

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Stow Cultural Council is dedicated to creating a closer-knit community in Stow by sponsoring and supporting activities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences that bring the diverse elements of our community together for enjoyment and cultural enrichment. The SCC especially seeks to fund projects that bring together parts of the community that do not often interact in their day-to-day lives in order to foster understanding by experiencing events together, working on projects and sharing stories about Stow's history.

The Stow Cultural Council completed a successful year, receiving a total of \$4,325 in grants from the following sources: \$3,825.00 from the State Legislature through the Massachusetts Cultural Council; and \$500 from Town Meeting.

The council voted to grant funds to the following projects for 2010/2011 fiscal year:

- Nashoba Regional High School Friends of Drama: \$600 (Costumes for "Chicago")
- Hale Middle School Play: \$625
- Big Band – Benny Goodman's 1938 Carnegie Hall Concert: \$500 (Paul Bouchard)
- Stow West School Open House: \$450 (Stow Historical Society)
- John and His Friends: \$300 (Lewis Halprin)
- Convert Old Historical Society Tapes to DVD: \$200.00 (Lewis Halprin)
- Lake Boon Water Carnival Music Boat: \$125 (Lake Boon Improvement Association)
- Summer Reading Program: \$950 (Randall Library)
- 2010-2011 Concert Season: \$1080 (Sounds of Stow)
- View of a Butterfly: \$350 (Eye of The Storm Equine Rescue)
- The Stow Story Slam: \$250.00 (Skye Gibson)
- The Children's Garden: \$ 400 (Ed Morgan)
- 76th Regular Exhibition of Art and Craft: \$100 (The Fitchburg Art Museum)
- Opportunities to Engage with The Arts: \$100 (Hudson Area Arts Alliance)
- Love Letters: \$210 (Richard Clark)

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, 2011** for the next granting cycle. For more information see the Cultural Council page on the town website, www.stow-ma.gov. Please note that MCC requirements ask the local cultural councils to fund each project for no more than 3 years and to reduce the amount granted each year to reduce dependence on the local cultural council. Local cultural council 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 six (6), which meets the Mass Cultural Council's minimum requirement of five members. Members are Anne Draudt (publicist), Pat Mullen (Treasurer), Phyllis Fitzsimmons-Luce, Nancy Maldari, Dorothy Sonnichsen and Ann Deluty (chair). Bob Glorioso and Betsy Stepp are members emeritus.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anne Draudt
Betsy Stepp
Dorothy Sonnichsen
Robert Glorioso

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The year of 2010 saw the Highway Department dealing with winter weather on several different occasions. Our trucks were dispatched 47 different times to treat the roads with salt and our crew of plow operators were called upon to clear the roads of snow for 8 separate storms totaling 46 inches of snow unofficially. During a salting operation we utilize 6 salt spreading trucks and during plowing operations we have 20 plow trucks clearing the roads.

On our off times from snow and ice control in the winter and throughout the rest of the year, crews were sent out for a total of seven weeks to cut roadside brush, low hanging limbs, and pick up downed tree limbs from high winds throughout the Town. We also took down 27 trees, which were dead or dying and were hazardous to the public.

In the spring we accomplished the construction of a 1,950-foot stretch of byway running the complete length of Pompositticut Street. The construction of this byway was requested by the Planning Board's Lower Village Sub-Committee and paid for out of the Planning Board's Sidewalk Fund.

During the summer and into the fall we took on two large reconstruction projects. Prepping for reconstruction was done on Boxboro Road and Great Road between Harvard Road and Orchard Drive. This department took the time to correct any drainage problems and road grade issues to ensure proper drainage and maximum life expectancy for the new roads. After all the drainage issues were addressed, private contractors were hired to cold plane the existing roads and then lay down a new asphalt surface. The process of cold planing the road is where the top two inches of existing road are ground off and hauled away. The road material that was generated from this process (about 3,000 cubic yards of it, known as Recycled Asphalt Product), was then spread on most of the Town's gravel roads by this department. This material, when spread and compacted, creates a good hard surface for vehicles to travel on and is also less susceptible to becoming mud during the spring thaw. The reconstruction of Boxboro Road and Great Road were paid for using State Chapter 90 funds.

In the Fall we took delivery of our new six wheel truck which features a Stainless Steel spreader body. This truck is unique to the Town, as the cab and chassis used to be the Fire Department's