

Town of Stow

Massachusetts

Administrator's Sale!!

Will be sold at Public Auction, on

SATURDAY, Oct. 8, at 12 O'CLOCK, M.

at the late residence of John Davidson, deceased, in Stow, the personal property of said deceased, consisting in part of the following property:

**1 SUPERIOR YOKE OF WORKING OXEN,
4 Milch Cows, 3 yearling Heifers,
2 Steer Calves, 4 Shoats,**

ONE 3 YEAR OLD COLT,

one 2 year old do. about 10 tons *English Hay*, 10 tons Swail and Meadow do. lot of Stalks and Oat Straw, about 3 acres of *CORN*, (in the Field,) 25 bushels

OATS, LOT OF POTATOES,

2 Hay-rigging Wagons, 1 Sleigh, 2 Ox-carts, 1 Sled, 1 swarm of Bees, together with

FARMING TOOLS,

such as Ploughs, Chains, Yokes, Harrows, Shovels, Hoes, Scythes, Rakes, Forks &c.

MARSHALL DAVIS, AUCTR.

STOW, Sept. 26th, 1853.

THOMAS H. BENT, Adm'r.

2005 Annual Report

New Chapter in Farming in Stow

The newest chapter in the history of farming in Stow took place in 2005 with the formation of the Stow Agricultural Commission. Stow is one of a number of communities to form such a commission as part of the statewide movement to help keep farming viable in local communities.

As the demand for housing grows in this area, it becomes more difficult to protect working farmland, and the Agricultural Commission, comprised of members who represent the farming community, will seek to encourage the pursuit of agriculture, to promote agricultural-based economic opportunities, and to preserve, revitalize, and sustain the town's agricultural businesses and lands.

Stow was a farming town from its inception, first as Pompositticut Plantation and then as the Town of Stow incorporated in 1683. The townspeople were mostly farmers intermixed with a few traders, tavern keepers, blacksmiths, carpenters and shoemakers. Small gristmills and sawmills also figured prominently in the early history. The move away from farming became apparent by the early 1900's as the number of farms declined to fewer than two dozen with dairy products, poultry, apples and hops as the major crops. By 1950 Stow was definitely more of a residential community than a farm town.

Today fewer than a dozen farmstands are scattered throughout the town, and the town is known chiefly for its apple orchards and, of course, its golf courses. Fortunately much of the town's open space legacy has been preserved, and the pastoral beauty of what was an old New England village is still apparent.

Farmers started banding together in 1868 with the organization of a Farmers and Mechanics Club in Rock Bottom, now Gleasondale. Then the Farmers and Mechanics Club of Stow, was established at Stow Center in 1873. Both clubs held regular meetings, debating such pressing issues of the pros and cons of specific crops, the use of "patent fertilizer," and how to make a cow produce more milk.

Following on the heels of these clubs, the Stow Grange was organized in 1877 and flourished for as long as the town's chief business was agriculture. The nationwide Grange was the oldest and one of the strongest farm organizations in America. Through its efforts the welfare of the farmer had been advanced, education had been promoted, and the life of rural people enriched. In addition to monthly meetings the Grange organized a Stow Fair each fall complete with ribbons and all the trimmings of an agricultural fair.

Farming contributes significantly to the rural image of Stow. Today pick-your-own crops are the feature of some of the farms, and organic produce is offered by others. Another change is in the number of riding schools in this small town with 143 horses topping the list of the 2005 Animal Census. The residents have approved the formation of an Agricultural Commission to help preserve the local farms. The new commission will seek to work cooperatively with local government and farm neighbors to keep these agricultural businesses in operation.

A delightful look at rural farm life in Stow is told in "Recollections of Stow" by Francis W. Warren, a paperback book published in 1990 by the Stow Historical Society Publishing Company. The late Frannie Warren, as he was known, had been the long-time Stow Town Clerk as well as the owner of Stow's picturesque sheep farm, Pilot Grove Farm. In addition he was a masterful storyteller. Excerpts from Frannie Warren's book can be found on the inside back cover.

Information compiled by the Stow Historical Society.

Cover: Farm auction poster, 1853, from Stow Historical Society collection.

Back cover: Francis Warren, Jr. at Pilot Grove Farm, photo courtesy of the Beacon-Villager.

Annual Report



Town of Stow

Massachusetts

for the year ending

December 31, 2005

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In Memoriam

EDWIN B. MERRICK

1941 – 2005

Assessor 1982 – 1993

Finance Committee 1997 – 2002

Capital Planning Committee 1999 – 2004

TERESA BUSH

Town Accountant 1986 – 1989

ROBERT MCCONNELL

Board of Registrars of Voters 1997 – 2001

MABEL STOW CARVILL

1899 – 2005

*Direct descendant of John Stow for whom the Town was named.
Holder of the "Post Cane" since 1996 as the oldest citizen of Stow.*

**OFFICIALS
FEDERAL & STATE OFFICIALS**

United States Senators

Edward M. Kennedy
2400 Kennedy Federal Bldg.
Boston, MA 02203

John F. Kerry
One Bowdoin Square, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Representative in Congress

Fifth District

Martin T. Meehan
11 Kearney Square
Lowell, MA 01852

Officials of the Commonwealth

Governor Mitt Romney

Senator – Middlesex & Worcester

Pamela P. Resor
State House, Room 410
Boston, MA 02133

Representative in General Court

Third Middlesex District

Patricia A. Walrath
State House, Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

TOWN OFFICERS, ELECTED

Moderator

Edward E. Newman (2007)

Selectmen

Edward R. Perry, Jr. (2006), Chairman
John Clayton, Jr. (2006)
Carole A. Makary (2007)
Janet G. Wheeler (2007)
Stephen M. Dungan (2008)

Assessors

John Paul Bolton (2006), Chairman
John E. Smith (2008)
Walter L. Schwall (2007)

Nashoba Regional School District Committee

Christine Way (2006), Chairman
Ellen S. Sturgis (2007)
Brian P. Burke (2008)

Field Drivers

Selectmen

Board of Health

Marcia B. Rising (2006), Chairman
Sylvia Daley (2007)
Mary E. Cormier (2008)

Planning Board

Bruce E. Fletcher (2006), Chairman
Malcolm S. FitzPatrick (2007)
Ernest E. Dodd (2008)
Laura Y. Spear (2009)
Kathleen A. Willis (2010)

Trustees, Randall Library

Peter B. Masters (2007), Chairman
Mary Y. Fox (2007) resigned
Robert A. Aldape (2007)
Timothy H. Reed (2008)
Harold B. Donahue, Jr. (2006)
Leonard H. Golder (2006)
Carolyn C. Howe (2008)
Alison M. Campbell (app't until 2006 election)

Stow Housing Authority

Robert W. Larkin (2009), Chairman
Mark S. Carrig (2007)
John J. Kendra (2006)
John C. Toole (2008)
State Appointee W. Robert Dilling, Jr. 1/20/07

**TOWN OFFICERS, APPOINTED
APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN**

Town Administrator

William J. Wrigley

Town Counsel

Karen A. Meyer, - resigned
Jonathan D. Witten & Patricia Daley

Town Accountant

Jacquelyn M. Cronin

Town Clerk

Linda E. Hathaway

Treasurer-Collector

Carol D. Vogel, retired
Pamela M. Landry (6/14/08)

Superintendent of Streets

Michael E. Clayton
Bruce E. Fletcher, Assistant Superintendent

Tree Warden

Bruce E. Fletcher

Surveyor of Wood & Lumber

Richard Mortenson

Constables

Robert A. Kirchman (2007)
Mark H. Trefry (2007)
Lawrence E. Hartnett (2008)

Inspector of Buildings

Richard A. Roggeveen
Ray A. Renzoni, Local Inspector
Douglas Hyde, Local Inspector

Wire Inspector

Charles A. Saari
Kenneth A. Desmond, Deputy
Robert Norton, Temporary Deputy

Gas Inspector

William E. Freeman, Jr.
Paul J. Dickhaut, Deputy

Plumbing Inspector

Eric S. Sahlberg
Paul J. Dickhaut, Deputy

Veterans' Services Officer

Donald P. Hawkes

Veterans' Graves Committee

Jeffrey J. Lance
Francis R. Milak
George A. Veracka

Cemetery Committee

Roy Dudley, Chairman (2007)
Roberta I. Boylen (2006)
Clarissa E. Potter (2008)
Robert Gledhill, Superintendent

Emergency Management Officer

David B. Soar

Forest Fire Warden

David B. Soar

Firefighters – full-time

David B. Soar, Chief (2007)
John Paul Benoit, Lt.
Gregory A. Vogel
Mark W. Guerin
Barry Evers

Firefighters – on-call

Charlie Boyle	Stephen Landry
James Byrne	Christopher Lazuka
Christopher Camelio	Lisa McNiff
Kristin Clayton	Tim Neufell
Christopher Devoe	Tom Neufell
David Doucette	Paul Nevala
Rene Doucette	Liana Pratt
Scott Dwinells	James Rodgers
Richard Ellis	Michael Scimera
Jeremy Fiorvanti	Suzanne Siewierski
Michael Gallagher	Larry Stafford
Tim Gray	George Taylor
Becky Hagarty	Michael Trioli
Ray Hegarty	Eddie Warren
Peter Holman	Christopher Whitley
Scott Landry	Shawn Whitney

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN

Sealer of Weight and Measures

Steve Lossow (2007)

Police Officers –full-time

Mark H. Trefry, Chief (2007)
Vacancy – Lt.
William L. Bosworth, Sgt. (2007)
Ralph Marino, Sgt. (2007)
Timothy J. Lima, Sgt. (2007)
Steven B. Sturtevant (2007)
Gary P. Murphy (2007)
David J. Goguen (2007)
Kimberly H. Doughty (2007)
Darren J. Thraen (2007)
Sean M. Collins (2007)
Michael J. Sallese (2007)

Special Police Officers

Robert E. Blanton
Jonathan Butler
John Connors
John Fantasia
James F. Finneran
Lee Heron
Sherry J. Morton
Tracy Thibaudeau

Auxiliary Police Officers

Timothy Neufell
Jeremy G. Trefry
Enrico F. Maldari

Police Matrons

Deborah L. Richardson
Rachel R. Belanger
Darlene D. Trefry

Zoning Board of Appeals

Donald B. Hyde, Jr. (2007)
Donald E. Dwinnells (2007)
John Clayton, Jr. (2008)
Edmund C. Tarnuzzer (2008)
Arthur R. Lowden (2009)
Michele L. Shoemaker, Assoc. (2007)
Richard S. Martin, Assoc. (2008)
Charles A. Barney, Assoc. (2008)
Lee Heron, Assoc. (2009)
William F. Byron, Jr. (2010)
Vacancy - Associate

Recreation Commission

Michael Busch, Chairman

Conservation Commission

Kathleen Sferra, Chairman (2008)
David A. Cobb (2008)
Ingeborg Heggemann-Clark (2007)
Stephan F. Jablon (2008)
Rebecca Mattison (2006)
Douglas E. Moffat (2007)
Stephen M. O’Riorden (2007)

Historical Commission

John A. Makey, Chairman (2008)
Wayne A. Fletcher (2008)
Karen C. Gray (2006)
Joseph J. Mishley (2007)
Elizabeth C. Painter (2007)

Lake Boon Commission

Cindy J. Curley (2008)
Lee Heron (2007)
Conray Wharff, Hudson, Chairman

Council on Aging

James V. Sauta, Chairman
Eleanor B. Beaudette – resigned
George C. Dargaty
Betty Holly
Nancy P. Kyle
Alice L. Olsen
Rita M. Sharkey – resigned
Newton P. Wesley
Vacancy
Suzanne Morin, Director

Trustees, Randall Relief Fund

Louise E. Peacock, (2006)
Jeffrey D. Smith (2008)
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen (2007)

Trustees, Randall Town Fund

Louise E. Peacock, (2006)
Jeffrey D. Smith (2008)
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen (2007)

Trustees, Randall Town Fund

(Life Tenure)
Ray S. Frost, Chairman
Robert F. Derby
Wayne A. Fletcher

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN

Recreation Commission, continued

Mark S. Pieper
Thomas H. Ruggiero
Corinne B. Green
Christine P. Way

Registrars of Voters

Philip J. Detsch, Chair (2006) resigned
John D. O'Connell (2007)
Pamela J. Weathers (2008)
Linda E. Hathaway, Clerk ex-officio
Vacancy (2006)

Stow Cultural Council

Nancy M. Dickson (3/14/06)
Robert M. Glorioso (12/14/07)
Catherine J. Hammill (2/26/07)
Donnalisa Johnson (12/14/07)
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen (12/14/07)
Elizabeth B. Stepp (11/25/06)
Lynne W. Juster (11/10/06)

Assabet River Trail Committee Rep.

