

continues to do an outstanding job in her role of coordinating daily operations and the successes of the Conservation Commission are due in large part to her dedication and effort.

The Commission benefits from working with town departments, land trusts, associate members and the community. Your input and assistance are invaluable to the Commission. **THANK YOU!**

If you have an interest, expertise or experience in conservation or environmental protection and would like to be a member, an associate member or volunteer, please call the office at 897-8615 or attend a meeting. Meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Mattison, Chair
Kathy Sferra
Helen Castles, Vice Chair
Douglas Moffat
Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
David Coppes
Bruce Trefry, Associate

Dwight Sipler, Associate
Stewart Dalzell, Associate
Joyce Bunce, Associate

Patricia Perry, Coordinator
Maureen Trunfio, Secretary

BOARD OF HEALTH

As the local permitting authority responsible for the health and safety of Stow residents, the Board of Health continues its service to the Town by insuring that our water, sanitation, habitation, and environment continue to meet the high standards set by those early pioneers who recognized that good health practices create positive outcomes for people and the environment.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

During 2010 we continued our work with the Medical Reserve Corps and Fire and Police Chiefs, on the Town's Emergency Planning Program. Money from Emergency Preparedness grants distributed by the Department of Homeland Security comes to the Town through the MRC to allow planning, purchase, and storage of materials necessary in case of a natural or manmade disaster. This year we also received Federal grant money to support our H1N1 "swine flu" clinics.

In November we held our regular seasonal flu clinic. This clinic is run as a drill to test our Emergency Dispensing Site plan under the direction of the Department of Homeland Security. The town receives funds to help produce the plan and run the drills. 316 people attended the clinic and received both H1N1 and regular flu in one inoculation. We wish to thank all of the MRC volunteers who stepped forward to help prepare for and run these clinics. We couldn't have done it without them and their willingness to donate their time and effort in helping this program run so well is much appreciated.

Public Health Nurse

In 2010 our public health nurse, Brooke James, resigned and our new nurse is Linda Cullen. Linda has stepped in to ably fill this position. Town residents can connect with Linda every Wednesday from 9 AM to 12 PM. Her office is located on the third floor of the town building. She provides home visits, follows up with communicable disease reporting, helps with the clinics that the Board runs, interfaces with the Council on Aging and offers immunizations to town employees as needed. We welcome Linda, who continues to provide a valuable and much needed service to the town. The Board appreciates the support it has received for this program from the residents of Stow.

Hazardous Waste and Recycling

The Board collaborated once again with Stow Boy Scout Troop 1 in the spring of 2010 to advertise the electronics collections they were organizing. We encouraged the Town Municipal Offices to recycle many old computers and parts out of the Town Building where they were stored, and donated money from the hazardous waste fund to the Boy Scouts for taking all of this old equipment. This worked well for us, as the intent of the program is to safely dispose of this material. We continue to offer battery and mercury thermometer collections during our daily office hours. Our hazardous waste collection day in October served 137 households and we intend to offer another collection day in 2011.

Loss of a Public Water Supply in Harvard Acres

2010 saw the Assabet Water Company announce it would cease operation. All of the homes in Harvard Acres were affected by this and the Board was faced with the monumental task of assuring that all of the homeowners would be able to install private wells on individual properties. We worked with the residents of Harvard Acres, the Building Inspector, the Town Administrator, the Department of Environmental Protection and many volunteers to create a plan that would enable this project to move forward in a very short time period. 188 homes were affected and each one required having a property plan, a well drilled, piping trenched, new electrical connections and comprehensive water testing done. The Town Administrator is responsible for a loan program that was created by the state and town to assist those homeowners who need some financial assistance in this endeavor. The program is almost complete and by March 15, 2011, every home will have its own water supply. This was a huge job and the Board of Health thanks everyone who stepped in to help us move this project to completion.

Mosquito Control

The Town of Stow continues to belong to the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project to provide control of this pest, which is a carrier of such diseases as Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus. The Project is committed to an Integrated Mosquito Management Program, which utilizes a variety of control techniques and evaluation procedures. The first and most permanent method is called water management, source reduction or wetlands restoration. The second method is called larviciding and the third method is to attempt to control the adult mosquito by spraying on a **request-only** basis. The presence of adult mosquitoes is confirmed before any application is done. All control efforts are undertaken only after surveillance data has been collected and analyzed. This allows control decisions to be made based on the exact need that exists at each specific site. Environmental considerations are paramount when prescribing

various control techniques. The Project's goal is to provide effective and environmentally sound mosquito control, reducing mosquito annoyance and the potential for the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.

