds for the appropriation of engineering design funds for a potential construction project of a portion of the Assabet River Rail Trail on Track Road. The Town previously acquired an easement on Track Road that allows the possible future construction of a portion of the Assabet River Rail Trail and allows public access to the existing trail.

Stow Community Park, funded with CPA money, was opened in Spring 2010. Over the past several months residents have enjoyed use of the fields, pavilion, and skating rink. The rear portion of the project continues to be under lease to a local farmer.

At the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2010, Town Meeting voters approved Community Preservation warrant articles for appropriating funds for administrative purposes (\$30,000) and for making the annual reserves and adjustments required under the Community Preservation Act: Acquisition and Preservation of Historic Buildings and Landscapes (\$62,000), Acquisition and Preservation of Open Space and Recreation Land (\$62,000), and Acquisition and Support of Affordable Housing (\$62,000).

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 a town-wide Archaeological Reconnaissance Project. The prospect of receiving significant state matching funds appears promising for 2011. Stow voters are to be commended for deciding nine years ago to be one of first of the 147 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, Chairman	Open Space Committee
Mike Busch	Recreation Commission
Bill Byron	Council on Aging
Wayne Fletcher	Historical Commission
Bob Larkin	Housing Authority
Peter McManus	Finance Committee
Dominick Pugliese	Assessors Office
Kathy Sferra	Conservation Commission
Kathleen Willis	Planning Board
Deb Seith, Administrative Assistant	

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE PROJECT STATUS REPORT

	Orig Project Cost	Rescinded Projects Money Not Used	TL Amt Appopr. \$ 4,948,962.36
Totals for Open Space/Recreation	\$ 3,586,100.00	\$ 1,147,500.00	\$ 2,438,600.00
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 Acq Open Space Tyler APR \$21,500	\$ 50,000.00		
Hale Woodlands	\$ 35,000.00		
Lake Boon Preservation Project	\$ 77,000.00		
Assabet Rail Trail Easement	\$ 227,000.00		
Moseley APR	\$ 23,600.00		
Maple Street CR for SCT	\$ 80,000.00		
Albright Easement - Rail Trail	\$ 227,000.00		
Snow Property Acquisition	\$ 673,000.00		
Stow Community Park Construction	\$ 1,000,000.00		
Design Plan for Track Road Rail Trail	\$ 46,000.00		
Totals for Historical	\$ 168,419.00	\$ 8,056.64	\$ 160,362.36
Exp-West School Parking/Access	\$ 20,000.00		
Secure Blacksmith School	\$ 929.00	\$ 184.00	
Lower Village Cemetery Wall Restoration	\$ 9,990.00	\$ 71.72	
Lower Village Cemetery Wall Restoration #2	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 5,300.92	
Lower Village Cemetery Wall Restoration #3	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	
Rehab Monuments & Headstones	\$ 48,000.00		
Townwide Inventory of Historic Properties	\$ 50,000.00		
Totals for Affordable Housing	\$ 2,702,500.00	\$ 352,500.00	\$ 2,350,000.00
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 Perpetual Deed Restrictions	\$ 350,000.00		
Exp-Purchase Perp Deed Restriction	\$ 250,000.00		
Pilot Grove and Plantation Expansions	\$ 1,750,000.00		

COUNCIL ON AGING

Transportation remains the number one service. This vital service continues to grow each year. The COA transported approximately 780 riders totaling over 7,300 trips covering 31,160 miles. The van fare income received was approximately \$4,200. COA billed MART for transportation services totaling over \$36,000, which was turned back to the Town's General Fund Account.

In April, the COA experienced a horrific tragedy. We lost our beloved full time van driver Lisa Scesny. She will always be remembered. Lisa always went above and beyond the call of duty and brought sunshine into the lives of Stow seniors. She was energetic, vivacious and hard working. Lisa is dearly missed by the COA staff and those she served. Special thanks go to Beverly Benoit and Jim and Betty Sauta for filling the gap during this difficult period.

The COA has requested space from the Pompo Use Study Committee for a new Senior Center.

