

years. The resulting “Ascertainment Document” was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen on October 25, 2011, and will be used in contract negotiations.

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 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 Stow TV operation. The Cable Committee ensures that all the terms of the license are being met and that all license payments are being made at the time specified by the license.

Comcast and Verizon broadband Internet and the digital telephone service provided 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.

Lew Halprin resigned from the Cable Committee on September 28, 2011. The committee thanks Lew for his many strong contributions over the years.

Respectfully submitted,

Arny Buckman

Robert Mong

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 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 maintained by the Superintendent and three seasonal part-time employees (two of whom were hired this past year). They have kept the cemeteries in good shape and have allowed the Superintendent to get many projects done. Some of the projects included tree pruning and removal, stump removal, and road sealing.

This year there were 23 burials (including cremations). A trailer is close to being complete that will house all the materials to prepare for a burial. This will eliminate the need to load and offload the truck with these materials each time there is a burial.

We are grateful to the Community Preservation Committee for subsidizing the restoration of markers at the older cemeteries. Lower Village Cemetery is almost complete, and then the restoration will continue at Hillside Cemetery.

We are still working on finalizing a land purchase that was voted on at Town Meeting.

The Committee would like to thank Superintendent Robb (GH) Gledhill for the outstanding work he does in maintaining all three cemeteries. We would also like to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and all the townspeople who supported us during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Stephen A. Gray, Associate

Robb (GH) Gledhill, Superintendent

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 was the tenth year of collections and state matching grants. In October 2011 Stow was awarded \$172,219 – a 39.64 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 \$2.6 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 Community Preservation Act (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.

At the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2011, 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 (\$61,450), Acquisition and Preservation of Open Space and Recreation Land (\$61,450), and Acquisition and Support of Affordable Housing (\$61,450).