Donald B. Rising

Metropolitan Area Planning Council Representative (MAPC)

Donna M. Jacobs (2008)

Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC)

Donna M. Jacobs (2008)
Janet G. Wheeler- Bd. of Selectmen

Master Plan Committee

Donna M. Jacobs – Chair – At Large
Marcia B. Rising, V.Chair–Bd of Health
Janet G. Wheeler- Selectmen
John C. Harding - ConCom-resigned
Rebecca G. Mattison - ConCom
Charles Kern – Finance
Ernest E. Dodd - Planning Board
Karen Kelleher – At-Large
John H. Halpern – At-Large
Roy W. Miller – At-Large

SpringFest Committee

Debra Hennessy – resigned
Patricia A. Heron
Deborah A. Woods

Trustees, Randall Town Fund, continued

Linda E. Hathaway
Jeffrey D. Smith

General Bylaw Review Committee

Kathleen M. Pavlechek
John Clayton, Jr.
George G. Cormier
Linda E. Hathaway
Deborah A. Woods

Open Space Committee

Robert T. Wilber, Chairman
Weston A. Fisher – resigned
Jean H. Lynch
William H. Maxfield
Kathleen Sferra
Eve K. Donahue
Christopher B. Rodstrom
Vincent J. Antil

Local Access Cable Advisory Committee (formerly PEG)

Edward E. Newman
Leonard H. Golder
James L. Parr
Edward R. Perry, Jr.
Andrew J. Dunn

Housing Partnership

Eric K. Bachtell, Chairman (2007)
Robert R. Billups (2008)
Gregory D. Jones (2008)
Margaret A. Lynch (2006)
Suzanne Morin (2008)
Michael Kopczynski (2007)
Patricia L. Settles (2006)

Stow Advisory Member of the Hudson Light and Power Board

Edward A. Brown

Fence Viewers

Selectmen

Street Numbers

Catherine A. Desmond

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN

Cable License Advisory Committee

Lewis H. Halprin, Chairman
Robert C. Mong
Arnold R. Buckman
Patricia L. Crawford
George A. Scraggs

APPOINTMENTS BY MODERATOR

Finance Committee

Jason S. Robart, Chairman (2007)
Patricia A. Heron Vice Chair (2007)
David E. Walrath (2008)
Pamela J. Glauner (2008)
Charles Kern (2006)
Henry Hagopian, III, Assoc. (2006)
Gary M. Bernklow, Assoc. (2006)
Stephen P. Piotte, Assoc. (2006)

Ancient Documents Committee

Barbara P. Sipler, Chairman (2008)
Robert E. Walrath (2006)
Karen C. Gray (2008)
Karen V. Green (2009)
Lewis H. Halprin (2007)

Deputy Moderator

Gary L Horowitz

Assistant Moderator

Elizabeth C. Painter

Minuteman Regional Voc-Tech School District Representative

Alice B. Deluca (7/1/05-6/30/08)

Charter Review Committee

Elizabeth C. Painter, Chairman
Robert R. Billups
Stewart Dalzell
Douglas Hyde
Marcia B. Rising
Linda E. Hathaway, Associate
Robert J. Kaufman, Associate

APPOINTMENTS BY BOARD OF HEALTH

Health Agent

John P. Wallace

Animal Control Officer

Susan G. Latham

Assistant Animal Control Officer

Michael J. Sallese

School Health Committee

Sylvia Daley

Inspector of Animals

Susan G. Latham

Assistant Inspector of Animals

Michael J. Sallese

Burial Agents

Town Clerk
John Erb

APPOINTMENT BY TOWN CLERK

Assistant Town Clerk: Catherine A. Desmond

APPOINTMENT BY TREASURER-COLLECTOR

Deputy Collector & Special Constable: Frederick J. Kelley, Jr.

JOINT APPOINTMENTS

Capital Planning Committee

Jean H. Lynch, Chairman (2007) – Moderator
Archibald A. Owen (2008) – Moderator - resigned
David P. Arsenault (2006) – Moderator
Carole A. Makary (2006) – Selectmen
Kathleen K. Farrell (2007) – Finance Committee
Vacancy (to fill unexpired term)
3 Associate Vacancies (2006) - Moderator

Community Preservation Committee

Robert T. Wilber, Chairman –Open Space Committee
Laura Spear - Planning Board
Patricia R. Perry – Conservation Commission, Jan-June
Kathleen Sferra – Conservation Commission, June-Dec
John P. Bolton. - Board of Assessors
Karen C. Gray - Historical Commission
David E. Walrath – Finance Committee
George C. Dargaty – Council on Aging
John C. Toole – Stow Housing Authority
Corinne B. Green - Recreation Commission

Municipal Land Use Committee

Margaret A. Lynch, Chairman - Housing Partnership	Ellen Sturgis - Nashoba Reg. School Dist. Comm
Donna Jacobs, Vice Chair - Master Plan	Robert Wilber - Open Space
Jean H. Lynch - Capital Planning	John Clayton, Jr. - Public Safety Committee
George Dargaty - Council on Aging	Michael Busch - Recreation Commission

Nashoba Regional School District Audit Committee, Stow Representative

(Joint appointment by Finance Comm. & Board of Selectmen)
William J. Ross

Public Safety Planning Committee

David B. Soar, Fire Chief	Robert Braceland, Citizen's Representative
Mark H. Trefry, Police Chief	John Clayton, Jr, Board of Selectmen
Michael E. Clayton Superintendent of Streets	Patricia A. Heron, Finance Committee
William J. Wrigley, Town Administrator	David P. Arsenault, Capital Planning Committee

School Building Committee

(Joint appointment Board of Selectmen & Stow NRSD Committee Representatives)

Christine Way, Co-Chairman	Brian P. Burke, Associate
Anne C. Draudt, Co-Chairman –resigned	Patricia L. Crawford, Associate
Gary M. Bernklow	Anne C. Draudt, Associate
Edmund C. Green	Gregory D. Jones, Associate
Sara G. Kilkenny	Carole M. Makary, Associate
Gregor Trinkaus-Randall	Derek Rocca, Associate
	EX-OFFICIO
	Michael Woods, Superintendent NRSD
	Greg Irvine, Principal Pompo & Center

APPOINTMENTS BY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee

Robert T. Wilbur	Dwight P. Sipler
William H. Maxfield	Douglas E. Moffat
Kathleen V. Sferra	Pamela J. Weathers,
	Associate

APPOINTMENTS BY PLANNING BOARD

Light Pollution Study Committee

Warrington R. Willis, Chairman
William J. Chiarchiaro
Gregory D. Troxel

Lower Village Subcommittee

Donald G. McPherson, Chairman	Lucille King –Business Owner
Bruce E. Fletcher	Barbara P. Sipler
John C. Hoenshell – resigned	Laura Spear
Karen Kelleher	Warrington R. Willis

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

2005 was a busy year for the Board of Selectmen and many other Town boards and committees. In addition to the Annual Town Meeting in May where the next fiscal year budget was reviewed and voted, there were two Special Town meetings regarding land acquisitions and school building recommendations. The Town's official website got into full swing early in the year and, later in the fall, Selectmen's meetings started being broadcast on Channel 9, the local access cable network. A couple of new committees were formed: the Housing Partnership to address the housing options in town and the Public Safety Committee to explore future requirements of the Police, Fire, and Highway departments.

One of the very first actions the Board took in 2005 was to review applications for the open position of Police Chief, which had been vacated by Chief Joseph Rebello who took a chief's position in another community. On behalf of the Town, the Selectmen appreciate Chief Rebello's contribution to Stow and wish him the best of luck. The Board was unanimous in appointing interim Chief Mark Trefry as the Town's new Chief of Police. Chief Trefry has served the Town in various capacities for 36 years and began his law-enforcement career as a volunteer police officer in Stow in 1976.

In March, the Town's official website went live. This was a major step in attaining one of our goals to provide residents with readily accessible information regarding municipal government. Through the ongoing efforts of Town employees, the site has become a valuable asset to the citizens. It has become a resource for various Town documents, meeting dates, agendas and meeting minutes, contact information to Town departments and committees, links to the various local and regional school websites, links to other government sites, as well as email subscriber lists (to automatically receive information). For a small annual maintenance fee, this has been an extremely cost effective way to deliver and access information.

Later in the year, Stow TV Channel 9, through the Local Access Channel Advisory Committee (formerly the Public Education, and Government Committee) began broadcasting the Selectmen's meetings. The Warren Room in the Town Building has been unobtrusively hard-wired with microphones and cameras. The funding for this came from cable fees rather than taxes. A number of employees and volunteers have made the website and cable broadcasts a reality.

At the May Annual Town Meeting, the municipal budget had a projected increase of 5.4% with the assessments of the Nashoba Regional School District and Minuteman increased at 7.7% and 7.3%, respectively. As has been the case over the past few years, the Town's expenses (including schools) continue to rise at a pace that exceeds revenue growth (7% vs. 5%). In order to pass a balanced budget, a combination of pulling funds from the Stabilization and Free Cash (savings) accounts and a Proposition 2 1/2 override of \$350,000 have been used to make up for the deficit. Various Town departments continue to operate with very lean budgets.

Also at the May Town Meeting, the Charter Review Committee presented its recommendations for modifications to the Charter.

In the past, due to the timing of the Town Meetings, the largest part of the budget (Nashoba Regional School District assessment) was voted by the other two towns in the district, leaving Stow residents in the situation of having to accept the budget as voted. As a result of discussions at the Tri-Town level, the Selectmen made the decision to have Stow's 2006 Annual Town Meeting on the same night as the other two towns.

In October, the Town Administrator presented results of the Salary Review Committee. This committee was set up the previous year to review the pay structure of Town Departments as compared to 8 other demographically similar towns and determine the need for any updates. The recommendation of the committee to increase the salaries of some positions in Town, based on comparable positions in other towns, was approved at the Special Town Meeting in October.

A number of important land use issues arose in 2005. There is an ongoing interest to create a bikeway in Stow that will connect to the now completed section in Hudson going to Marlboro and the upcoming section in Maynard that will go to Acton. At the Special Town Meeting in October, the voters agreed to spend \$130,000 to obtain a 7,100-foot right-of-way from Sudbury Road along the Assabet River for future use as a part of this bikeway. Negotiations are continuing to acquire the remaining section for connection to Maynard.

Two properties that were under MGL Chapter 61 came on the market. If the owner of Chapter 61 property enters into a purchase and sale agreement that would change the use of the property from horticultural or agricultural, a Town can exercise its right-of-first-refusal to purchase the property under the same terms as the potential buyer. The Selectmen held a number of joint board meetings to determine if either parcel should be considered for purchase.

At the October Special Town Meeting and at the polls, residents voted to have the Town exercise its rights under Chapter 61 and purchase for \$1,600,000 the Cushing property covering 70+- acres off Walcott Street. To mitigate the cost to taxpayers there was a cooperative effort between several groups. With the commitment of almost \$1.0 million from the Community Preservation Fund, additional funding from the Stow Conservation Trust, and plans to sell some lots, the cost to taxpayers has been greatly reduced. The proposed use for this property has multiple benefits to the Town including building lots for affordable housing units, the potential for additional recreation fields, a large area of conservation, and the possibility for some lots for market-rate housing.

After three and a half years of research and study, the School Building Committee (SBC) presented to the Board of Selectmen their recommendation of one school for Pre K through grade 5 on a new site as their preferred solution to the ongoing school building issues. The SBC presented at the December Special Town Meeting a plan for a new Pre K – grade 5 school located on the Minuteman Realty property off Boxboro Road. The residents did not vote in favor of the Town exercising its rights under Chapter 61 to spend \$4,000,000 for this 114 +- acre parcel. A citizens' petition to provide renovations and some additional space to the Center and Pompositticut schools also failed at this Special Town Meeting.

The need to address the Town's elementary school facilities remains a top priority. At the December Special Town Meeting, the residents voted to purchase modular classrooms as a temporary solution to the current space issues. The schools are in need of updates and renovations and there is a fast approaching space crisis both from enrollment increases and the need for additional programs. The Selectmen will be working in the upcoming year with a newly formed school facilities committee to find a solution to resolve these issues.

Among the tasks that the Selectmen undertake is appointing many of the Town's committees. In 2005, two new committees were created. The seven-member Housing Partnership was set up to develop an affordable housing action plan based on housing needs studies. The Town continues to face development pressures and the Housing Partnership is one component to help the Town work cooperatively with property owners and developers to address these needs.

The other committee that was created is the Public Safety Planning Committee. This seven-member group is comprised of the following Town officials: Highway Superintendent, Police and Fire Chiefs, a Selectman, Town Administrator, and one member each from the Finance and Capital Planning committees, and one member-at-large. The Committee will assess long range operational and capital equipment/building needs of the Fire, Highway, and Police departments. A recommendation will be made to the Board of Selectmen for consideration at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting.