New Programs Offered in 2010: "Lawyer for a day" - Attorney Daniel M. Tremblay of Bolton kindly offers a free ½ hour one-on-one consultation to seniors. He advises on any questions regarding Elder Law, Estate Planning, Mediation, Guardianship and Probate. Jim's Diner Tour – every month former truck driver Jim Sauta takes the group to a different diner in the area.

A variety of Nutritional Programs are offered such as: Congregate Meals, Meals On Wheels, Monthly Breakfast and "Soups On" Program which are all well attended.

Art and Craft classes are offered weekly. Health and Educational presentations are offered monthly on a variety of topics including Get Organized, Laugh Yourself Healthy, Vertigo, Medication Management, Edible Wild Plants, Art History, Memoir Writing, Cooking, etc.

Weekly Exercise Programs offered include: Aerobics, Arthritis, Tai Chi, Yoga, and Zumba Gold classes. Special Walking groups are held periodically.

Podiatry Clinics are held monthly. Approximately 20 participants attend each month.

Cultural, Educational and Recreational Outings such as: museums, casinos, circus, flower show, baseball games, assisted living facilities, TV Stations, Winery/Brewery, restaurants, diners, etc.

This past year COA has loaned out over 100 items of Durable Medical Equipment including: wheelchairs, tub bench/chairs, commodes, walkers, canes, and other miscellaneous items.

Intergenerational Programs: COA has partnered with the schools and Stow Girl and Boy Scouts providing a variety of programs. They also provided assistance with serving meals at special events, holiday decorations and cards. Other programs included sand for seniors and pen pals.

Newsletter: This past year we changed the distribution of our 12-page newsletter from only seniors to every household in Stow. It is mailed as an insert in the Stow Independent.

Free Professional Services offered this past year included: Reiki Clinic, S.H.I.N.E., Tax Preparation, Computer Class, Computer In-Home Repair Service, Veterans Benefits, etc.

Our Outreach Coordinator and Worker provided numerous hours of assistance with seniors/disabled/veterans and their families such as: Life Line, RUOK, Fuel Assistance, Meals on Wheels, Food Stamps, Food Pantry, Veteran Benefits, home and hospital visits, etc.

Senior Tax Work-Off Program continues to grow each year. It was filled to capacity, 20 participants worked in various town departments and the schools.

Social Programs: Valentine's Tea, St. Patrick's Day Party, Red Sox Opening Day, May Day Baskets – Stow Garden Club, Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Strawberry Festival, Doggy Visits, Summertime Picnic, Autumn Tea, Veteran's Breakfast and our Holiday Luncheon.

Volunteer Program: Approximately 70 volunteers provided over 4,000 hours of service to the COA. Our "Unsung Hero" this year was awarded to Jim Sauta, who has led the charge for the last 10 years. He is a tenacious advocate fighting for our causes and making our needs known to the town. The COA can't thank our volunteers enough for all they do.

The Stow Friends of the Council on Aging (SFCOA) raise funds to supplement the COA. They have a gift shop, which offers a variety of Stow souvenir and hand made crafts made by Stow seniors. This past year, the SFCOA purchased for the COA a 58" flat screen TV, and a 2005 20-passenger Ford E450 van, which replaced our 1994 18-passenger van. SFCOA now has a fundraiser collection bin, "Got Books", in the parking lot of Warren Insurance for books, DVDs, CDs, videos and audio books. The Friends receive a small percentage of the proceeds.

Minuteman Senior Services (MSS) provided \$150,277 worth of services to 550 Stow seniors this past year in return for our contribution of \$1,037. MSS is funded by state and federal grants.

