

AGENDA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 22, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Town Building

Public Input

Chairman's Comments

Town Administrator's Report

Meeting Minutes

Visitors

- 7:10 pm – Rep Patricia Walrath's annual visit
- 7:40 pm – Plans for a community center: Jim Sauta and Alyson Toole, COA
- 8:00 pm – Application for Class II/Used Auto Sales license
- 8:10 pm – Snow property status: Bob Wilber and Mike Busch, Community Preservation

Action/Discussion

- Open the Annual Town Meeting warrant
- Review status of Executive Session meeting minutes
- Bose Corp gift to Stow Police
- Ice and Snow account status

Selectmen's Master Planning

Liaison Reports, if any

Executive Session

For the purpose of employee contract negotiation, per MGL C.39, s23b.

Adjournment

Posted 1/18/08

Correspondence

Town:

Three letters of interest for Land Use Task Force, rec'd 1/10, 1/11, and 1/16

Concerned Citizen's letter on Ben Smith dam preservation, rec'd 1/15

General:

Mass Office on Disability invitation to 2/19 Emergency Preparedness workshop, rec'd 1/15

Susan McLaughlin

From: TownAdministrator [TownAdministrator@stow-ma.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 1:01 PM
To: Susan McLaughlin (E-mail)
Subject: FW: Donation to Stow PD

Susan, please add this to the agenda for next Tuesday. The Selectmen need to vote to accept the gift on behalf of the Town. Bill.

-----Original Message-----

From: Tessier, Pauline [mailto:Pauline_Tessier@bose.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 12:49 PM
To: townadministrator@stow-ma.gov
Subject: Donation to Stow PD

Dear Mr. Wrigley,

I am writing to you for your consideration in allowing Bose Corporation to make a product donation to the Stow Police Department. We are very thankful for the good work done by the police in the past. By way of appreciation, we would like to donate a Bose Wave Radio to the department. I have been informed that in order to do so, we must communicate the request through the town administrator. Can you advise if there is a formal method to make such a request? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pauline Tessier
Bose Corporation
Manager, Corporate Security
508-766-9550

Susan McLaughlin

From: peter k. rhoads,sr. [p.rhoads@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, January 14, 2008 10:18 PM

To: selectmen

Cc: Stow Conservation Commission; nancy

Subject: FW: Ben Smith Dam

Dear Stow Selectmen;

The Concerned Citizens of Stow would like your attention directed to the attached memo and we request that discussion of this topic be included in an upcoming BoS meeting.

Pete Rhoads, Ted Perry, CCS CoChairs

1/18/2008

Removal of the Ben Smith Dam

We of Concerned Citizens of Stow ask our Selectmen to contact the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection requesting Stow be included in the group that is evaluating removal of the Ben Smith Dam. We ask that the Selectmen contact our State Representatives Pat Walrath and Pam Resor to make sure Stow is represented. This dam, located on the Assabet River in Maynard, was constructed early this past century to provide electricity for the American Woolen Mills (now Clock Tower). The power plant was inactivated in the '30's. In Stow the large expanse of the River above the dam, past Crow Island, the Sudbury Road Bridge, and the large areas of wild water grasses are possible because of the Dam. This area can be viewed from the Sudbury Road Bridge.

Why do people want to remove this dam? We understand they think it would be a way to flush the river of phosphorous dumped into this river by communities upstream, creating the large masses of duckweed in the late summer. Stow has no septic processing and is not a contributor, yet our environment will be negatively affected. Stow has no representation on the responsible authority, no voice at this point. Are dams in Hudson and Northborough being considered for removal as well?

The mission of CCS is to monitor Town finances, protect our pristine environment and way of life. Speaking for our citizens we must protest the removal of this dam. This area is a wonderful part of the river for canoeing and a large site for wildlife. Stow established a scenic easement for this area in the 60's, recognizing the value of this rich, pristine expanse, nearly 3 miles long. One can put in at Sudbury Road and canoe upstream to Gleasondale, through the rushes, viewing nesting Baltimore Orioles, Swans and Herons. Downstream there is a wide, beautiful area stretching well over a mile to the Dam, popular for fishing. Isn't the beauty of Stow a big reason each and every one of us originally moved here? This area must be protected. Draining this beautiful part of the Assabet will create an eyesore- a muddy gash probably revealing a century's worth of trash and chemical waste on the bottom.

Removal of the Dam would drain this whole area, turning this area of the Assabet to a small creek, while losing an important part of Stow's beautiful environment. The Assabet is a source for Fire Departments to fill tanker trucks when engaged in stemming fires. Orchards along the river get their irrigation water from this river, and removing the dam will lower the water table for adjacent homes. Isn't this a case of "throwing away the baby with the bathwater"? This is not solving the problem of pollution, only transferring the contaminants downstream. Why not restore the power generator on the dam, and rebuild the dam with bottom sluiceways so periodic silt drainage would

be possible? Rebuilding the Dam slightly higher might create additional desirable wetlands, reducing effects of spring floods downstream in Maynard. Better regulation of discharge by towns upstream is the solution.

We ask the citizens of Stow for their opinions, and seek help in protecting this fragile area of beauty. So we ask our Selectmen to contact the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and our representatives asking that Stow be included in the group who is addressing this situation.