It is the people who create a community and it is our pleasure to work with so many talented and dedicated Town employees and volunteers. We sincerely appreciate and thank all those individuals who dedicate so much time, talent, and resources to the fabric of the Town of Stow. Special thanks to our dedicated staff, Susan McLaughlin, our Administrative Assistant, and Bill Wrigley, the Town Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward R. Perry, Jr., Chairman
John Clayton, Jr.
Stephen Dungan
Carole Makary

Janet Wheeler

Susan McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The Stow Town Administrator, by Charter, serves as the Town's chief administrative officer. In this capacity, the Town Administrator manages the day-to-day operations of the Town, functioning as its chief fiscal officer, chief procurement officer, chief personnel officer and chief contract negotiator. In addition, this position serves the Town as chairman of the dispatch communications administrative body, as the labor union grievance hearing appeal officer, the sexual harassment officer and the public records management officer. Throughout the year 2005, functioning in these various administrative positions, the Town Administrator was engaged in several significant matters.

In developing FY-06 budget for a vote at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2005, the Town Administrator recommended a general override of \$350,000 for the purposes of balancing the budget. This was the third consecutive year in which the Town's projected revenues failed to meet the recommended expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. In FY-04, the Town faced a one million dollar budget deficit and was required to utilize both an override vote of \$414,500 together with budget cuts and the expenditure of stored assets to finally balance the FY-04 budget.

Two general override attempts were made to balance the FY-04 budget. The first override request in the amount of \$414,500 past at the general election in May 2003; however, the second override attempt in the amount of \$585,000 failed in September. The failure of the second general override to pass at the ballot resulted in the Town having to further reduce the recommended FY-04 budget and also apply a significant additional amount of Free Cash, Stabilization Funds and other available funds to balance the budget. In the end, a total of expenditure of \$664,000 in stored asset funds were needed to vote a balanced FY-04 operating budget.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2004, the Town again faced the unpleasant task of needing passage of a general override in order to balance its operating budget. Fortunately, the estimated override amount, at \$250,000, was significantly less in 2004 than it was in 2003 at one million dollars. Fortunately, the general override ballot question passed at the election in May. In May 2005, for the third consecutive year, a general override was needed to balance the operating budget for FY-06. The voters approved a general override in the amount of \$350,000 at the 2005 May election.

The FY-06 municipal budget is a reasonably tight operational budget. Total spending for the general municipal budget, which includes all of the Town departments (excluding the two school districts), the annual debt payment, special articles and capital projects not requiring borrowing, increased by only 4.8%. The Nashoba Regional School District assessment increased by 7.11%; and the Minuteman Vocational Technical District assessment increased by 7.25%.

For the current fiscal year, the Town is utilizing \$158,262 in Free Cash to fund a number of capital improvement projects. Included in this list of projects, the Town has purchased a new police cruiser for \$29,000 along with a new dump truck for the Highway Department for \$55,000 and a pick up truck for the Board of Health in the amount of \$20,000. Additionally, \$14,000 has been appropriated for roof repairs at the Library and \$11,817 has been appropriated from Free Cash to fund door replacements at the Hale School. Also voted at the annual town meeting in May, \$50,000 was appropriated and transferred from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund in an effort to begin to annually increase the Town's Stabilization Fund balance, as recommended by Standard and Poors, to strengthen the Town's borrowing rating.

There were several debt exclusion override questions approved at the ballot at three separate elections held in 2005. In May, the voters approved borrowing \$350,000 in order to purchase a new pumper truck for the Fire Department. In October 2005, the voters approved a debt exclusion borrowing in the amount of \$658,050 for the acquisition of approximately 70 acres of land commonly known as the Cushing property on Walcott Street. The balance of the acquisition costs totaling \$1,758,050 was funded with \$1,100,000 from the Town's Community Preservation Committee account. In December 2005, the Town voted a debt exclusion borrowing for the purpose of purchasing a pre-fabricated modular building containing 2 classroom spaces for a cost of \$260,000.

Also, in December the voters disapproved the purchase of approximately 114 acres on Boxboro Road commonly known as the Minuteman property at a total acquisition cost of \$4,235,000. This proposed project failed both at the special town meeting on December 12th and the subsequent special election on December 22nd.

Looking forward to next year's budget, FY-07, there is a high probability that another general override will be necessary to balance any budget recommendation that exceeds an approximate total expenditure growth rate of greater than 6% above the current fiscal year. Stow possesses several structural fiscal impediments which is making it increasingly more difficult to balance annual operating budgets without overrides.

On the revenue side, the Town's current residential property tax base represents approximately 91 percent of the Town's total tax base and this percentage is increasing. The combined tax base for commercial and industrial property is less than 9% with the small amount of remaining tax base being personal property taxes. In addition, the Town's tax base represents approximately 88 percent of the Town's total annual budget revenues and this revenue source is funding an increasingly larger percentage of the Town's total revenues each year. Annual municipal state aid

to Stow only represents between 2 to 4 percent of the Town's total annual revenues each year with little expectation that this contribution percentage will increase noticeably in the near future. On the contrary, Stow experienced cuts in municipal state aid just two years ago. Further, approximately 50 percent of the Town's total taxable property is either totally exempted from being taxed or is taxed at a significantly reduced rate through different tax abatement programs.

Essentially, Stow's tax base is almost completely undiversified. The only growth in the Town's tax base results primarily from annual housing development and increases in housing values. Stow residential taxpayers receive negligible tax relief from the commercial and industrial contributors to the Town's tax base. Between FY-98 and FY-2004, the Town's annual recurring revenues (i.e. taxes, state aid and local receipts) have increased a total of only 47 percent. During this same period of time, the Town's non-school operating budget has increased a total of 45 percent; the Nashoba Regional School District assessment has increased a total of 64 percent; the Minuteman Vocational Technical High School assessment has increased a total of 75 percent; and the Town's annual debt payment has increased a total of 93 percent.

Until last year, the Town had been successful in delaying the inevitable collision of these two competing fiscal trends by primarily utilizing local funding sources: unused levy capacity and savings. Over several fiscal years up until the late 1990's, the Town on an annual basis had generally experienced total budget expenditures in amounts less than its total annual revenues. During that time, the Town's unused levy capacity grew annually until it peaked eventually at \$372,000. The Town's Free Cash and Stabilization Fund, our stored assets or savings accounts, peaked at approximately \$1,400,000. For FY-06, July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, the Town's total amount of Free Cash and Stabilization Fund monies total \$796,876. Between the years FY-98 and FY-05, the Town had expended approximately \$4,287,000 in Free Cash and Stabilization Fund money both to balance the Town's annual operating budgets and to fund various capital improvement projects.

The Town Administrator is directly responsible for managing and controlling the Town's legal budget. In the area of legal services provided during the year 2005, lawsuits relating to cell tower site permits continued unresolved as they had for the last several years. I have been involved in managing over ten separate cell tower litigation cases over the last several years. There are only two cell tower litigation cases remaining to be resolved, however, both of the current cases were the only two remaining to be adjudicated in court one year ago. Beyond the cell tower litigation in 2005, the Town has been engaged in several other court cases during the last year.

In a litigated case involving a claim of bodily injury to an individual exiting the Town Building elevator, the Town, together with Otis Elevator Company, was found not guilty. In a case involving the Town's efforts to capture performance bond funds from an insurance company representing a housing contractor in Stow who failed to complete his work in developing a housing subdivision, the Town and the insurance company agreed to a settlement amount outside of court after two years of negotiating. In its attempt to purchase the 70 acres of land on Walcott Street commonly known as the Cushing property in December 2005, the Town, as Plaintiff, has had to file a lawsuit in Land Court to secure and protect its interests. The property owner, together with LandWest Development, a prospective private buyer, are claiming that the Town does not have the right to purchase the property in as much as the Town, in their opinion, had not perfected its statutory rights pursuant to MGL Chapter 61B. The case is scheduled to be heard in Land Court beginning in March of 2006.

In the summer of 2005, the Town Administrator worked with the State Department of Education (DOE) to join a pilot program then being developed by DOE through which participating

communities could receive their full School Building Assistance (SBA) financial reimbursement for previously completed SBA school building construction projects. In 2000, Stow had completed its \$9,000,000 Hale School construction project, but it was not receiving its full annual SBA financial reimbursement because DOE had been unable to complete the required SBA program audit. The proposed pilot program was intended to fast track the program audit process by allowing chosen communities to hire their own audit firms to complete the program audit rather than wait for DOE to complete an internal audit. The Town Administrator hired the audit firm that regularly performs Stow's annual town-wide financial audit to perform the SBA program audit. By the fall of 2005, the Hale School SBA program audit had been completed, and it was submitted and accepted by DOE by November. As a result of this audit, the Town will begin receiving an annual SBA reimbursement of \$542,576 this year: FY-06. This reimbursement amount is \$196,081 more than the Town had been receiving before the audit and these annual reimbursements will continue for the next 15 years.

Also in 2005, the Town Administrator negotiated separately with representatives of the fire, police, clerical and dispatch unions for new labor contracts.

Beyond serving the Town's interests and needs by attending to specific management issues such as the matters detailed above, the Town Administrator in general is engaged regularly attending to the routine matters associated with the day-to-day operations of the Town. In performing these duties, the Town Administrator is in frequently in direct contact with municipal staff, Town board and committee members, local, state and federal agencies and officials, the public and various private groups and individuals. The Town Administrator continues to be diligent in the performance of these duties and responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

William Wrigley, Town Administrator

Susan McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant

PLANNING BOARD

A five-member elected board with one appointed associate voting member, the Planning Board has specific statutory requirements. The Board reviews and approves the division of land under the State Subdivision Control Law (MGL c. 41) and the Stow Subdivision Rules and Regulations; serves as a special permit granting authority under the State Zoning Act and the Stow Zoning Bylaw; and guides the process of Zoning Bylaw amendments under the State Zoning Act (MGL c. 40A).

By statute, the Board is charged with the responsibility of protecting the health, safety and welfare of Stow's residents. Guided by the Massachusetts General Laws, the Stow Zoning Bylaw, the 1996 Stow Master Plan, and citizens' comments and concerns, the Board strives to preserve and enhance the integrity of Stow's character through the use of these regulatory tools, while safeguarding property owners' rights. We recommend and specify changes to development proposals to achieve these goals. Board members and staff strive to work with both applicants and residents to help shape projects so as to minimize impact to the community.

At the annual election, Kathleen Willis was elected to a 5-year term, filling Don McPherson's expired term. Don, who served for ten years and chose not to seek re-election, has been

tremendous asset to the Board. We are fortunate that he continues to assist the Board as chairman of the Lower Village Sub-Committee.

Following the election, the Board elected Bruce Fletcher to serve as Chairman, Ernie Dodd as Vice-Chairman and Kathleen Willis as Clerk. Donna Jacobs was appointed as the Voting Associate Member. The Associate Member's voting power is limited to special permit applications, in the case of absence, inability to act or conflict of interest on the part of any member of the Planning Board or in the event of a vacancy on the Board. Ruth Kennedy was appointed as a Non-Voting Associate Member. Malcolm FitzPatrick and Karen Kelleher were designated to endorse ANR Plans (Subdivision Approval Not Required). The Board's representative on the Community Preservation Committee was Laura Spear. The Board's representative on the Master Plan Committee was Ernie Dodd. The Board's representative on the Metropolitan Area Planning Council was Donna Jacobs.

Development Plans:

In 2005, the Planning Board met with developers and discussed the potential for 20 new detached, single-family dwellings, 2 accessory apartments, 1 hammerhead lot, 2 wireless communications antennas, 3 new parking areas, an addition to an existing retail establishment and 198 Active Adult Neighborhood units. Plans reviewed by the Board and/or Public Hearings held included the following:

Seven (7) ANR (Approval under the Subdivision Control Law Not Required) plans:

- Sudbury Road, (Commonwealth of Mass. property), creating one new lot - approved
- Boxboro Road/West Acton Road, creating one new lot - approved
- Tuttle Lane, creating one new lot - approved
- Maple Street, creating one new lot - approved
- Great Road, creating one new lot - approved
- Maple Street, creating one new lot - approved
- Hudson Road, lot line adjustment - approved

Five (5) Definitive Subdivision Plans:

- Taylor Road, five (5) lot Planned Conservation Development - approved
- Hiley Meadows Estate (Cider Mill Road), five (5) lot Subdivision Plan - approved
- Red Acre Run, one (1) lot conventional Subdivision Plan - approved
- Bluebird Lane, one (1) lot conventional Subdivision Plan - approved
- Dudley Court - Rescission of a portion of Dudley Court - approved

Seven (7) Special Permit and/or Site Plan Approval Plans:

- Accessory Apartment, located on Barton Road - approved
- Accessory Apartment, located on Maple Street – approved
- A Hammerhead Lot on Randall Road - approved
- A new parking area for the existing Butternut Farm Golf Country Club clubhouse – approved
- A new 66-unit Active Adult Neighborhood off of Hudson Road – under review
- A new wireless service antenna (Cingular Wireless) to be co-located at an existing facility at 501 Gleasondale Road – under review
- A 5,520 sq. ft. addition to the existing building (Stow House of Pizza) and new parking area at 156 Great Road – under review
- Minor Amendment to Site Plan and Special Permit for Bose Corporation.