Animal Control

The Animal Control Officer and the Animal Inspector continue to provide excellent coverage throughout the town with the ability to respond quickly to any situation. The following is a report of activity for the year 2010:

Dog Complaints	99	Cat Complaints	6	Wildlife Calls	53
Lost Dogs	46	Found Dogs	36	Cruelty/Neglect	2
Dead Animals on Roads	56	Lost Cats	25	Found Cats	26
Dogs Returned to Owners	16	Dogs Impounded	14	Livestock Complaints	10
				Other	82

Citations Issued			
Written Warnings	8		
\$25.00 Fines	10	\$50.00 Fines	3

The following is the annual livestock count:

Cattle	42	Llamas	5	Goats	51	Pigeons	21	
Swine	2	Alpacas	9	Sheep	33			
Rabbits	36							
Equine	128	(Horses-102, Ponies -25, Donkey-1)						
Poultry	415	(Chickens- 355, Turkeys-2, Waterfowl- 33, Gamebirds- 25)						

Quarantines are as follows:

Dogs: 10 Day Quarantine	Cats: 10 Day Quarantine
4- Dog bite/scratch to another dog	6- Cat bite/ scratch to a person
10- Dog bite/scratch to a person	

Permitting & Revenues

Revenue of \$33,372.00 was remitted to the Town. The following is a list of permits issued:

Bed & Breakfast-4	Ice-2	Pools-2
Pet Shop-1	Septage Haulers-9	Title 5 Inspections-83
Installers-27	Camps-5	Wells-193
Food Service-68	Rubbish Haulers-5	Tobacco-5
Cider Mill-3	Stables-23	Dumpsters - 12
Disposal Works Construction Permits- 41		

The public is invited to visit our office in the Town Building to learn what information we have available on public health, the environment, hazardous materials, and recycling. As always, we encourage you to call or visit if you have any questions, problems, or concerns. We are open from 9AM to 5PM Monday through Friday and by phone at 978-897-4592. Don't forget to visit

us on the Town of Stow website. We post our meetings and information on special issues on this site. Visit us at www.stow-ma.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia B. Rising, Chair
Betty Cormier
Sylvia Daley
Theora S. Cole, Administrative Assistant
Cynthia Colosi, Administrative Assistant

Lynn Fishman, Clerk
John P. Wallace, Health Agent
Susan Latham, Animal Control Officer
Phyllis Tower, Animal Inspector

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Board of Appeals had an unusual year with two applications for Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit and two for amendment of previously granted Chapter 40B Permits. The first were filed by Stow Elderly Housing Corp. for Plantation II, 37 units of supportive housing, and for amendment of the Plantation I permit for the adjacent Plantation Apartments off Great Road. The hearings were opened in August and closed a month later. The Chapter 40B Permit and the amended Plantation I permit were granted in November after extensions for filing beyond the 40-day period required by law. The decisions are currently under appeal by an abutter.

The second Chapter 40B applications were filed by Stow Community Housing Corp. in late July for 30 family housing rental units, Pilot Grove II, off Warren Road and for amendment of the Pilot Grove I permit. Those hearings were closed in October and, with extensions, the decisions granting both permits were filed in December.

Other unusual business before the Board included four separate filings in March by the Stow Elementary School Building Committee for variances related to the Center-Pompo School construction project. All were granted.

- Hearings for Variance: 10 - all granted.
- Hearing for Special Permits: 7 - all granted
- Hearings for Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permits: 2 - both granted
- Hearings for Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit Modifications: 2 - both granted

The year ended with the Board continuing to hear the application for variance filed by Star Tower Co. and T-Mobile Northeast to allow a cell tower on the Wedgewood Pines Country Club property off Harvard Road. The hearing opened in September, was closed in January 2011 and resulted in a denial.

The Board once again bade farewell to a long-time member. Art Lowden retired and moved from Stow after serving for almost 40 years. His wise counsel is greatly missed.