

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, 2012 for the next granting cycle. For more information see the Cultural Council page on the town website, www.stow-ma.gov. Local Cultural Council's 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 five (5), which meets the Mass Cultural Council's minimum requirement of five members. Please note that several members' terms are up and the Council will be delighted to have new applicants. Members are Anne Draudt (publicist), Pat Mullen (Treasurer), Phyllis Fitzsimmons-Luce, Nancy Maldari, and Ann Deluty (chair). Bob Glorioso, Dorothy Sonnichsen and Betsy Stepp are members emeritus.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dorothy Sonnichsen
Robert Glorioso

Isabel Prokopovich, Assistant

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department had a very busy year in 2011. With over 40 inches of snow in January alone, the rest of the winter brought us an unofficial total of 79 inches of snow, keeping our plow trucks very busy throughout the season. Snowplow crews were dispatched a total of 11 times and our salt spreading trucks were dispatched 55 times to deal with snow and ice conditions on roads.

Though the winter was rough we still managed to complete quite a bit of tree and brush work. Our crew took down 24 public shade trees along the roadsides, which were either dead or hazardous, and spent a total of about 4 weeks cutting low-hanging tree limbs and roadside brush. Aside from our scheduled brush and tree trimming, we had a few emergency situations, which kept us dealing with tree related work for quite a while. In August, Tropical Storm Irene damaged several public shade trees with its high winds, and gave us 10 days' worth of downed limbs and broken trees to clean up off of the public ways. Then there was the Halloween Snowstorm. Our crews were initially dispatched to plow snow, which quickly turned into just trying to keep roads open due to all the falling trees and tree limbs blocking the streets.

Several roads were still closed days after the storm as we worked with the Hudson Light and Power Department clearing trees which were entangled in power lines and lying in the road. I believe our close working relationship with Hudson Light and Power helped to restore power to residents as quickly and efficiently as could have been possible. We are very proud of the fact that both crews work so well together during emergency situations. Thirty-two working days

were spent cleaning up all the damage from this storm, and during that time we generated 500 cubic yards of wood chips. To this day we are still working diligently to try to remove all of the broken tree limbs, which are still hanging over some public ways. In addition to our own tree cleanup, we also accepted brush from town residents for 3 weeks at our garage location, where we disposed of the brush for them.

We had a very busy construction season this year. We finished constructing a 1,100-foot sidewalk on Sudbury Road between Barton Road and Pine Point Road. Along with the construction of the sidewalk, 300 feet of wooden guardrail was installed and a 500-square foot-block retaining wall was installed.

We constructed the new parking lot at the Town Building, under the direction of the Building Inspector. We hauled in 350 cubic yards of gravel, installed a block retaining wall, appropriate drainage, asphalt surfacing and curbs, and a wooden guardrail. This parking lot has made life a bit easier at the Town Building, especially at night when meetings are being held. It adds another 15 parking spaces.

In the spring we resurfaced Harvard Road between Great Road and Delaney Street, and Taylor Road between Boxboro Road and Maura Drive. These roads were cold-planed first, which is the process of removing the top couple of inches of old asphalt from the existing road. We addressed any drainage issues on these roads and then resurfaced the road with a new asphalt surface. The old asphalt, which was removed, was then used as a base for our gravel roads in town. We spread about 2,000 ton of reclaimed asphalt on our gravel roads this year.

Work was also completed on the bridge on Hiley Brook Road, which runs over Elizabeth Brook. The four steel culvert pipes, which run under the road, were lined inside with high-density polyethylene pipe. The steel pipes were deteriorated beyond repair. Lining these old pipes as opposed to just replacing them was chosen because this method causes minimal impact to surrounding wetland areas and minimal road closures in most cases.

This year we were lucky enough to be able to purchase a “new to us” road grader. We replaced our 1958 Austin Western road grader with 1993 John Deere road grader. We were also able to restore our 1998 International six-wheel dump truck. We replaced the old dump body with a multi-purpose removable body system. With three different bodies to choose from, including a dump body, wood chipping body and a flat bed, this vehicle now becomes a multi-use truck.

All of this could not be possible without the individuals who put in dedicated work for this town, day in and day out, and I’m not just referring to our Highway Department. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael E. Clayton, Superintendent of Streets

Scott Morse, Assistant Superintendent
Brian Hatch, Crew Chief

Tim Gray, Crew Chief
Bill Tuttle, Equipment Operator
Joe Landry, Mechanic
Albeo Duguay, Tree Worker
Steve Landry, Maintenance Person

Jonathan Gray, Driver-Laborer
Scott Landry, Driver-Laborer
Bruce Fletcher, Tree Warden

Rachel Belanger, Secretary

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. Its purpose is 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, State appointee
John Kendra
Robert Larkin, Chair

Sean Osborne
Julie Pappazisis, Administrator

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Information Technology Department serves other Town departments through a series of services, including 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.