Concept and Preliminary Plans reviewed:

- Cricket Hollow Preliminary Subdivision, located in Boxborough on the Stow Town Line
- Concept Plan for a new 66-unit Active Adult Neighborhood off of Hudson Road
- Concept Plan for a new 66-unit Active Adult Neighborhood off of Boxborough Road
- Preliminary Site Plan for the Union Evangelical Church parking lot expansion
- Concept Plan for a 7-lot Conventional Subdivision off of Barton Road
- Concept Plan for a new wireless service antenna to be collocated at an existing facility at 501 Gleasondale Road (Nextel)

Development Inspections:

With the assistance of the Board's Consulting Engineer, Susan C. Sullivan, P. E., the Board monitored ongoing construction of seven (7) Subdivisions and two (2) Special Permits:

- Country Club Estates (Fairway Drive), a 7-lot subdivision, located off of Edson Street
- Wildlife Woods, a 67-lot subdivision, located off of Sudbury Road
- Pilot Point (Point Way), a 4-lot subdivision, located off of Boxboro Road
- Red Fox Run (Cranberry Circle), a 5-lot subdivision, located off of Hudson Road
- Orchard View (Brandymeade Circle) a 12-lot subdivision, located off of West Acton Road
- Marble Hill (Asa Whitcomb Way), a 3-lot subdivision, located off of Taylor Road
- Meadowbrook (Trefry Lane), a 17-lot subdivision, located off of Boxboro Road
- Faxon Farm Assisted Living Residence and Office Building Special Permit
- Hyde Wireless Communications Facility – Review for adequate landscape buffer
- Derby Woods, located off of Harvard Road

Fees Collected:

Expenses incurred for processing these applications are offset by fees collected:

Special Permit Fees:	\$5,250.00
Subdivision Fees:	\$1,750.00
ANR Fees:	\$825.00
Bylaws and Regulations	\$595.00
Misc. Copy Fees (cash) (Plans/Correspondence/Bylaws/Regulations)	\$840.00
2005 Total Fees Collected:	\$9,260.00

Plan review and inspections are paid from the Applicant's Fee Deposit.

Zoning Bylaw Amendments:

A series of Zoning Bylaw amendments were brought forth to Town Meeting in May, October and December by the Board and were unanimously adopted:

May Annual Town Meeting

- Planned Conservation Developments
change paragraph bullets (●) to letters, permitting a reference to a specific subparagraph
change the reference to the Stow "Growth Management Plan" to the "Master Plan"
Site Plan Approval
correct the reference to the "definitions" section of the Bylaw, which defines
DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA

- Phasing of Growth
change the term “Open Space Residential Development” to “Planned Conservation Development”
- Active Adult Neighborhood
exempt Active Adult Neighborhood units from Section 8.6 (Phasing of Growth) of the Bylaw

October Special Town Meeting

- Table of Dimensional Requirements
Correct section number reference
- Definition of Open Space
Change word “impermeable” to “permeable”
- Common Driveways
As part of an approved subdivision or special permit granted by the Planning Board, the length of a common drive may be longer than five hundred (500) feet
- Inclusion of Affordable Housing
allow the Planning Board to address the issue of the creation of affordable units on a parcel that could at some point in the future support the creation of six or more dwelling units, even if the proposal before them at the time creates less than six dwelling units.
to delete reference to sections of MGL Ch. 41, which is the Subdivision Control Law, because there is a belief that these provisions should apply to any development of a parcel, not just by subdivision
replace the words “Authority or its designee” with the words “Affordable Housing Trust Fund”

December Special Town Meeting

- Erosion Control
change the Special Permit requirement for areas greater than “two acres” cleared of vegetation to areas greater than “one acre” cleared of vegetation, consistent with the Federal requirement for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit; and to require submission of a copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Notice of Intent filed with the EPA under the NPDES permit to the Planning Board
- Common Driveways
increase the number of lots, from 3 to 5, allowed to be served by a common drive
- Non-conforming Uses and Structures
authorize the Building Inspector to issue a Building Permit, without the need for a Special Permit, for Lawful Preexisting Nonconforming Single or Two-Family Residential Structures, if a proposed alteration, extension or structural change conforms to the requirements of the present Bylaw and does not intensify any existing non-conformities or result in any additional non-conformities.
define guidelines for the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider in Special Permit Review of Extensions, Alterations or Changes to Preexisting, Nonconforming Uses and Structures, and to determine the meaning of the phrases “increase the nonconforming nature of said structure” and “substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood”.

Litigation:

The Planning Board continued to work closely with Town Counsel in the ongoing litigation on a bond for completion of the Whispering Woods (Kettell Plain Road) and Marble Hill (Asa Whitcomb Way) Subdivisions.

Planning Efforts:

The Board's work plan also included efforts to maintain Stow's rural character, Lower Village planning, pathways/sidewalk planning, assessment of the Town's future land needs, the potential need for a public water supply in Lower Village, updating Rules and Regulations and Zoning Bylaws, light pollution, and affordable housing.

Moseley Agricultural Preservation Restriction:

We are grateful to the Moseley's for their generosity to the Town in placing an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on a portion of their land off of Maple Street. We were pleased to support efforts in obtaining funds from the State Department of Agricultural Resources, providing assistance in preparation of the Commonwealth Capital Application and Municipal Grant Application.

Lower Village and Gleasondale Village District Bylaws:

The Town was awarded a Priority Development Fund grant for assistance in drafting Village District bylaws, intended to promote the development of affordable and market rate housing through the use of village zoning bylaws that will create two village zoning districts (Lower Village and Gleasondale). Under this grant, the Metropolitan Planning Council, is assisting the Town in drafting Village District Bylaws. A Visual Preference Survey was held at a public forum in April and was followed by a series of meetings with the Planning Board, Master Plan Committee and Lower Village Sub-committee, aimed at developing a list of criteria to be included in a draft bylaw. It is expected that draft bylaws will be presented at a 2006 Special Town Meeting for adoption.

Lower Village Traffic Study

The Board contracted with Fay Spofford and Thorndike (FST) to conduct a Traffic Planning Study for the Lower Village. A series of meetings were held with FST to evaluate a series of alternative recommendations to address vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle transportation conflicts. The Board feels strongly that any changes in the traffic pattern for Lower Village shall be in harmony with the Town's goal to enhance the Lower Village as the vital business center of our community, focusing on creating an identity for our historic Lower Village, consistent with the rural character of Stow. The Board intends to seek input from residents at public forum to be held in 2006 before a final plan is accepted.

West Stow Planning

West Stow Planning was identified as a priority by Joint Boards representatives present at the Planning Summit sponsored by the Planning Board. This area of town has a large amount of open land at risk of development and little protected Open Space.

The Villages at Stow (96-unit Comprehensive Permit) is now under construction.

The Town exercised its Right of First Refusal on the Cushing Property for open space and/or recreation and limited development, possibly a Local Initiative Comprehensive Permit, to help offset the cost and thereby eliminate the potential for access to the abutting properties for large scale development

The Board met developers to discuss proposed plans for two 66-unit Active Adult Neighborhoods.

In its review of concept development plans for this area, the Board has and will continue to stress its goal for any proposed development to make provisions for an open space corridor and trail network from the Hudson Town Line to Great Road, Low Impact Development, Diversity in Housing Stock and Village Feel.

Sub-committees

The Board thanks the following subcommittee members for their ongoing efforts:

Lower Village Sub-Committee:

Chairman Don McPherson, Bruce Fletcher, Karen Kelleher, Lucille King, Barbara Sipler, Laura Spear and Russ Willis and Associate Members Tom Farnsworth and T. L. Neff. The Board regretfully accepted the resignations of Karen Gray, John Hoenshell.

The Lower Village Sub-Committee, in a continuing effort to enhance the Lower Village area, our vital Business District, is spearheading a Festival to promote Lower Village Businesses. The Committee is thankful to those who attended the planning meetings and are pleased to hear that Lower Village Businesses are enthusiastic about planning an event in the spring of 2006.

The Lower Village Sub-Committee is working with the Planning Board and consultants on a Lower Village Traffic Study and a Mixed-Use Zoning Bylaw. In addition, the committee continues to provide input on development plans, within the Lower Village area, before the Planning Board, to ensure streetscape standards are consistent with the guidelines adopted by the Lower Village Sub-Committee and the Planning Board

Light Pollution Sub-Committee

Chairman Russ Willis, Bill Chiarchiaro and Greg Troxel.

The Light Pollution Sub-Committee is working with the Planning Board on proposed lighting bylaw changes. The Committee continues to advise and guide businesses and individuals with lighting suggestions and recommendations. The committee has incorporated lighting guidelines for developments before the Planning Board so that the lighting will comply with existing and proposed new bylaw. It is believed that the new lighting bylaw will be brought to the voters in the fall of 2006. The Committee continues to urge residents to confine their lighting to their property by re-aiming or replacing fixtures to achieve better lighting, which is not bothersome to others.

The Board is committed to keeping an open line of communication with other Stow Town Boards, Committees, Departments, the general public, and area towns.

None of the planning efforts would be possible without the enormous contributions by Stow residents, who serve as volunteers on the boards and committees and Town staff. It is a pleasure to continue working with all of you.

Our very capable professional consultants were Susan Sullivan of David E. Ross Associates, Inc., Town Counsels Jon Witten and Patty Daley of Daley and Witten, LLC.

As can be seen by this report, the Board had another busy year, but this amount of work would never have been possible without the tireless and competent efforts of Karen Kelleher and Lois Costello, who not only work hard for the Board, but also for the general public with whom they interact on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce E. Fletcher, Chairman
Ernest E. Dodd, Vice Chairman
Kathleen Willis, Clerk
Malcolm S. FitzPatrick
Laura Spear

Donna Jacobs, Voting Associate
Ruth Kennedy, Non-Voting Associate

Karen Kelleher, Planning Coordinator
Lois Costello, Office Assistant

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission consists of up to seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen to administer and enforce both the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Stow Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Areas subject to protection under these regulations include wetlands, rivers, streams, other water bodies and their banks, and flood plains, among others. In addition to these resource areas, the Commission must review and if appropriate, stipulate conditions under which proposed activities within 100 feet of the resource must be conducted. Since 1997, with implementation of the River's Protection elements of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Commission must also review all proposed activities within 200 feet of perennial streams and rivers. The Commission also works to protect and manage 1,140 acres of conservation land throughout the community. Trail maps and permit applications are available in the Conservation Commission office, which is located in the Town Building.

Presently, the Commission consists of seven members with varied backgrounds and a common interest in environmental issues. In addition, we have the strong support of several associate members who work on special projects, such as wetland delineation, drainage issues, trail mapping, forestry management, community gardens and open space planning.

Conservation Land Updates

Overview: 1) Twelve permits were issued for camping, guided walks and educational activities at the Flagg Hill Conservation Area, Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland, Captain Sargent Conservation Area and Gardner Hill Conservation Area. Two permits were issued for horseback riding on parcels permitting equestrian use and three for the use of snowmobiles which is a permitted use in Gardner Hill Conservation Area. 2) The Commission reviewed and approved an Eagle Scout project submitted by Scott Sacra. 3) The Orchard View trail connection was established. 4) Plans for a stewardship committee were approved. 5) Stewardship activities.

Highlights: Educational walks provided participants with an opportunity to observe foraging and nesting activity of Eastern Bluebirds and identification of native mushrooms on the Flagg Hill property. In June, several people enjoyed the sights and sounds of an evening bird walk. The Boy Scouts of America have enjoyed Gardner Hill Conservation Area for overnight camping trips.

Scott Sacra created a picnic area behind the cinder block building at the parking area for the Flagg Hill Conservation Area. This improvement provides a location for people to enjoy a picnic

lunch while visiting the property. Special thanks to Scott and his crew for doing such a great job on this project.

The Orchard View trail connection was completed and now serves to link Flagg Hill and Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland. A small parking lot and dedication sign are located on West Acton Road near Brandymeade Circle. The trail connection and improved public access help to link neighborhoods with our conservation lands. Special thanks to David Schroeder for the design and construction of the sign, and to Jill Phelps Kern for her mapping expertise.

Bruce Trefry, the Commission's land steward, presented a proposal to form a Stewardship Committee similar to those in surrounding communities. The plan outlines the structure of the committee, the role and responsibility of a steward, and the process for being appointed. The Commission approved the proposal and requested the steward to move forward with an informational meeting in early 2006.

The Commission was notified in several instances of trees down across trails after high winds, the steward was requested to check the trails and remove obstructions and potential hazards. The overgrown trail entrances at Spindle Hill from Wheeler Road and Marble Hill from the rear of Pompositticut School were cleared. The field on the Woodhead parcel of Flagg Hill was mowed to control successional species and enhance habitat for Eastern Bluebirds.