Funding Sources: This past year the COA received funds from the Avidia Bank's Charitable Foundation, Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Stow Community Chest, Stow Cultural Council, Stow Friends of the Council on Aging and the Stow Women's Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Donovan, Chair
Newton Wesley, Vice Chair
Ruth Delmonico, Secretary
Paul Chaisson
Alice Olsen
Gus Stathis
Beth Tobey (Chair Jan - Sep)
Eleanor Beaudette, Associate
Brian Burke, Associate

William Byron, Associate
Nancy Chaisson, Associate
Rep. Kate Hogan, Associate
Josephine Langley, Associate

Alyson Toole, Executive Director
Sharon Funkhouser, Outreach & Volunteer
Coordinator
Suzanne Howley, Outreach Worker



IN MEMORY OF

LISA SCESNY

1964 – 2010

***COUNCIL ON AGING
VAN DRIVER/DISPATCHER***

2006 – 2010

Years of Service

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Stow Cultural Council is dedicated to creating a closer-knit community in Stow by sponsoring and supporting activities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences that bring the diverse elements of our community together for enjoyment and cultural enrichment. The SCC especially seeks to fund projects that bring together parts of the community that do not often interact in their day-to-day lives in order to foster understanding by experiencing events together, working on projects and sharing stories about Stow's history.

The Stow Cultural Council completed a successful year, receiving a total of \$4,325 in grants from the following sources: \$3,825.00 from the State Legislature through the Massachusetts Cultural Council; and \$500 from Town Meeting.

The council voted to grant funds to the following projects for 2010/2011 fiscal year:

- Nashoba Regional High School Friends of Drama: \$600 (Costumes for "Chicago")
- Hale Middle School Play: \$625
- Big Band – Benny Goodman's 1938 Carnegie Hall Concert: \$500 (Paul Bouchard)
- Stow West School Open House: \$450 (Stow Historical Society)
- John and His Friends: \$300 (Lewis Halprin)
- Convert Old Historical Society Tapes to DVD: \$200.00 (Lewis Halprin)
- Lake Boon Water Carnival Music Boat: \$125 (Lake Boon Improvement Association)
- Summer Reading Program: \$950 (Randall Library)
- 2010-2011 Concert Season: \$1080 (Sounds of Stow)
- View of a Butterfly: \$350 (Eye of The Storm Equine Rescue)
- The Stow Story Slam: \$250.00 (Skye Gibson)
- The Children's Garden: \$ 400 (Ed Morgan)
- 76th Regular Exhibition of Art and Craft: \$100 (The Fitchburg Art Museum)
- Opportunities to Engage with The Arts: \$100 (Hudson Area Arts Alliance)
- Love Letters: \$210 (Richard Clark)

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, 2011** for the next granting cycle. For more information see the Cultural Council page on the town website, www.stow-ma.gov. Please note that MCC requirements ask the local cultural councils to fund each project for no more than 3 years and to reduce the amount granted each year to reduce dependence on the local cultural council. Local cultural council grants are to be considered a temporary aid to encourage groups to find added sources of funding. In particular, this year the state reduced funding and all Fieldstone funds have been expended.

Membership currently stands at six (6), which meets the Mass Cultural Council's minimum requirement of five members. Members are Anne Draudt (publicist), Pat Mullen (Treasurer), Phyllis Fitzsimmons-Luce, Nancy Maldari, Dorothy Sonnichsen and Ann Deluty (chair). Bob Glorioso and Betsy Stepp are members emeritus.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann L Deluty, Chair
Phyllis Fitzsimmons-Luce
Patricia Mullen, Treasurer
Nancy Maldari

Anne Draudt
Betsy Stepp
Dorothy Sonnichsen
Robert Glorioso

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The year of 2010 saw the Highway Department dealing with winter weather on several different occasions. Our trucks were dispatched 47 different times to treat the roads with salt and our crew of plow operators were called upon to clear the roads of snow for 8 separate storms totaling 46 inches of snow unofficially. During a salting operation we utilize 6 salt spreading trucks and during plowing operations we have 20 plow trucks clearing the roads.

On our off times from snow and ice control in the winter and throughout the rest of the year, crews were sent out for a total of seven weeks to cut roadside brush, low hanging limbs, and pick up downed tree limbs from high winds throughout the Town. We also took down 27 trees, which were dead or dying and were hazardous to the public.

