

## 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 agricultural and residential uses, and promoting agriculture in town. The Agricultural Commission has a website, [StowAgCom.org](http://StowAgCom.org), which provides notices of agricultural events and conditions. The website can also be reached through the Town website.

In 2011, a new berry pest arrived in New England: the Spotted Wing Drosophila. This new pest attacks brambles such as raspberries, blackberries, and also strawberries and other fruit. The pest appeared in late August, and pretty much wiped out the fall raspberry crop. The combined efforts of the Extension Services of all the New England states are trying to determine the best way to combat this pest. There may be organic methods of control. When information is available, it will be posted on [StowAgCom.org](http://StowAgCom.org).

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 notification form should be filed with the Selectmen's office before the transfer of property is completed. The form can be downloaded from [StowAgCom.org](http://StowAgCom.org) or through the Town website.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Painter, Clerk  
Dwight Sipler, Chair

Kathy Steege  
Julie Martin Sullivan

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department issued a total of 239 Building Permits in 2011. We inspected the construction of the Center School Phase I structural steel, rough frame, roof and finish work, commercial expansion, new homes, kitchen & bath remodeling, home additions and wood & pellet stoves. Villages at Stow and Derby Woods continued at a steady pace. With the heavy snow during the winter and the concern for possible structure or roof collapse, time was spent inspecting roofs and monitoring structures. 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. The emergency generator connection contract was completed. In addition the painting contract was completed which included tree removal, structural wall repairs, column base replacement and exterior painting. The main parking area was expanded to accommodate the increased town business traffic.

### **West School & Crescent Street Garage Building**

These buildings were checked periodically for security. Repairs to the roof of the West School were made due to critter damage.

### **Randall Memorial Library**

We provided assistance to the Library Trustees with interior & exterior contract work required at the library. Water damaged sheet rock was removed and replaced. Exterior shrubs were removed and drainage was improved to move water away from the building.

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 and inspection process and the Highway Department for their outstanding work in constructing the expanded parking area at the Town Building. 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

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 2011**

<b>Number of Permits</b>	<b>Type of Construction</b>	<b>Construction Value</b>
22	Single Family Dwellings	\$7,090,559.00
91	Remodeling and Additions	\$1,995,880.00
68	Strip and Re-roof, Re-siding & Windows	\$844,921.00
5	Swimming Pools	\$110,000.00
7	Commercial/Industrial	\$217,852.00
2	Foundations	\$50,000.00

11	Outbuildings	\$728,321.00
11	Temporary Tents	N/A
14	Wood/Pellet Stoves	\$34,396.00
5	Demolition Permits	\$28,245.00
1	Fence	\$26,500.00
2	Solar	\$66,227.00
<b>239</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,192,901.00</b>

### TOTAL PERMITS/CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN 2011

Number of Permits/Certificates	Fees Collected
239 Building Permits	\$56,221.54
242 Electrical Permits	\$16,612.16
155 Plumbing Permits	\$9,010.00
120 Gas Permits	\$4,676.00
7 Sheet Metal Permits	\$70.00
45 Sign/Banner Permits	\$1,182.52
11 Annual Certificates	\$440.00
13 Trench Permits	\$390.00
<b>832 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$88,602.22</b>

### CABLE LICENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Cable License Advisory Committee (CLAC) 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 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.

The Selectmen signed 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. Service is gradually being extended to neighborhoods with underground wiring.

The contract with Comcast is up for renewal by October 31, 2012. In 2011, the Cable Committee prepared for upcoming negotiations by marking up a draft provided by Comcast to customize for Stow needs. Additionally, the Cable Committee collaborated with the Local Access Channel Advisory Committee and Stow TV to research Stow TV equipment, operating, and personnel needs, and to document what support the station would require over the next ten