The Stow Community Gardens is located at the Captain Sargent Conservation Area just off Tuttle Lane on the eastern side of Stow. During the past year, the Community Garden's steward, Winni Miller and her assistant Joyce Bunce supervised the creation of 30 x 50 foot garden plots. The Commission received twelve applications for the use of the garden plots from residents and non-residents. Community interest and support is particularly noteworthy. Scott Morse harrowed the existing plots in the spring and again at the end of the growing season in early November. The steward reported that the gardeners were plagued by squash bugs and toting water was a problem but not enough of a problem to hinder the amounts harvested and shared with the food pantry. Thank you Winni and Joyce!

The Conservation Commission is researching the costs for installation of pitcher pumps to provide a water source for the gardeners. Accessible water on that portion of the field would make a huge difference in both the production and in the number of the gardeners interested in farming at the site. Due to the efforts of the Conservation Commission and the Fire Department, the addition of the new pond for irrigation and fire protection was completed in July.

The Stow Conservation Trust met with the Commission to begin discussions to formalize conservation restrictions for Hale Woodlands located off of Maple Street and the open space portion of Derby Woods located off of Harvard Road. Both restrictions should be finalized in 2006.

The Stow Highway Department deserves high praise for keeping the conservation area parking lots in good condition, plowing them during the winter and assisting the Commission in keeping trails passable and safe, as do the Stow Fire Department and Police Department for rescue efforts, fire protection, and assistance in enforcing the regulations and trail inspections when called upon.

Conservation Land Volunteers: The majority of our 43 volunteers are Stow residents, some are from neighboring towns, and everyone shares a common interest in conservation related projects. This work force has provided 845 hours of volunteer labor in the Flagg Hill Conservation Area and Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland over the past 7 years. A heartfelt Thank You to all of

the volunteers for their contribution to our community. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the Commission at 978-897-8615.

Public Hearings

Hearings for residential construction continued at a brisk pace, including Arbor Glen, Hiley Brook Meadows, and several small subdivisions. Commission members continued their participation in several town-wide planning projects, including updating of the Master Plan, School Building Committee, Open Space and Recreation Plan and Community Preservation Committee.

The Commission held 51 public hearings for projects during the year. A total of \$12,075 was generated for the Town by these hearings and applications. License Agreements, Regulations for Wetland Protection Bylaw, Trail Guides, copy fees and donations also generated \$715.

Cooperative Efforts and Long Range Planning

The Conservation Commission invested a significant amount of time in working with the School Building Committee on various elementary school construction and reconstruction alternatives. These included: assisting with wetland delineation at the Center School site and evaluating the feasibility of wetland alteration and replication on this property and participating in the team evaluating the mixed use alternatives (including a school) on the Minuteman property on Boxboro Road.

The Conservation Commission played a leadership role in assisting the Community Preservation Committee with evaluation of the Cushing Property on Walcott Street. The Commission contributed funds to the initial site planning for this project and co-presented the project at Stow Special Town Meeting in October 2005, when the town approved funding for the purchase of the land for a mix of uses including open space, recreation, affordable housing and limited development of market rate housing.

Work plan priorities for the coming year include but are not limited to the publication of an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan, a Lake Boon Shoreline Stabilization Policy, revisions to the Wetland Protection Regulations, implementation of the Land Stewardship Committee, vernal pool education and invasive species identification.

Administration

Becky Mattison is the liaison to the Master Plan Committee and Kathy Sferra is the Commission's liaison to the Community Preservation Committee. Doug Moffat and Kathy Sferra are the Commission's liaisons to the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee. Kathy Sferra is also a member of the Open Space Committee. David Cobb is the Commission's liaison to the Land Stewardship Committee. Due to the dedication and hard work of these committees, a Community Preservation Plan has been drafted, the development of a Community Development Plan is in progress, Open Space & Recreation Plan is being updated and the formation of a Stewardship Committee is in the beginning phase.

Bruce Trefry is the Commission's Land Steward and the parcel steward for Flagg Hill Conservation Area and Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland. Bruce provides overall management of these sensitive resource areas and does an outstanding job for the Commission.

Winni Miller has been the steward for the community gardens at the Captain Sargent Conservation Area on Tuttle Lane this past year. Winni has done a wonderful job coordinating participants, laying out plots and educating the gardeners on organic farming. Unfortunately for

the Commission, Winni resigned her position as the steward at the end of the year. Thank you Winni!

Due to work and family commitments, John Harding resigned from the Conservation Commission and the Master Plan Committee in July but, fortunately for the Commission, agreed to continue on as an associate member. Thank you John!

David Cobb was appointed in October to fill the vacant seat. David is in the process of taking courses offered by the New England Wildflower Society with the goal of completing the requirements for a Certificate in Native Plant Studies. David's day job takes him to Harvard University as the Curator of Maps for the Harvard College Library.

Pat Perry's consistent management of daily operations is more appreciated than ever. We all thank Pat for her efforts. Thanks to her hard work, the Commission has maintained and improved its high standard of professionalism in its interactions with town residents, other town boards and commissions, and state regulatory and enforcement bodies. As we add more conservation land to that already under management by the Commission, and as development activity in Stow accelerates, it becomes more and more important to coordinate the activities of the Commission with other town boards and effectively maintain required documentation. Pat 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,

Kathy Sferra, Chairman
Doug Moffat, Vice Chairman
Stephan Jablon
David Cobb
Stephen O'Riorden
Rebecca Mattison
Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
Bruce Trefry, Associate

Dwight Sipler, Associate
Winnie Miller, Associate
Stewart Dalzell, Associate
John Harding, Associate
Pamela Weathers, Associate
John Sangermano, Associate

Patricia Perry, Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Stow Board of Health consists of three elected members, each serving a three-year term. The Board meets twice each month, normally on Tuesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. The current members are Marcia Rising (Chairperson), Sylvia Daley, and Betty Cormier. Gordon Landis resigned due to the pressures of work. Our part-time Health Agent is John Wallace, the Animal Control Officer/Animal Inspector is Susan Latham, and our new part-time clerk is Lynn Fishman. Our full-time Administrative Assistant is Terri Cole, who interfaces with the public on a daily basis while handling the myriad of duties necessary for our compliance with local and state rules

and regulations. Terri has worked for the Board for twenty-five years and many thanks go to her for keeping the office running smoothly.

The Board of Health is the local authority responsible for disease prevention and control, public health and environmental protection, and promoting a healthy community. As such, the Board of Health serves as the local arm of both the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. To fulfill these duties the Board develops, implements, and enforces health policies, oversees inspections to maintain minimum standards for sanitation in housing and food service, and assures that the basic health needs of our community are being met. The Board of Health is responsible for enforcing both local and state regulations covering such diverse health-related areas as: food service, wells and water supply, septic systems and sewerage, trash and recycling, animal husbandry and animal control, mosquito control, public swimming beaches, tobacco control, disease prevention, medical care, and social services.

During the year the Board spent many hours outside of regular meetings responding to the requirements of the Federal government Bioterrorism initiative. Stow belongs to a coalition of 34 towns. Each town health department is required to develop a preparedness plan, a 24/7 call down list, formally establish and sign a mutual aid agreement, and designate an emergency dispensing site in case of a man-made disaster or natural disaster which would affect the entire town. The emergency dispensing site, located within the town, deals with a possible epidemic or terrorist act in which every resident of the town would have to receive either an inoculation or an orally administered antibiotic in response to an illness or exposure to possible toxic agents. This plan has been completed. The health department plans are added as addenda to the Local Emergency Plan that exists for the town.

The Board enacted Private Stable Regulations this year after many months of work with the Farm Bureau and its legal counsel, private stable owners, discussions with other towns considering regulations, and many residents of Stow interested in this issue. We held two informational meetings and one public hearing, considered input we received, and voted to accept the modified regulations December 2005.

Health Services:

Through our Emerson Hospital Home Care contract we continue to offer an annual flu clinic. We were able to offer the flu vaccine to all seniors over the age of 65, any resident whose immune system was compromised, and all of our public safety, school, and town employees. We served 159 residents and employees. The Board subsidized the cost of the vaccine for our employees and teachers. Also pneumonia and tetanus inoculations were given.

Requests for assistance for residents in need of mental health counseling or related issues remain low so the Board will be reducing its mental health budget for the next fiscal year.

Our community outreach program to senior citizens, a joint effort with the Council on Aging, continued this year with monthly blood pressure clinics staffed by volunteer nurses who reside in Stow. We also offer the following services, available with a doctor's order or social worker's contact:

Nursing care at home
Physical therapy
Occupational therapy
Speech therapy

Medical social work
Psychiatric nursing
Follow-up to communicable diseases
Home health aide services

The aim of home care is to assist in the successful recuperation of patients following hospitalization, surgery, accident or acute illness. We are mindful of the fact that we serve all of the residents of Stow but for our elders, we need to provide the services that enable them to remain independent and in their own homes as long as possible.

Hazardous Waste and Recycling:

The Board held a Hazardous Waste Collection day in the spring of 2005. We had an excellent turnout with 180 cars passing through the collection point. We did request a \$10.00 donation from each car to help offset the expenses. In an effort to serve all who participated we did not turn anybody away and exceeded our budget limit and had to request a reserve fund transfer from the town. As a result, in our 2007 budget requests we are asking for a larger amount of money at town meeting. We plan to offer another collection in the fall of 2006.

Mosquito Control:

The Board works with 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. Our primary control options are breeding habitat removal and larvicide, which kills the mosquito larvae in the waters where they hatch and is not toxic to humans or other animals. However, we also engage in limited spraying to kill adult mosquitoes when necessary. Citizens may call the Board to find out when spraying is scheduled in their area, and can have their property added to the "no-spray" list if desired. The Board would like to remind all those residents with swimming pools that the pump should be turned on in the early spring to prevent the presence of still water where mosquitoes breed. Also, any tires that are being stored must be kept out of the rain so water doesn't collect in them as this provides a ready-made breeding site also.

Animal Control:

Susan Latham is our Animal Control Officer/Inspector of Animals. The following is a report of activity for the past year:

Dog complaints – 93	Information - 81
Cat complaints – 6	Cruelty/neglect - 9
Animal complaints – 43	Lost dogs - 58
Injured animals – 11	Lost cats – 15
Lost bird – 1	Dead animals - 44
Found dog – 44	Animal bites - 4
Found cats - 6	

Quarantines:

10 day – 2 cats, 9 dogs
45 day – 14 cats, 5 dogs
6 months – 9 cats, 0 dogs

Dogs Impounded;

returned to owner - 9
placed in new homes – 2
euthanized – 1

Barns/Stables Inspected – 36

horses – 143	goats - 20
chickens – 132	water fowl – 20
sheep – 58	beef cattle - 10

rabbits – 23
alpacas – 5
dairy cattle – 3
pot bellied pigs – 3
donkey – 1

peacocks - 5
turkeys - 4
pigs – 3
guinea hen – 1

Citations issued:

\$25.00 fine – 6
\$50.00 fine - 4

We would like to remind all dog owners that they are required to have an up-to-date dog license and proof of rabies inoculation. The Board offers a Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs each spring. It is very important for cat owners to make sure that their cat is inoculated as cats can be prevalent carriers of rabies.

All barn and animal inspections and reports are submitted to the Department of Food and Agriculture on an annual basis. The animal census shows that the overall number and distribution of animals kept in Stow has been relatively stable in recent years, with the exception of a marked decrease in the number of cattle (and a moderate increase in the number of horses). The animal inspector is nominated by the Board and approved by the Department of Food and Agriculture and is directly responsible for the enforcement of the state regulations governing the keeping of animals

Wells, Septic Systems, and Housing Stats:

This was an active year in the housing area, with new houses and new development proposals as well as septic system upgrades for houses with older systems that had failed. Furthermore, the permitting processes that form the basis of our responsibilities to protect the health and safety of the public and the environment are becoming more complex and time consuming. Taken together, this means that large proportion of our time continues to be spent doing plan reviews, variance requests, site visits, and inspections.

Permitting and Revenues:

Revenue of \$39,617.76 was remitted to the General Fund from permits issued by the Board in 2005. The following types of permits were issued:

Disposal Works Construction Permits - 72
Well Permits – 58
Title 5 Inspections -88
Installer License - 53
Semi-private Pool - 2
Food Service Permits - 61
Rubbish Hauler Permits - 3
Bed & Breakfast - 4
Tobacco Permits - 10

Dumpsters - 10
Septage Haulers - 12
Ice Permits - 2
Tanning Facility - 1
Massage Therapist - 8
Camp - 3
Cider Mill - 4
Pet Shop - 1
Catering Permits – 1

Underlying all of our activities is the Board's commitment to protect and enhance the long-term health and safety of our community and its environment. We encourage your input and participation in this endeavor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia B. Rising, Chairman
Betty Cormier
Sylvia Daley

Theora S. Cole, Administrative Assistant
Jack Wallace, Health Agent
Susan Latham, Animal Control Officer

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The year 2005 continued to be a busy one with 46 applications for public hearings submitted to the to the board. These increases continue with 29 in 2003 and 38 in 2004 and seem to indicate a trend in residents seeking to enlarge their homes.