In the spring we accomplished the construction of a 1,950-foot stretch of byway running the complete length of Pompositticut Street. The construction of this byway was requested by the Planning Board's Lower Village Sub-Committee and paid for out of the Planning Board's Sidewalk Fund.

During the summer and into the fall we took on two large reconstruction projects. Prepping for reconstruction was done on Boxboro Road and Great Road between Harvard Road and Orchard Drive. This department took the time to correct any drainage problems and road grade issues to ensure proper drainage and maximum life expectancy for the new roads. After all the drainage issues were addressed, private contractors were hired to cold plane the existing roads and then lay down a new asphalt surface. The process of cold planing the road is where the top two inches of existing road are ground off and hauled away. The road material that was generated from this process (about 3,000 cubic yards of it, known as Recycled Asphalt Product), was then spread on most of the Town's gravel roads by this department. This material, when spread and compacted, creates a good hard surface for vehicles to travel on and is also less susceptible to becoming mud during the spring thaw. The reconstruction of Boxboro Road and Great Road were paid for using State Chapter 90 funds.

In the Fall we took delivery of our new six wheel truck which features a Stainless Steel spreader body. This truck is unique to the Town, as the cab and chassis used to be the Fire Department's

old tanker truck. All of the Fire components were removed from the cab and chassis, and the truck was built by JC Madigan of Harvard, MA. Being able to utilize the cab and chassis from the old fire truck, we were able to save approximately \$7,500 out of the initial \$80,000 funded to purchase the truck.

The Highway Department is responsible for the maintenance and care of about 70 miles of road in town, as well as the maintenance of any municipal properties (not including ball fields). This includes but is not limited to, the maintenance of pavement markings, surface drainage, drainage systems, and roadsides and roadside appurtences such as trees, brush, debris, guard rails, street signs, and markers. It is the mission of this department to keep the roads in Stow safe and convenient for travel by the prudent driver.

We would not be able to accomplish all of this if it weren't for the hard working dedicated crew of Highway Department employees and the help we receive from the Police Department, Fire Department, Town Administrator, and Board of Selectmen. Thank you for another successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael E. Clayton, Superintendent of Streets

Scott Morse, Asst Superintendent
Rachel Belanger, Secretary
William Tuttle
Steve Landry

Brian Hatch
Tim Gray
Albeo Duguay
Joe Landry
Jonathan Gray
Scott Landry





STOW HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

W. Robert Dilling, Chairman
Jack Kendra
Robert Larkin
Sean Osborne

Robert Barrell, Stow and Hudson Housing
Authority

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Department Description

The Information Technology Department serves other Town departments through a series of services that includes integrating computer systems, coordinating and providing training, negotiating and managing information technology-related contracts, and technology assistance and support. This includes, but is not limited to, all IT related upgrades, migrations or integrations, as well as responsibility for planning the future IT infrastructure.

The department creates the technological environment that enables Town employees to quickly access vital information using the most efficient and cost effective system hardware and software. The department provides leadership as an active partner in the Departmental telecommunications and data-sharing network.

Mission

The Information Technology Department assists Town departments in responding to the needs of the citizens by enabling Town employees to quickly access vital information. We are dedicated to providing quality service through teamwork, partnerships, and developing team and individual strengths.

Outcomes

- Provide quality, cost effective telecommunication services to all Town departments.
- Provide and maintain effective business applications, which help us maintain our information to meet residents' needs.
- Provide and maintain a secure, reliable, and effective Information Technology Infrastructure.
- Increase public access to information and Town services through the Internet.
- Provide project management of Information Technology solutions that are being deployed at any time within the municipal departments.
- Responsible for the strategic planning and implementation of all computer, data networking and telecommunications systems.

Commendations

I am proud to report that the town received the 2010 e-government award from the Massachusetts Common Cause and recognition of our commitment to transparency from the House of Representatives.

