

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Open Space Committee is to advise the town on open space protection priorities and to assist the Conservation Commission in developing and implementing Stow's Open Space and Recreation Plan. As part of its efforts to implement the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Committee began studying the significance of Stow's golf courses in terms of natural resource values and town character. This included looking at what ecological and community resources are supported on these properties and which portions of these properties are most significant in terms of open space values. Although the golf courses of Stow are healthy and thriving, the Open Space Committee feels the town should be planning today for any changes that may occur in the future.

Earlier in the year, the Open Space Committee commented on the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission's (MAPC) 495 Corridor Study. The committee suggested changes to the study based on priorities outlined in the Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan. Following its establishment in 2010, Stow's Chapter 61 Quick Response Team finalized the design and content of its Information Sheet. The sheet is a report designed to quickly orient town officials regarding properties on which the town may exercise Right-of-First-Refusal, as part of the Chapter 61 program.

Finally, the Open Space Committee reviewed the priority parcels identified in the town Open Space and Recreation Plan. This included a field trip by car to re-acquaint committee members with the location and character of each of the properties.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent Antil, Chair
Eve Donahue
William Maxfield
Brian Mulcahy

Chris Rodstrom
Kathleen Sferra
Robert Wilber

RANDALL LIBRARY

2011 was an unusual year for the Randall Library. Increasing dissatisfaction with the library's awkward layout, limited study space, lack of parking, and chronic water leak problems led to consideration of a move to the soon-to-be vacated Pompositticut School.

Library trustees and the library director contacted the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to discuss the possibility of receiving a state construction grant to help offset the cost of retrofitting the building. Rosemary Waltos, MBLC building consultant for small libraries, walked the site with library director Susan Wusk. Given that the MBLC does not recommend mixed-use buildings for public libraries, and funds for the next grant round will not be disbursed until FY2017, the funding seemed problematic. The Randall Library trustees held focus groups at the library to judge residents' response to a possible move. At the focus groups,

many townspeople expressed the sentiment that the library should remain in its historic, centrally located building.

After the library withdrew its bid to move to Pompositticut, the trustees decided to apply for funds to reconfigure the existing structure to make it function as a 21st century library. Accordingly, the Special Town Meeting in November 2011 approved \$70,000 for “Randall Library Improvement Pre-Design Funds” to provide architectural and engineering services for library redesign. A library building committee was appointed to supervise the work. As always, the Summer Reading Club was busy, with 470 children participating. The library continued to function as a town-wide meeting place, with the community room in use 3 evenings per week. The library now offers down-loadable audios and e-books from the Overdrive Company through the Minuteman Library Network. Instructions for use can be found on the MLN web site.

The Randall Library trustees wish to thank the following groups for their continuing support of library services in Stow: Hale High School Trustees, Second Century Fund, Randall Library Friends’ Association, Stow Community Chest, and the Stow Cultural Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold B. Donahue, Jr
Jane Sproule Epstein
Amante Brooks Gaines
John J. O’Keefe III
Timothy H. Reed, Chair
Barbara K. Wolfenden

Susan Wysk, Library Director
Denise Flynn, Children’s Librarian
Janet Ellis, Library Aide
Patricia Sacra, Library Aide
Rosemary Bawn, Library Page

RECREATION COMMISSION

This past year has been exciting and eventful for the Recreation Commission. The Commission is very excited that the Stow Community Park playground and Outdoor Ice Rink were installed this year and they have been a wonderful addition and very exciting to the children and parents of the Town. One of our biggest accomplishments in 2011 was the creation of Camp Stow. This is a full day summer camp for children ages 4-12 located at Pine Bluff Recreational Area. This camp offers a wide range of activities for children to enjoy each day, including swimming, kayaking, archery, field trips, and so much more. We had a very good enrollment for the first year of 2011 and hope to continue to grow and offer this camp for many years to come. Town-wide brochures are distributed throughout the year highlighting the many new programs that have been established, as well as the existing programs. The fifth-annual Stow Gobbler road race was once again a huge success, with over 800 participants walking or running the race on Thanksgiving Day. Many thanks to the Hurd and Allaire families, volunteers, and sponsors for making this race such a success.

We would like to acknowledge the financial support we have received from STARS, SMS Youth Hockey, the Alice Eaton Fund, Warm Hearts of Stow, and the Stow Community Chest. Your