There were fourteen applications for a variance from the zoning bylaws of the Town. Thirteen were granted and two were denied.

There were thirty-one applications for special permits as required by the zoning bylaws, twenty-eight were granted with conditions and three were denied.

There was one Appeal filed in regard to an action of the Building Inspector and this was later withdrawn.

The Board of Appeals meets on the first Monday of each month in the Town Building. Applications for hearings may be obtained by contacting Catherine Desmond, secretary to the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Hyde, Jr.
Arthur R. Lowden
John Clayton Jr., Clerk
Edmund C. Tarnuzzer, Jr
Donald E. Dwinells
Charles A. Barney, Associate

Lee Heron, Associate
Richard S. Martin, Associate
Michele Shoemaker, Associate
William Byron, Associate

Catherine Desmond, Secretary

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department started off the year of 2005 battling a very cold and snowy winter. That season brought us an average of one snowstorm every four days, giving us 14 different plowable snow events. The largest storm, coming on January 22, 2005, graced us with 20 inches of snow. Our unofficial total snowfall amount for the year was 84" +/-.

After winter was over and our spring cleanup of road sand and debris was complete, we spent a total of eight weeks throughout the rest of 2005 cutting brush and low tree limbs along the roadsides in town. We also removed nine dead or hazardous trees along the roadsides, and we

picked up fallen tree limbs from high winds on eleven different occasions throughout the year. Small trees and brush were also removed, at the request of the Recreation Commission, at the Pine Bluffs Recreation Area in an effort to create more parking spaces there.

Throughout the rest of the construction season we completed a variety of different jobs around town. We built a pedestrian walkway at the West School Museum that runs from the new parking area up to the schoolhouse. We constructed two sections of byway also. One section on Great Road east of the police station at Ministers Pond, and the other on Crescent Street east of the fire station, across from the rear of the Randall Library.

In the late summer and fall we reconstructed the entire length of State Road and the intersection of Great Road and Gleasondale Road. The traffic lights on Great Road were upgraded and retrofitted with new LED lights to replace the old bulbs as well. Both of these locations had three inches of old asphalt scarified off of the road and than three inches of fresh asphalt was put back to replace it.

In October we took delivery of our new Sterling dump truck/sander, which replaced our 1987 Ford L8000 dump truck/sander. This was a pleasant sight, as our old Ford had seen much better days in the past.

As always, I would like to give meaningful thanks to, most importantly, the hardworking, dedicated employees of this highway department: And I would like to thank the Town Administrator, Selectmen, Selectman's assistant, Police Department, and Fire Department for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael E. Clayton, Superintendent of
Streets

Bruce Fletcher, Asst Superintendent
Scott Morse
Brian Hatch
Joe Landry

Rachael Belanger
Bill Tuttle
Albeo Duguay
Steve Landry
Tim Gray
Scott Landry
Jim Rogers

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department had a very busy year issuing 266 Building Permits. We inspected the construction of new homes, remodeling and additions, and attended classes to keep up with the continuing education requirements as set forth by the Board of Building Regulation and Standards. In addition to the duties as Building Inspector, we are also in charge of the municipal properties that include the Town Building, Town Hall, West School, and the Crescent Street Garage building.

Town Buildings

As a result of the budget constraint, no new projects have been started or planned in the near future. We have maintained the existing buildings, as follows:

Town Hall

We had a heating problem with one of the Hot Air Furnaces that heat this building. On the night of February 15, 2005, the Stow Fire Department was called because black smoke was pouring out of the chimney. When they responded, they found the heating system for the upper level had backed up and soot had filled the upper level main room. The heating unit had a crack in the heat exchanger which caused the soot problem.

We called the Town Insurance Company, which called Service Master to clean the entire area. After walls and ceiling was washed, I called the Insurance Company to mention that the ceiling acoustical treatment was not clean and part of the spray treatment had washed away. We then hired a company to re-install the acoustical treatment over the entire ceiling. The Insurance Company also agreed to have the Town Quilt cleaned as part of the insurance settlement.

The Town was very fortunate at this time, Mr. Michael Daley came forward and volunteered to help the Town by painting this meeting room back to original condition.

Thank you, Mike, for all your hard work in restoring this great old building.

Town Building

We have spent some time and money to keep the heating system working in a proper fashion. We replaced (2) electronic hydraulic actuator valves. Each actuator valve has 2 different settings, 1st, to control the hot water coil within the ductwork at each location, 2nd, a valve within the setting to control the hot water baseboard within each separate room. We also replaced (2) mercury pressure switches on the sprinkler water supply system.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Roggeveen, Building Commissioner

Judith Scraggs, Administrative Assistant

PERMITS ISSUED IN 2005

Number of Permits	Fees Collected
266 Building Permits	\$65,179.00
238 Electrical Permits	\$18,920.00
114 Plumbing Permits	\$ 9,131.00
92 Gas Permits	\$ 3,798.00
<hr/> 710 Total Permits	<hr/> \$ 97,028.00

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Number of Permits	Type of Construction	Construction Value
31	Single Family Dwelling	\$8,197,000.00
120	Remodeling and Additions	\$4,698,797.00
25	Strip and Re-roof	\$225,250.00
16	Re-siding & Windows	\$167,483.00
7	Swimming Pools	\$201,000.00
9	Annual Inspections	N/A
22	Temporary Tents	N/A
16	Wood Stoves	\$18,000.00
13	Sign Permits	\$360.00
7	Demolition Permits	N/A
<hr/>		
266		\$13,537,530.00

RECREATION COMMISSION

This past year has been exciting and eventful for the Recreation Commission. Laura Greenough has brought many new and fresh improvements to the Recreation Commission. Town wide brochures are distributed throughout the year highlighting the many new programs that have been established as well as the existing programs. Some of the programs include Canoe and Kayaking classes, Scrape booking classes, Fitness classes, and Art classes. The Recreation Department has also expanded its winter youth basketball league to include Maynard. The Recreation Commission has also been very busy making improvements to the Center school tennis courts as well as installing new dock at Pine Bluff beach.

The Recreation Commission is dedicated to providing town wide programming for all ages. During the past year the Recreation Commission has outlined its short and long term goals and the steps needed to achieve success. The Commission is excited about the possibilities that can be accomplished in the years ahead to make recreation in Stow an important ingredient to maintaining and improving the quality of life. The Commission would like to encourage others within the community to participate, either as an associate member or to assist in the development and implementation of programs. Also, please feel free to bring any issues or ideas to the Commission. We would welcome your input. Thanks to all the workers and volunteers who helped with the programs throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Busch, Chairman
Mark Pieper
Tom Ruggiero
Christine Way

Corinne Green

Laura Greenough, Recreation Director

LAKE BOON COMMISSION

The Lake Boon Commission (LBC) is made up of three people appointed by the Selectmen of Hudson and Stow. There are two members from Stow and one from Hudson, reflecting the area of the lake in each town. Current serving members are Lee Heron from Stow, Cindy Curley from Stow, and Conray Wharff from Hudson. The LBC holds meetings at the Stow Town Building about once a month. The meetings are public; everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Meeting notices are posted at both Town Halls at least 48 hours before the meetings.

The weeds are returning to Lake Boon in the absence of a follow up herbicide treatment and a comprehensive lake management program. We do not have these not from a lack of will, spirit or motivation but rather from a lack of money. The LBC budget is very small and has been for as long as memory serves. It is used mostly to fund the patrolling of the lake during the summer. A comprehensive lake management program would cost about \$30,000 per year which is beyond the ability of our community fund raising.

If we are to preserve the lake we will need to find stable public funding for the necessary programs. There are two ways to do this that we are aware of, one would be funding from the general funds of Hudson and Stow and the other would be funding to form a tax district for people who live on the lake. Most lake residents already pay higher taxes reflecting the higher value of lake front property and feel that the towns should put some of that tax money to work caring for the lake. This will make forming a new tax district difficult.

This past year saw a rapid reemergence of the invasive weeds; we expect them to return in even larger numbers this season. We have the permits necessary to treat the lake but need approval from the Stow town manager and funding to pay for the treatment. These issues will continue be a top priority for the commission in 2006 as they were in 2005. We have little chance of success without funding.

Lee Heron is Lake Boon's patrol officer. He manages patrolling of the lake Boon in both the LBC patrol boat and the Stow Police patrol boat to ensure safety and enforce regulations on the lake.

He has the power to ticket violators of either LBC rules or state laws. We write many tickets every summer. Boat owners are responsible for their boats at all times, regardless of who is driving their boat. Every summer we stop many boats for minor violations. We have a zero tolerance policy for safety violations; if a boat is stopped for safety violations it will be ticketed.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with ongoing lake management projects. If you are interested, please contact us via your Town Offices or send e-mail to Conray Wharff at cwharff@comcast.net

Respectfully submitted,

Conray Wharff, Hudson, Chairman
Cindy Curley, Stow

Lee Heron, Stow

COUNCIL ON AGING

COA Mission Statement

The Stow Council On Aging is here to provide support to seniors by being a resource of information on elder affairs, provide social activities, outreach services, and help seniors to remain in their homes as long as safely possible.

Meals

Congregate meals are served in Stow on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. Since Stow does not have a Senior Center that can provide this service, the meals are served at First Parish Church of Stow and Acton in their Fellowship Hall. The average number of people that attend the Meal Site daily is 23. For the small fee of \$2.00, the Meal Site not only provides nutritional meals but it also provides social interaction. The Council On Aging Van Service transports most of the people that attend the Meal Site.

Meals On Wheels is an important part of the Nutritional program. Meals are provided to people who would not be preparing meals for themselves otherwise. These people may be unable to prepare meals due to recovering from a recent hospital stay, an illness, or frailty.

Volunteer contribute many hours working at the Meal Site or delivering Meals On Wheels. Without their help many Stow seniors would not enjoy the quality of life good nutrition brings.

The Drop-In Center is located in the Friendship Room in the lower level of the Town Building. It is open five days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Many social, cultural, and educational events are held in the Friendship Room through out the year. It is also available for people to just come in, sit read the newspaper, drink coffee, and chat.

The Director, Suzanne Morin is available five days a week, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. unless out of the office on business. The Outreach Coordinator, Sharon Funkhouser, works, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays and the Outreach Worker, Betty Scesny, is in the office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This staff is here to service seniors and people with disabilities. They are also a good resource to children or friends who are concerned about providing care to their loved ones.

Studio Art Classes explore several mediums for the beginner to advanced artist. Under the director of Instructor Cynthia Durost of Wild Rose Studio in Acton, seniors are able to explore their hidden talents and creativity through acrylics, oils, pastels, charcoal, etc. in a relaxed and self-paced environment. Classes meet on Monday mornings from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the Friendship Room at Town Building. A donation of \$5.00 is requested to assist in the funding of this class. A private donor and the artists themselves fund this class in large part.

Exercise

Exercise aerobic classes are held on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays at St. Isidore's Church Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., September through June. This wellness activity is funded in part by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and a donation of \$2.00 per student/per class. We thank St. Isidore's Church for their generosity in letting us use their hall for these classes. Classes are for ages 50+. Tai Chi is held in Town Hall on Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Health Clinics are held through out the year. The Podiatry Clinic is held monthly in the Friendship Room, by appointment. The Council On Aging sponsors a Health fair once a year.

Transportation is provided to all seniors and disabled and/or handicapped persons. This service continues to grow each year, and remains the number one service provided to seniors in Stow. The vans provide transportation for food shopping, errands, doctor and hospital appointments, exercise programs, hair appointments, club meetings, wellness clinics, to the Meal Site, Town Meeting and Town Elections, Drop-In Center activities, and special events and meetings. The van operates regularly Monday, through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We request a 24-hour notice for these appointments. Doctor and hospital appointments should be at least 48 hours in advance or as soon as they are made. The vans will provide transportation to Acton, Concord, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, and Lincoln and within Stow. This year the COA was fortunate to receive a new Ford Mini Van. This was made possible through the generosity of David Abatsis of Acton Ford, donations from citizens, and from money received from the Friends of the Council On Aging. We have also applied for a mobility grant from the State of Massachusetts to replace our most used van which has a wheel chair lift and is needed to transport our non-ambulatory riders. The current van is old, rusting and has many mechanical problems.

The Board would like to thank van drivers Beverly Benoit, Jim and Betty Sauta, Janet Fritz, and Martha Wheeler, for their continued dedication and service to this program. Contact the C.O.A. office for reservations 897-1880

The COA will also arrange for a volunteer driver for special doctor or hospital appointments that are out of the area covered by the van.

Events are arranged by the Staff of the COA with approval of the Director. Activities are planned with the hope that they will meet the varied interest of the people of Stow. Some trips are cultural, while others may be social. Day trips are scheduled throughout the year. Trips and events are beneficial to the social and recreational needs of our seniors. We are very limited in the number and type of events we can schedule. This is due to the inadequate space we have in the basement of the Town Building. We also have problems with privacy when working with individuals on issues that required sensitivity.