Thanks

The Information Technology Department extends a special thanks to our volunteers, Paul Yannoni and Robert Mong for their enormous contributions. With their ongoing efforts in helping to maintain our infrastructure, they have helped in keeping the IT repair and service costs at a minimum.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Tobey, Information Technology Director

LAKE BOON COMMISSION

The Lake Boon Commission (LBC) is made up of three people appointed by the Selectmen of Hudson and Stow. There are two members from Stow and one from Hudson, reflecting the area of the lake in each town. Current serving members are Lee Heron from Stow, Cindy Curley from Stow and Conray Wharff from Hudson (Chair). The LBC holds meetings at the Stow Town Building about once a month. The meetings are public; everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Meeting notices are posted at both Town Halls at least 48 hours before the meetings.

Lake Boon is such a wonderful secret that we all share; how often do friends come over and remark that they never knew there was such a nice lake so close to home and work. I feel we are all very fortunate to live here as one community. You do not have to live on the lake to get on the lake. Beach passes are available at the Stow town building for the Stow beach and there is a public boat ramp on Sudbury Road.

Our single community has many interests and views about how to enjoy our lake. Some like to sail, swim, fish or boat, others are happy just being by the water. All these interests share a love of the lake but not always a love of the other person's point of view. One of the biggest challenges we face is how the best manage our lake for everyone's enjoyment.

This is where we need your help; everyone needs to understand that we all share the lake and needs to be tolerant of the other guy. Everyone needs to know and follow the rules of the lake. Motorboats have to watch their wakes and be aware of swimmers; swimmers need to understand that they are hard to see from boats when they are in the middle of the lake under a glaring sun.

Jet skiers have a particularly difficult problem; the lake is so small that is very difficult to always be 150 feet from shore or another boat. Many lakes have banned jet skis just because they do not honor the rules. Motorboats have to be aware of their wakes and stay at least 75 feet from shore and other boats.

We need to do not just what the rules require, we need to use our common sense to do "the right thing".

Not everyone will do that so we will enforce the rules. We have patrol officers who will be out at random times to enforce our rules. Tickets are \$50 each for each violation; we can easily write more than one ticket when we stop a person.

There are several rules that I would like to point out, as these are the ones people most often violate.

Headway speed only and lights on after dark for all boats, whether driven by motor or human power. Yes, all boats should have lights on after sunset, not just, motor boats. From ½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise the lake speed limit is headway speed only. Lights are required from sunset to sunrise. Headway speed is boat in gear with no extra throttle.

Jet Skis are required by state law to be 150 feet away from everything at any speed other than idle. This is very difficult on Lake Boon. It means that you have to idle out 150 feet from shore before applying power; it means that you must stay at least 150 feet from shore, other boats and swimmers, at any speed other than headway only.

Drinking of alcoholic beverages and throwing trash into the lake are prohibited. Many a morning the lake has aluminum fish floating on its waters. Throwing anything into the lake is against the law. That includes leaves and grass as well as more obvious trash. You can get a ticket just for having alcoholic beverages in your boat or throwing anything overboard.

Any towing activity requires three people, one to be towed, one to drive and one to observe. Pulling a person without an observer is a major safety issue. Observers must be over 12 years of age. We have zero tolerance policy for safety violations.

Lake Boon is under attack from non-native invasive weeds and increased nutrient loading. The primary way to combat these attacks is a comprehensive lake management program that includes nutrient management and aquatic vegetation management. Aquatic vegetation management is done with state-approved herbicides applied under state permits and Orders of Conditions from the Conservation Commissions of Stow and Hudson. Nutrient management is accomplished by intercepting nutrients before they get to the lake in catch basins and Lake Drawdown, which removes the nutrients.

Lake Boon is under a total lake management program designed to improve water quality and manage invasive weeds in the lake. The Conservation Commissions of both Stow and Hudson and the Board of Health in Stow are working with the Lake Boon Commission to improve water quality and manage the weeds

Lake Drawdown is one of the tools we use in the total lake management program. Lake Drawdown is complicated but best thought of as emptying a bathtub. Drain some of the water away and the nutrients leave the lake. It is free but may affect shallow wells around the lake. The Lake Boon Commission, working with the Stow and Hudson boards, state DEP, and many interested parties, has permission to do Lake Drawdown in the fall of year 2011 under a public order of conditions.

