

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Community Center Building Committee was established in November 2011 to continue the work of the former Pompo Use Study Committee. The charge of the committee is to oversee the pre-design process for a Community Center on the site of the Pompositicut School. It is composed of members of the former Pompo Use Study Committee, plus one Selectman, one member of the Finance Committee, one member of the Capital Planning Committee, and one resident Member at Large.

During 2011, the Pompo Use Study Committee gathered information by utilizing on-line surveys, newspapers, public forums and interviewing those departments, groups and businesses interested in having space at the Pompositicut building. All of this confirmed that there is a great need in the town for a Community Center. Going forward in 2012, it will be the work of the new Community Center Building Committee to be sure that everyone is heard and we deliver an accurate and well-planned idea for the building.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bolton
Michael Busch
Paul Chaisson
Charles Kern
James Sauta, Chair

Gus Stathis
Barbara Wolfenden
Richard Rollins, Associate

Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Elementary School Building Committee was formed following the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, to direct and oversee the renovation and addition to the Center School. The groundbreaking celebration occurred in June 2010 and true ground started to move in August 2010, but 2011 is when we all started seeing the reality of the construction!

The beginning of 2011 saw the construction of the new Center School in full gear. In spite of a very snowy winter, the steel was raised in January, and the reality of a new school starting hitting us! Site work moved far slower than we'd hoped, but we still were able to have our Topping Off Ceremony (the last piece of steel ready to be raised) in March, where all the kids came by and signed the steel. (Though it won't be seen, it will hang above the front door.) But for the committee, monthly meetings were focused on the delays, unforeseen conditions and how to manage the relationship between the design team and the contractor.

Challenges joined us early in 2011 and followed us through the year: in March, the steel subcontractor filed for bankruptcy and disappeared off the job. Greg Irvine, who had done a great job keeping teachers, staff and students informed and involved in the building planning, announced his resignation in May. Though he won't be our Principal when the building officially opens, he certainly deserves recognition for his efforts in the first year of construction. In October, the site subcontractor walked off the job, leaving much unfinished at a particularly critical moment. Claims were received by subs of both the steel and site contractors for unpaid work, and meetings with attorneys were required to understand a new side to our responsibilities as the Building Committee.

On the bright side, RECESS continued to do terrific fundraising events, including the creation of over 600 tiles that now adorn the new lobby. The OAR/Intel grant for stormwater management, written by Craig Martin, was received in December for \$300,000, bringing the total fundraising dollars to approximately \$340,000, or 1% of the total construction project. The MSBA confirmed that they will match half this amount as an additional grant, decreasing the Town's portion to be paid by our tax dollars. Congratulations to Greta Morgan and her incredible team that worked so hard to reduce the tax burden of the school project.

As of December 31, we had spent about \$19 million of the total \$32.5 million budget and had already received approximately \$8 million from the MSBA in this "pay as you go" system that reduces the Town's need to borrow. The State will ultimately pay about 51% of the total cost of the school.

The end of 2011 also brought delays in the end of Phase One, which was originally scheduled for early December. The earlier site problems had caused delays that ultimately were not made up by the Contractor, and a number of frustrating attempts to reschedule the move-in date led to the switch at the February school vacation. At the time of writing, the Contractor has promised the entire project will be done in time for the start of school in September 2012. The committee will continue to apply pressure on the entire project team to make up time without sacrificing quality. Phase 2 is the renovation of the existing building, which is often where surprises arise, when walls are opened and unknown conditions are uncovered. We hope that there will be few surprises.

We continue to applaud and appreciate the patience, enthusiasm and support of staff and teachers, not to mention the students of Pompo and Center Schools, as we move through the construction project. The school is incredible and will make us all very proud—an all-community ribbon cutting and celebration will take place before the start of school so that all can tour the building and view the accomplishments of many. We encourage residents to keep track of our progress through the town website, where all meetings, minutes and documents are updated regularly.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bernklow, Finance
Lynn Colletti, School Committee

Amy Finkel Hastings, Co-Chair;
Architect

Charles Kern, Selectman
Craig Martin, Building Commissioner
Stephen Quinn, Planning Board
Ellen S. Sturgis, Co-Chair
Michael Wood, Superintendent

Kevin LaCoste, Ex-officio; Principal
Lisa D'Alessio, Associate
David Korn, Associate

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

We are delighted to report that the Master Plan was finished late in the Fall of 2010, accepted by the Planning Board in January, 2011 and presented to the Stow Selectmen in February 2011. It can be read on the town website or at the Randall Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Dungan
Karen Kelleher
Charles Kern
Rebecca Mattison

Roy Miller
Marcia Rising, Chair
Kathleen Willis

MULTI-USE TRACK ROAD COMMITTEE

The Multi-Use Track Road Committee (MUTR) was formed in 2011 to approve and implement a design plan for a multi-use pathway along Track Road from Sudbury Road to White Pond Road. It is our goal to make this “stunningly beautiful” Assabet River corridor in Stow more accessible for this and future generations.

This year we accomplished the following:

- Met with the towns of Acton and Maynard, the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, the trail land owner, and the local and state departments involved.
- Held an open town forum and analyzed survey data regarding trail uses and users.
- Set up a web site with data, photos, and user friendly links to numerous trail resources. The site to visit is: www.stow-ma.gov/pages/StowMA_BComm/StowMA_Track/index
Please visit for a more complete description of our project.
- Prepared and obtained approvals for a contract with our design firm AECOM. This firm is also working on the Acton and Maynard portions of the Assabet River Rail Trail.

This committee has set the following goals for 2012:

- Complete and present alternate design plans to the Town of Stow at an open forum for review and comment.