Monthly Newsletter: A monthly newsletter is prepared with the approval of the Director and mailed to all seniors in Stow. The effort of several dedicated seniors enables us to get this publication mailed. We thank all the Newsletter Volunteers for their hard work in getting it out each month. This is our most important vehicle in getting information to the Stow senior population. The Patrons who advertise, the Community Chest, and the E.O.E.A make the printing and mailing of the newsletter possible.

S.M.O.C.: Fuel assistance applications are accepted by all office staff member of the COA from November through March. Assistance is available to all income-eligible persons of Stow. To receive information on fuel assistance or to request an appointment, call the Council office at 897-1880. All information is kept in strictest confidentiality.

Tax Preparation Assistance is a free service sponsored by A.A.R.P. An A.A.R.P. volunteer will meet with seniors of Stow from February thru April for tax preparation and to apply for "Circuit Breaker". To schedule an appointment the client must call the C.O.A.

State Representative Patricia Walrath takes time from her busy schedule to meet with our seniors to discuss issues of concern to elders and to inform them of legislation, which may affect

them. These meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. at the First Parish Church during the meal site. All seniors are welcome.

Outreach and Referrals are provided to assist those elders of Stow who may be homebound, frail or lonely, and not receiving services from outside agencies. Sharon Funkhouser, our Outreach Volunteer and her team of volunteers will visit, shop or assist in any way to inform and refer our elders of services that are available to them through the COA and outside services such as Minuteman Home Care, Emerson Home Care and other local agencies. If you are interested in becoming a valued volunteer in our Outreach Program, call the C.O.A. office at 897-1880. Volunteers are needed during the weekday, even if just for one hour.

Friends of the Council on Aging Board is composed of volunteer members of the community at large, citizens of Stow, and the Council on Aging Director (non voted member.) The Board meets the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Friendship Room at Town Building. All interested citizens and are welcome to attend. The goal of the Friends of the C.O.A. is to raise funds to supplement the programs and activities of the Council on Aging. They raise funds for the Operating Van Fund, Meal Site Coordinator salary, Meal Site supplies, and special projects, programs, or activities of the C.O.A.

You may become a “Friend” of the C.O.A. by either volunteering, sponsoring a special project, or to make a monetary contribution. Call the C.O.A. office at 897-1880, or any of the Friends of the COA Board members. We thank the Friends of the COA members and volunteers for all their hard work this past year and the support they offer the Stow C.O.A. all year long.

Minuteman Home Care provides many thousands of dollars worth of services to the senior population of Stow each year in return for our contribution of more than \$900. Minuteman Home Care is sponsored by state and federal grants. We wish to thank them for all their services and assistance to the seniors and the Council office.

Senior Tax Work-Off Program is a program offered by the Town of Stow for seniors 60+ who have lived in the town of Stow for at least six months, are a home owner, and meet the income requirements. An eligible senior may “work” up to 111 hours or \$700 worth of rebate on their real estate taxes. “Jobs” are filled within participating town departments. This is a double benefit to both the client and the town. For more information call the C.O.A. office at 897-1880. All information is kept in the strictest confidence.

Senior Computers is a program that allows us to offer seniors used and upgraded computers. With the help of Ronald Hill of Stow, we are able to give computers to seniors for use in their own homes. Ron takes used computers, updates them, delivers and sets them up. He also will provide user training. This program is funded by a small donation from the seniors and by the Stow Friends of C.O.A. We thank the Friends for their generous support of this highly successful new program.

Thank You to all the volunteers that help out in the office. The Seniors of Stow and the Council On Aging, rely on the many hours the volunteers who put in of time and dedication to making the quality of life for the seniors of Stow much better. Without their help the Council On Aging could not function.

There is much talk lately of the aging of the “Baby Boomers” and how it will impact the services offered. I feel that this age group will be an asset to towns. These are people that are technologically aware, tend to live a healthy live style, therefore are less physically limited.

These people will be available to volunteer in a few years and I hope they think of the Council On Aging when they are looking for someplace to put their energy and talents. They will be a great resource.

Thank you St. Isidore's, the Union Church, and the First Parish Church of Stow for allowing us to use their facilities to conduct programs throughout the year. We extend our sincere appreciation to all of the volunteers who assist the Council on Aging in so many capacities. They are the "life-line" of our department.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the citizens of Stow for their support at Town Meeting this past year in assisting the Council on Aging with their goals of providing the seniors of Stow with a meaningful quality of life as they age.

We wish to extend our gratitude to the Stow Highway Department for their continuous assistance in keeping our vans serviced and safe for the roads.

Last of all we wish to thank the Senior Citizens of Stow who give so much of their time and talents to help make the Council on Aging a place where a Stow Senior can explore personal growth, new opportunities, friendship and camaraderie, and contribute to the community as a volunteer. So many of our seniors may be "retired" but are still very productive and "working" individuals. The seniors help themselves and others day in and day out. We are grateful for all you do and admire their spirit of enthusiasm.

Respectfully submitted,

James Sauta, Chair
Newton Wesley, Vice Chairman
Nancy Kyle
Brian Burke
Betty Holly
George Dargaty
Alice Olsen
Jo Langley, Associate
Eleanor Beaudette, Secretary

Suzanne Morin, Director
Sharon Funkhouser, Outreach Coordinator
Elizabeth Scesny, Outreach Worker

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. The Stow Housing Authority manages and administers low- rent housing programs, which are 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 which are locally elected with the fifth member appointed by the Commonwealth. The Board of Commissioners meets as necessary at the Town Building.

The mission of the Stow Housing Authority is to provide decent and safe housing to needy persons. Presently, the Stow Housing Authority administers twenty- three (23) Section 8 Housing Vouchers and three (3) state rental assistance vouchers. These vouchers are chiefly used in other communities, as allowed by the program guidelines, since there is a lack of affordable rental housing stock in Stow. The three (3) state vouchers are attached to the Pilot Grove Development.

The Stow Housing Authority has contracted with the Hudson Housing Authority to administer the rental assistance programs. The Hudson Housing Authority staff conducts the day-to-day program administration.

The Stow Housing Authority has been named the monitoring agent for the affordable housing units to be built at the Villages at Stow. Twelve of the single- family homes and twelve town homes are affordable at this development. Application availability and information on the lottery will be announced in local newspapers.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Larkin, Chairman
Mark Carrig
Robert Dilling

Jack Kendra
John Toole
Robert Barrell, Administrator

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee is composed of three members appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve three-year terms. Under the supervision and control of the selectmen, the committee maintains the public cemeteries of the Town and, with the approval of the Board, appoints such employees as are necessary to maintain the cemeteries. Robb “GH” Gledhill is the Town’s superintendent.

There are three cemeteries in Stow: Hillside Cemetery of Crescent Street, Lower Village Cemetery at Great Road and Pompositticut Street and Brookside Cemetery on Gleasondale and Box Mill roads.

The Cemetery Department had an interesting weather season. While the spring was wet, the summer turned hot and dry fast. The cold and frost were here even faster, ending the season with moderate snow accumulation.

As we prepare to break ground on the property purchased from Bob and Janet Derby, we will bring in power from Brookside Avenue. An artesian well will be drilled providing adequate water for irrigation. The members of the Cemetery Committee will be glad to accept any creative ideas, comments, or concerns with the present or future development plans.

The Cemetery's maintenance department is growing with personnel, equipment, and tools, providing a higher standard of service to the community, family, and friends of departed loved ones. Please let the superintendent know of any maintenance concerns you may have.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and all the other Town departments for their continued support. Thanks to the Capital Planning and Finance committees for their dedication of service. A special thanks to all the personnel at the Highway Department. Without their support, our services to the community could be compromised.

To all the folks who visit the cemeteries for their beauty and charm, for their health and healing, it would not be the same without you. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Dudley, Chairman
Clarissa Potter

Roberta Boylen
Robb GH Gledhill, Superintendent

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Stow Cultural Council awarded \$3600 in grants for the 2006 year. This amount will be funded by \$2,443.38 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, \$106.62 from a carryover and reallocation of funds from the Fieldstone Foundation, \$750 from funds appropriated at the 2005 town meeting, and \$300 from donations. The Stow Cultural Council will have an available balance of \$811.72.

The 10 awards granted for this year were:

Applicant	Event	Granted
Fruitlands/Center School	Digging History (Archeology)	\$250
Hale School Play	Annual Play Production	\$750
Historical Commission	West School Events	\$450
Historical Commission	Blacksmith Shop Opening	\$125
Lake Boon Improve Assoc.	Water Carnival Boat	\$300
Randall Library	Summer Reading Program	\$500
Richard Clark /COA	Mark Twain One Man Show	\$200
Sounds of Stow	05-06 Concert Season	\$650
Women of Note	Barbershop Chorus Shows	\$275
Hudson Arts Alliance	River's Edge Concert	\$100

The Stow Cultural Council consists of seven members. Members are appointed by the Board of Selectman for a three-year term. The Council is currently looking to expand and is seeking new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Stepp, Chair
Nancy Dickson
Bob Glorioso
Catherine Hammill
Donnalisa Johnson

Lynne Juster
Dorothy Sonnichsen

Karen Benoit, Treasurer

RANDALL LIBRARY

In 2005 the Randall Library lent 121,106 items. This is an increase of 35% over ten years ago, although circulation was down slightly from 2004. There are several reasons for this. Due to unprecedented demand the state delivery service could not handle the number of requested items being transported from one library to another. As a result, audio-visual reserves were discontinued temporarily last summer. Library patrons had been used to requesting music, audio books, and DVDs from the entire Minuteman Library Network, and even temporary discontinuation of that service resulted in lower usage.

Even with slightly lower circulation, the Randall Library circulated 46,486 items per FTE (full time equivalent) in FY05. This was by far the most in any public library in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The runners-up did not even come close: Ashby (38,464), South Hadley (33,768), and Harwich Port (33,670). In the Minuteman Library Network circulation per FTE ranged from 29,200 (Acton) and 25,614 (Newton) all the way down to Millis (8,517). This high productivity per staff member reflects the dedication to service and to the cost containment, which has always characterized the Randall Library.

We had a record 597 children enrolled in the Summer Reading and Listening Clubs. Sponsored by the Stow Community Chest and The Randall Library Friends' Association, the summer started off with our annual "Moonwalk on the Common" on the last day of school and continued with an Ice Cream Social, magic show, puppet show, and "Mr. DJ" The annual Dads' Night at the Library was well-attended as dads and kids came to see "Animal Adventures."

During 2005 the library was used by many community groups including: Ski program registration, Stow Republican Town Committee, Stow Democratic Town Committee, the Juniper Hill Water Company, Mothers of Multiples, Girl Scout leader meetings, Stow Community Chest, Published group, three troops of Brownies, Assabet Rail Trail, SAPN new baby party, SAPN blanket babies drop-in, Stow Food Pantry, Senior art show and reception, Sudbury Valley Trustees, Stow Soccer registration, Destination Imagination, Stow Conservation Trust, Stow Minutemen, International Mothers' Group, meeting with the state treasurer, Stow Garden Club, Concerned Citizens of Stow, and a flight certification program.

Randall Library would like to thank the following groups for their ongoing support: Stow Community Chest, Hale High School Trustees, Merwin Memorial. We would also like to thank Brownie Troop 2525 for the new American flag, which they bought for the library with their cookie money. The old flag had 48 stars.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Masters, Trustee's Chairman
Rob Aldape, Treasurer
Carolyn Howe, Secretary
Alison Campbell
Harry Donahue
Leonard Golder
Timothy Reed

Susan Wysk, Library Director
Denise C. Flynn
Rosemary Bawn
Phoebe Haberkorn
Janet M. Ellis

VETERAN'S SERVICES

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 115 requires that the Selectmen annually appoint a Veterans' Services Officer (VSO) "...to act for them in the disbursement of veterans' benefits...". Until a change in state regulations in 2005, this position was Veterans' Agent.

The Town of Stow, as well as the federal and state governments, honors the dedicated and selfless service performed by members of all branches of our armed forces, up to and including the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. There are various benefits available to military veterans residing in Stow. These services/benefits are separate and distinct from those administered by the federal Veterans' Administration. Some are direct financial assistance benefits that are determined based on need, paid by the town "up front," with a 75% reimbursement from the Commonwealth. Other programs are available without regard to any "means" test of the applicant and which do not require the expenditure of municipal funds.

Services provided during 2005 were varied. Temporary financial aid was provided (anonymously) in accordance with state regulations governing eligibility requirements and level of support. Assistance was provided in applying to a federal program that provides grave markers for deceased Stow resident veterans. The VSO also serves as a liaison to other federal veterans' programs.