Lee Heron is one of Lake Boon's patrol officers. As a member of the LBC he manages patrolling of Lake Boon for both the LBC patrol boat and the Stow Police patrol boat. The Stow Police boat is also manned by Stow police officers. The goal is to ensure safety and enforce regulations on the lake. All power boats are required to be registered; the state Environmental police and our patrol officers will enforce registration requirements.

Boat owners are responsible for their boats at all times, regardless of who is driving their boat. Every summer we stop many boats for minor violations resulting in tickets and fines. We have a zero tolerance policy for safety violations; if a boat is stopped for safety violations it will be ticketed.

The rules are posted at the launch site or available on line from the Stow town website. State rules are on line as well at Mass.gov. If you send Conray Wharff an e-mail at the address below, he will send you a copy of the rules.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with ongoing lake management projects. If you are interested, please contact us via your Town Offices or send e-mail to Conray Wharff at cwharff@comcast.net

Respectfully submitted,

Conray Wharff, Hudson, Chair
Cindy Curley, Stow

Lee Heron, Stow

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

In 2010, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environment offered communities with recently completed Open Space and Recreation Plans (OSRP) the opportunity to extend their plans two additional years. The Town of Stow applied for an extension of its 2008 plan and the extension was accepted. This will allow Stow to participate in Massachusetts Department of Conservation Services grants through September 2014.

Also in 2010, the Open Space Committee completed a review of property evaluation criteria. These criteria (outlined in the OSRP) include natural resources such as water, habitat, and soils, as well as cultural resources, such as scenic landscape, state heritage landscapes, and recreational trails. By comparing these resources with the existing land protection in Stow, the committee will be in a better position to make recommendations to the town when potential open space lands become available.

In 2010 Stow's Chapter 61 Quick Response Team began operating. This group, made up of representatives from seven town boards and committees, has developed a standard report to quickly orient town officials regarding properties which the town may exercise Right-of-First-Refusal on, as part of the Chapter 61 tax abatement program.

Because of the time limitations associated with this right, information on such properties is needed quickly in order for the town to make intelligent decisions on whether to pursue them for open space or municipal use. The design and contents of this type of report will be finalized in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Vin Antil, Chair
Eve Donahue
Bill Maxfield

Brian J. Mulcahy
Chris Rodstrom

RECREATION COMMISSION

This past year has been exciting and eventful for the Recreation Commission. The Commission is very excited that Stow Community Park is nearly complete and we were able to open to the community in the spring of 2010. The new recreational facility is a great addition to Stow. The playground that is the final phase of the project is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2011. Town-wide brochures are distributed throughout the year, highlighting the many new programs that have been established as well as the existing programs. The fourth annual Stow Gobbler road race was even more successful than last year, with over 800 participants walking or running the race on Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to the Hurd and Allaire families, volunteers, and sponsors for making this race such a success.

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, Chairperson
Robert Braceland
John Sangermano
Tim Allaire

Josh Schiering

Laura Greenough, Recreation Director

SPRINGFEST COMMITTEE

It was the Springfest Committee's distinct privilege and pleasure to celebrate all that is wonderful about our town with a weekend of family-friendly activities May 14-16, 2010.

We brought back a number of events, and tried out some new activities that we thought were a great addition to the weekend. Most impressive was the Grand Parade, which has gone from a wonderful fire truck display to a parade that included all aspects of Stow life! Thanks to the extraordinary work of Nancy Arsenault, we had farm floats, antique cars, multiple troops of Minutemen, community groups including the Council on Aging and Medical Reserve Corps, a jazz band, lots of marching kids, and even an army tank! It was an incredible event, hard to be repeated!

