

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,

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

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

Retirement

Our long-time Administrative Assistant, Terri Cole, retired in June 2011 after more than 25 years at the Board of Health. Terri was hired in June 1981 as a part-time secretary for the Board when it was located on the second floor of the Pilot Grove School. In 1985 Terri became our full-time secretary and in 1996 was promoted to the position of Administrative Assistant. Throughout the years Terri was an invaluable assistant to the Health Agent and the Board. Her many years of service to the town and this Board are greatly appreciated.

Our Clerk, Lynn Fishman also retired in June, 2011. Thank you, Lynn, for your help.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

During 2011 we continued working with the Medical Reserve Corps and Fire and Police Chiefs, on the Town's Emergency Planning Program. Money from Emergency Preparedness grants distributed by the Department of Homeland Security come to the Town through the MRC to allow planning, purchase, and storage of materials necessary in case of a natural or manmade disaster.

Our natural disasters arrived in the form of Hurricane Irene at the end of August and an icy snow storm in the Northeast at the end of October with severe power outages. For the October storm, the MRC was alerted to the possibility of opening of a shelter, but a full time shelter at the Atlantic Union College in Lancaster was available so Stow concentrated on providing warming areas at the Town Building and bathing facilities at the Hale Middle School.

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. 293 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. Their willingness to donate their time and effort in helping this program run so well is much appreciated.

Public Health Nurse

In 2011 our public health nurse Linda Cullen arrived to fill this important position. Town residents can connect with the Linda every Wednesday from 9 AM to 12 PM. Her office is located on the third floor of the Town Building. She provides home visits, follows up with communicable disease reporting, helps with the clinics that the Board runs, interfaces with the Council on Aging and offers immunizations to town employees as needed. We welcome Linda, who continues to provide a valuable and much needed service to the town. The Board appreciates the support it has received for this program from the residents of Stow.

Hazardous Waste and Recycling

The Board collaborated once again with the Stow Boy Scouts Troop 1 in the spring of 2011 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 we 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. We continue to offer battery and mercury thermometer collections during our daily office hours. Our next hazardous waste collection will be held in April of 2012.

Loss of a Public Water Supply in Harvard Acres

Starting late in 2010, all of the homes in Harvard Acres needed to install individual drinking water wells. This Board was faced with the task of assuring that all of the homeowners would be able to install these private wells. We worked with the residents of Harvard Acres, the Building Inspector, the Town Administrator, the Department of Environmental Protection and many volunteers to create a plan that would enable this project to move forward in a very short time period. The Town Administrator is responsible for a loan program that was created by the state and town to assist those homeowners who needed some financial assistance in this endeavor. The program was completed by March 15, 2011.

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 dog kennel has been undergoing some modest repairs to upgrade the electrical service and heating provisions for the safety of the dogs that are kept until their owners are located. We don't have many "visitors", but recognized the need to upgrade the thirty-year-old facility. The remainder of the repairs will be undertaken in 2012.

As a reminder to the residents of Stow, licensing your dog is a legal requirement. The dog must have a rabies vaccination certificate and tag for you to obtain a license. The Town Clerk sends out all of the information necessary for you to obtain this license, which allows the Animal Control officer to locate an owner should a dog be found wandering in town. The Board of Health offers an annual rabies inoculation clinic in April.

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 2011:

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|-----------------------|----|----------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Dog Complaints | 95 | Cat Complaints | 0 | Wildlife Calls | 98 |
| Lost Dogs | 60 | Found Dogs | 45 | Cruelty/Neglect | 1 |
| Dead Animals on Roads | 63 | Lost Cats | 28 | Found Cats | 16 |
| Dogs Impounded | 13 | Livestock Complaints | 7 | Other | 74 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----|-------------|---|--------------|---|
| Citations Issued | | 25.00 Fines | 9 | 100.00 Fines | 4 |
| Written Warnings | 4 | 50.00 Fines | 6 | 150.00 Fines | 1 |
| \$25.00 Fines | 10 | 75.00 Fines | 5 | | |

The following is the annual livestock count:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|---------|----|----------|---|
| Cattle | 19 | Llamas | 3 | Goats | 57 | Pigeons | 14 | Other: | |
| Swine | 8 | Alpacas | 9 | Sheep | 34 | | | Beehives | 1 |
| Rabbits | 41 | | | | | | | | |
| Equine | 122 | Horses-104 | Ponies -17 | Donkey-1 | | | | | |
| Poultry | 496 | Chickens- 428, | Turkeys-10, | Waterfowl- 39, | Game Birds- 19 | | | | |

Quarantines are as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------|----|
| Dogs: 10 Day Quarantine | | Cat Quarantine: 45 Day | 11 |
| Dog bite/scratch to another dog | 4 | Cat bite/ scratch to a person | 5 |
| Dog bite/scratch to a person | 3 | 6 Month Quarantine: 1 Cat, 1 Pig, 1 Goat | |

Permitting & Revenues

Revenue of \$ 26,887.00 was remitted to the Town. The following is a list of permits issued:

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Bed & Breakfast-3 | Ice Sales-2 | Pools-2 |
| Beach -2 | Stable Licenses- 22 | Dumpsters - 12 |
| Pet Shop-1 | Septage Haulers-15 | Rubbish Haulers-6 |
| Installers-40 | Camps-4 | Tobacco-6 |
| Food Service-77 | Well Permits-14 | Title 5 Inpections- 83 |
| Cider Mill-4 | Disposal Works Construction Permits- 50 | |

Total Permit Fees: \$ 20,964.00

Other Fees Collected: Soil Tests, Plan Reviews, Kennel etc. \$ 5923.00

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. Our new Administrative Assistant, Cyndie Colosi, is hard at work running the office and assisting the public. Please stop in and say hello to her. As always, we encourage you to call or visit if you have any questions, problems, or concerns. We are open from 8AM to 4PM 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,

Betty Cormier, Member
Sylvia Daley, Member
Marcia B. Rising, Chair

Cynthia Colosi, Administrative Assistant
John P. Wallace, Health Agent
Susan Latham, Animal Control Officer
Phyllis Tower, Animal Inspector

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The year 2011 was not particularly busy for the Board of Appeals. There were hearings on six applications for Special Permit and on five petitions for Variance.

Hearings for combined Variance and Special Permit: 4 – all granted.
Hearings for Variance only: 1 – granted
Hearings for Special Permit only: 2 – both granted

The decision of the Board in January 2011 to deny a variance to Star Tower Co. and T-Mobile Northeast for a cell tower on the Wedgewood Pines Country Club property off Harvard Road is currently under appeal by the applicant.

The appeal by an abutter of the Plantation II Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit granted by the Board in 2010 for 37 units of supportive housing is continuing.

There are currently two vacant positions on the Board.

The Board of Appeals meets on the first Monday of each month, as needed, in the Town Building. Applications for hearing 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,

John Clayton, Clerk
Michele L. Shoemaker
Edmund C. Tarnuzzer, Jr.
Vacancy to July 2012
Vacancy to July 2014
Charles A. Barney, Associate
William F. Byron, Jr., Associate

Andrew J. DeMore, Associate
Bruce E. Fletcher, Associate
Lee Heron, Associate
Ruth K. Sudduth, Associate

Catherine A. Desmond, Secretary