Taking advantage of a beautiful day, the Saturday activity at Center School was non-stop fun. Stow residents turned out to enjoy the food, games, vendors, and music. We'd like to give a special shout-out to our Police Department for setting up inflatable games, giving out free snacks, showing off their equipment and handing out free bicycle helmets. More than 40 vendors gave folks the opportunity to learn, shop and support area organizations and businesses. The afternoon featured a Spelling Bee (sponsored by RECESS - the group raising funds for the new school project). Teams representing Stow selectmen, schoolteachers, and other organizations faced off with the crowd "buzzing" in excitement. The evening activities started off with a student garage-band concert, and was capped off by the first ever Stow showing of Rocky Horror Picture Show (complete with prop bags handed out to the audience!). Sunday activities included the annual SCT "Run for the Woods" and the "Sounds of Stow" concert. A new addition to the weekend was the "Dog Games and Instruction," which was well attended and appreciated by both two- and four-legged creatures!

We're grateful to everyone who assisted with making SpringFest a great weekend (there are just too many people to list here), and we look forward to seeing you at this year's Springfest May 20-22. This year, Saturday's events will be held at the new Stow Community Park. Anyone interested in volunteering can email us at springfest@stow-ma.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray Levine, Chair
Ellen Sturgis
Karen Kelleher
Pennie Cushing

Marge Alessio
Laura Folsom
Bruce Fletcher
Nancy Arsenault

STOW TV and LOCAL ACCESS CHANNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board of Selectmen established and appointed the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) 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 Selectman on August 9, 2005, the name of the committee was changed to the Local Access Channel Advisory Committee (LACAC). Funding for operations is provided through license agreements negotiated by the Stow Cable License Advisory Committee with Comcast and Verizon.

The cable station is referred to as “Stow TV” and is available on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channels 32 and 33. Stow TV is intended to operate with volunteers and provide video access to town residents. Residents are welcome to use Stow TV equipment for video recording or editing. Stow TV will provide training. Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing video or photos, or assisting productions may call 978-897-7732 or email stowtv@stow-ma.gov.

Stow TV stores video as DVDs and “mpeg” files, and schedules it with a video server computer. There are about 650 shows in the video archives. Stow TV program schedules are publicized in the local newspapers, on the town web site, through email lists, with posters in several public locations, and on the Stow TV bulletin board. Stow TV is on the web at www.stowtv.org

In 2010, Coordinator Anne VanTine managed overall operations of the station. Assistant Coordinator Kathy O’Keefe created, implemented, and publicized program schedules. She also created announcements and displays of photos on the bulletin board. As Technical Assistant, Lew Halprin made improvements to recording setups and devised innovative and practical solutions for various recording situations.

Lew Halprin, Linda Stokes, Mike Jordan, Jonathan Daisy, Marika Barnett, Dan Nicholson, Lynn Colletti, and Anne VanTine produced, recorded, and edited shows seen on Stow TV. Lew Halprin recorded or helped with video production of many events in town, and shows he produced formed the backbone of every Stow TV schedule. Linda Stokes recorded most of the Selectmen meetings. Ralph DeFlorio and Scott Glorioso assisted with some concert recordings.

This year Stow TV equipped a second Town Building conference room with installed cameras and microphones cabled to a recording capability in the station room. A great deal of research and planning led to a cost-effective solution with compact equipment that fit into the space available and integrated with existing equipment within the station.

Also new this year is the “Stow Government Channel” which cablecasts Selectmen, School Committee, and other government-related shows at frequent intervals on Verizon channel 33, an additional channel provided for in the 2008 Verizon contract. The same shows are also available on the mainstream channels (Comcast 9 and Verizon 32), but less frequently. This use of the channel was proposed by Lew Halprin and implemented by Kathy O’Keefe. Kathy schedules the shows and maintains a program listing on the Stow TV web site.

Stow TV cablecast 264 different shows in 2010. These included 25 Selectmen, 15 School Committee, and two Town Meetings. Stow residents additionally produced 142 new shows. From the Stow TV archives, 55 shows were replayed, often to promote annual events. Stow residents requested 26 more shows that were produced elsewhere in Massachusetts.

Stow TV helped educate residents about local issues and the actions of their government. Besides Selectmen, School Committee and Town Meetings, 26 other town government events, and 15 state government topics were shown. These included Finance and Planning Boards, Master Plan, Lake Boon Drawdown, Track Road Design, Pedestrian Walkway, Pompo School Reuse, Harvard Acres Water, Open Meeting and Campaign Finance Laws, MRC activities, Flu and Rabies Clinics, Stow Energy Group, Candidate debates, state legislative updates, Medicare

and Social Security education, and Center School Groundbreaking. The bulletin board encouraged voter participation with registration and election information..

Many shows entertained and educated with a focus on Stow. These included local and school concerts, Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies, Girl Scout and Eagle Scout ceremonies, “Springfest” festivities, library programs for children, school graduations, fire department events, Council on Aging presentations, talks at First Parish Church, Collings Foundation events, Stow history, locally written plays, shows by local artists, local environment and nature, fairs, childrens’ health and safety, charity events, and much more.

Stow TV implemented hundreds of colorful, eye-catching announcements on the “bulletin board.” A wide variety of local event announcements were continuously shown and updated regularly based on requests from community organizations. Many announcements provided public health and safety information and promoted local charities.

More than 50 photo shows were displayed on the bulletin board. These included library programs, Council on Aging events, community and school concerts, town festivals, nature walks, spring floods, school construction, West School events, Veterans and Memorial Day, and Stow Story Slam. Local contributing photographers included Nancy Arsenaault, Jonathan Daisy, Jon French, Ralph Fuller, Kyr Gibson, Lew Halprin, Greg Irvine, Dick Luxner, Valerie Pederson, Dwight Sipler, Jay Solomon, Tara Taft, Greg Troxel, Paul Trunfio, and Mike Woelki.

Bob Mong and Beth Tobey provided IT support. Stow TV engaged Michael Ridinger for video server support. Gerry Horne managed Town Meeting sound. LACAC met several times during the year. LACAC members contributed time, advice, and oversight for spending and policy decisions, and LACAC member Bob Glorioso advised on equipment selection.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Dungan
Chris Funkhouser
Robert Glorioso

Len Golder
Lisa Lavina
Anne VanTine, Stow TV Coordinator

VETERANS SERVICES

Director’s Report

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, the citizens, and the Veteran Community of Stow, this report is submitted for the year ending 2010.

Veterans’ Benefits

Veterans’ Benefits are governed under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. c. 115) and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations 108 (C.M.R. 108). Benefits assist qualified needy veterans and their dependents based on income levels and in accordance with the Budget Standards Chart. The Town of Stow is reimbursed 75% by the State for veterans’ assistance payments issued by this office.

The Director of Veterans' Services is responsible for determining the eligibility of all cases processed through this office. The Director conducts interviews, establishes approvals, and conducts follow-up on veterans receiving assistance. Field investigations are conducted by this office to determine the recipients' continued eligibility to receive benefits.

Veterans' Services also assists Stow veterans in filing federal forms for benefits which include service-connected disability claims, non-service-connected claims, VA health care, requests for medals, requests for service records, bonus applications, burial assistance and other federal benefits such as counseling in vocational rehabilitation and employment.

Additionally, the Director acts under Power of Attorney for veterans researching and processing cases to the Rating Review Board (Department of Veteran Services), and prepares appeal cases for the Board of Veterans' Appeals on the veteran's behalf. The Director also acts as liaison between State and U.S. Representatives on behalf of veterans and their dependents.

Legislation

During the past year Massachusetts Legislation enacted allows Veterans of Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF) to receive additional bonuses of \$500 for each subsequent tour of duty in the Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Salute

This past year I have had the opportunity to serve as President of the Veterans Association and as Commander of DAV. The work of the association allows all Veterans Agents the opportunity to collaborate regarding the laws that govern veterans and their families. The DAV raised over \$12,000 through their Forget-me-not campaign and 100% of every dollar raised was given back to veterans and widows in need. I salute both of these organizations for their continuous hard work and selflessness to assist our Veterans.

TAPS

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Stearns, Director