Since the VSO is a part-time position in town government, regular office hours are not scheduled. However, I am available on request to discuss individual situations and to determine eligibility for various local services. Stow veterans (or their surviving spouses) may contact me directly at (978)562-6630, by email at Donhawkes1@aol.com, or through the Town Clerk's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald P. Hawkes, Veterans' Services Officer

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Community Preservation Act (CPA), MGL c.44B, was enacted into legislation on September 14, 2000. Under this legislation, municipalities opt to participate by adopting a property tax surcharge to create a locally-controlled Community Preservation Fund. The state provides a match, up to a maximum of 100 percent, depending on what percentage surcharge is adopted, and the number of communities participating statewide. The Community Preservation Fund can be used to fund projects related to the acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes, the acquisition and preservation of open space, and the creation and support of affordable housing. The goal of the Community Preservation Act is to provide communities with an alternative funding source - the state matching funds - to expand their ability to pursue and implement projects that preserve or enhance their quality of life.

Stow voters accepted the provisions of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) at the Town Meeting in May of 2001. At the subsequent Annual Town Election, Stow voters opted to enact a property tax surcharge of 3 percent to create the Stow Community Preservation Fund. Stow voters also opted to adopt all of the possible exemptions to the surcharge, including: those properties occupied by low income property owners, and those properties occupied by low or moderate income senior property owners, if such property owners show proof of income eligibility. The other exemption is on the first \$100,000 of assessed real property, which is taken automatically and reflected in the amount assessed to each property owner. As a result, Stow is participating in a manner that maximizes the state matching funds, with the least possible financial impact to the community.

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 was the fourth year of collections and state matching grants to Stow were made on October 6, 2005 consisting of \$331,284 - a 100 percent match - effectively doubling our community's ability to take action in the three specified areas. The State matching funds will be awarded each and every year that Stow participates, to be deposited in a locally controlled interest-bearing account.

Pursuant to the adoption of the CPA in May 2001, the Community Preservation Committee was formed to develop a Community Preservation Plan to facilitate implementation of the CPA in Stow. The Committee's role is to study the existing resources of the town, identify critical needs, evaluate various options for addressing those needs, and to recommend specific projects for Town Meeting consideration. All projects recommended by the Committee must also be approved by a majority vote at Town Meeting before expenditures can be made from Stow's Community Preservation Fund. The Committee consists of one representative from each of the committees or boards listed at the end of this report.

The Committee has met regularly since September 2001 with the calendar year 2005 representing the fourth full year of activity by the Committee. Since its inception, the Committee has met with representatives of most town boards and committees and held several public forums during the development of the Community Preservation Plan for Stow. These meetings enabled the Committee members to become familiar with the needs of the town in each of the areas covered under the Act. The Committee has utilized this information to assess needs, identify goals, establish criteria to evaluate proposed projects, discuss potential projects, and provide a process for submitting and evaluating projects.

In May of 2005, Town Meeting voters appropriated \$35,000 of CPA funds to purchase a conservation restriction for 23 acres of land (known as the Hale Woodlands) off of Maple Street.

The restriction will keep the land open space permanently and is currently in the process of being finalized.

Through the efforts of the Community Preservation Committee, Conservation Commission, Conservation Trust, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and property owners Elizabeth and Philip Moseley 18.6 acres of agricultural land on Maple Street were permanently protected. The tract, leased for many years to Steve, Kirstin, and Ray Mong as a key component of the Applefield Farm operation, was protected from development and preserved for continued agricultural use through a permanent Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) acquired by the Town and the State agency. Under the APR, the property will continue to be owned by the Moseleys until they choose to sell or otherwise transfer it to new owners. In addition to remaining in private ownership, the land will remain on the local tax rolls, and be bought, sold, or leased for agricultural purposes. This highly productive field, and accompanying irrigation pond, has been used to grow a variety of crops that have been purchased and enjoyed by area residents over the years at the Applefield farm stand on Great Road. The Moseleys intend to continue to lease the property to that farm for the indefinite future. The purchase of the APR was made possible by \$190,000 in funding from the State agency, \$11,000 from Stow's Community Preservation Fund, \$11,000 from the Stow Conservation Trust (with funds transferred to the Trust from The Trustees of Reservations), and the generosity and conservation ethic of the Moseleys. \$18,600 in Community Preservation Funds were appropriated by town voters for this project, however the participation of the Stow Conservation Trust allowed \$7,600 to be returned to the fund. This type of project helps to protect Stow's proud agricultural heritage and is a great example of what Community Preservation Funds can accomplish.

In October of 2005, Special Town Meeting voters approved one warrant article to acquire 70± acres of land under a Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal for \$1,800,000. The property, known as the "Cushing Property", was proposed for a mix of uses under the Community Preservation Act including, open space, active and passive recreation, affordable housing, and municipal uses. The Committee worked in partnership with the Stow Conservation Commission and the Stow Planning Board to design a mixed use plan for the property. As approved by special town meeting voters, 45 acres of the parcel will be set aside as conservation land in a portion of the community with almost no protected open space. In addition, the property will support a baseball field, soccer field, and six units of affordable housing. The town voted to expend \$1,100,000 in Community Preservation funds toward the project. In addition, three market rate lots – acquired with general municipal funds, approved in an October 2005 ballot question – will also be created and sold to offset the total cost of \$1,758,050. The Stow Conservation Trust will contribute \$100,000 to Stow's Community Preservation Fund, to be used for this project.

In November of 2005, the Committee sponsored a Public Meeting on its affordable housing deed restriction program. The Committee presented an overview of this first-in-the-Commonwealth program and reviewed related documents; including a draft of the contractual guarantee (deed restriction). In this affordable housing program, the Town will purchase deed restrictions on existing housing units in Stow, ensuring that the unit remains functionally affordable in perpetuity. To be affordable; housing units, when they are sold, must be sold to individuals or families who earn less than 80% of the median household income for this area. The Committee welcomed questions and input from the attendees. Currently a consultant hired by the Committee is working to finalize program framework and related documentation requested by the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

The Committee looks forward to implementing additional community preservation projects selected by Town Meeting voters in the years to come. The prospects for continued substantial

state matching funds look very promising. Stow voters are to be commended for deciding four years ago to be one of first of the 103 communities in Massachusetts that are accruing the many and varied benefits of local adoption of the Community Preservation Act.

In June of 2005 the Committee hired Deb Seith to provide administrative support and is grateful for her assistance. The Committee also extends its thanks to the Assessors' Office, Town Accountant, and others who have, and will continue to have, an increased workload as a result of the Town's acceptance of the Community Preservation Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Wilber, Open Space, Chairman
David Walrath, Finance, Vice Chairman
Laura Spear, Planning Board
Kathy Sferra, Conservation Commission
Karen Gray, Historical Society
George Dargaty, Council on Aging
Corinne Green, Recreation Commission
JT Toole, Housing Authority

John Bolton, Assessors Office
Jim Sauta, Council on Aging, Associate
Margie Lynch, Housing Partnership,
Associate
Bill Maxfield, Open Space, Associate
Bruce Fletcher, Planning Board, Associate
Pat Perry, Conservation, Associate
Deb Seith, Administrative Assistant

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

The Stow Board of Selectman created the Housing Partnership in 2005. The partnership's initial charter included the responsibility of developing an affordable housing action plan for the Town; the task of reviewing and negotiating with developers on housing proposals prior to their formal submission to Town boards; the identification of local, state, and federal resources to further housing development; and to increase public awareness of Stow's housing needs. It is our goal to advise town boards and committees on ways to create both affordable housing and a broader mix of housing than currently exists.

The June 28th, 2005 Board of Selectman meeting appointed the first five members and the final two members were appointed at subsequent selectmen meetings.

Since our inception we have been meeting regularly, twice a month, and have:

- reviewed the current housing inventory in Stow and examined it's affordability
- worked on drafting a housing position statement, this is work in progress
- met with CHAPA and Mass Housing Partnership members to discuss affordable housing strategy
- reviewed MGL. 40B, 40R, 40S, Stow Comprehensive Permit Policy and other relevant laws
- participated in the working group reviewing the Cushing and Minuteman Chapter-61 properties
- met with the developers of Villages at Stow, a 40B development that will create 26 affordable housing units, the first ones created in the last twelve years, reviewed project, suggested revisions to their affordable unit marketing plan
- inventoried land owned by the town that may be appropriate for the creation of affordable housing

In 2006 we will complete much of the work that we have started and will begin an effort to inform the citizens of Stow on the status of the current housing inventory. We will work to create

ways to allow for the creation of a broader mix of housing that will better meet the income, size and style demands of our diverse community.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Bachtell, Chairman
Bob Billups
Greg Jones
Mike Kopczynski

Margie Lynch
Suzanne Morin
Trish Settles

MUNICIPAL LAND USE COMMITTEE

In February 2005, the Board of Selectmen agreed at a Joint Boards meeting to create a Municipal Land Use Committee. The Committee has been asked to prepare a plan for the land and building space needs of the various departments and boards in Stow, details regarding the proposed use of the land and/or space, a timeline for when such land/space is needed, and the amount, type and location of needed land/space.

The Committee prepared and distributed a land use survey this past fall to more than 30 public and charitable entities with an interest in land or building space in the town. Over the course of 2006, the Committee will be reviewing the responses and preparing recommendations for the Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Lynch, Chairman, Housing
Partnership
Donna Jacobs, Vice Chair, Master Plan
Mike Busch, Recreation
Jack Clayton, Public Safety

George Dargaty, Council on Aging
Jean Lynch, Capital Planning
Bill Maxfield, Open Space
Ross Perry, Board of Selectmen
Ellen Sturgis, Nashoba Regional

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Introduction

One of the duties of the Finance Committee is give the people of the town a clear picture of the financial condition of the town with some commentary about how we got in that condition. There are four major influences on Stow's finances:

Undiversified Tax Base

Stow's tax base is almost completely undiversified. Over 90% of the tax base is residential and this percentage is growing. Industrial, commercial and personal property tax revenues are miniscule.

Tax Exemptions and Abatements

Over 50% of Stow's potentially taxable property is exempted or abated (e.g. town owned conservation land, Chapter 61 land, etc.) and this trend is increasing.

Low State Aid

Stow's residential property tax is approximately 85% of our annual revenue total and it will be difficult to either significantly increase other revenue sources (e.g. local state aid and local receipts) or to create new revenue sources.

Expenses Exceed Revenue

Stow's annual operating expenses have exceeded the Town's revenues for the last 3 years requiring general override elections. This trend will continue with our 2 single largest department budgets (Nashoba and Minuteman) increasing the most on an annual basis.

These are long term trends and the Finance Committee believes that this situation is unlikely to change in the near future. The implication of these trends is that in recent years Stow has had to limit spending, pass overrides and/or dip into savings in order to balance the budget. The results of our financial analysis suggest that if average spending increases continue, Stow will need overrides for the next several years to balance the budget. We do not have enough savings to balance the budget without overrides or spending limits. The town's savings level has decreased from almost \$1.5 million in 2002 to less than \$800,000 at the beginning of FY06.

This is obviously not sustainable in the long run. There are really only two ways to address this issue—increase income or decrease expenses. Increased state aid is unlikely in the near future, and these dollars are really out of our control. Our other choice is to try to keep a very tight rein on spending. The Finance Committee has developed a model to determine growth rates that could balance our budget without overrides. For example, with our current assumptions one combination of "no-override" growth rates for the municipal, Nashoba, and Minuteman budgets would be 5%, 5% and 10% respectively.

As a general rule, the Finance Committee feels strongly that the Town should and can operate within its means. Clearly, in order to live within our means (without overrides), we will have to establish and fund our priorities very carefully, so as to moderate the growth of spending.

Town Meetings

Stow held three town meetings in 2005. The first was the annual town meeting in May. The town meeting approved the annual budget, various capital items, which included a pumper truck and

rescue truck for the fire department, and several changes to the town charter. Following the annual town meeting, the voters approved an override of \$350,000.

Stow held a special town meeting in October. The town meeting approved the Community Preservation Committee's proposal to acquire the Cushing property. The Finance Committee supported this proposal. The town meeting also approved the Salary Survey Study Committee's proposal to raise the salaries of various town employees so as to align those salaries with the salaries of those people who have similar responsibilities in other towns. The Finance Committee supported this proposal.

Stow held another special town meeting in December. The town meeting approved the purchase of a two classroom modular unit for the Pompositticut School. The Finance Committee supported this proposal. The town meeting did not approve either the purchase of the Minute Man property or the purchase of preK-5 Elementary School design plans. The Finance Committee supported both proposals. The town meeting did not approve a proposal for improvements and construction at existing school sites. The Finance Committee did not support this proposal.

School Budgets

The Nashoba Regional School District continues to represent Stow's largest budget category, 58.9% of total spending (including debt) in FY05 (\$10,127,918/\$17,201,355). The School Committee requested a budget of \$34,494,663 for FY06, and this budget was approved by Town Meetings in all three district towns. Eliminating debt expense of \$925,684 (H.S. Building project and Deficit Bond) left an operations budget of \$33,568,979. This represented an increase of \$2,163,277, or 6.88%, over last fiscal year's operations budget of \$31,405,702.

The district used \$240,000 from its reserve account (generated largely by under spending in previous fiscal years) as FY06 revenue, an increase from the \$150,000 used from this account in FY05. Despite this increase, the NRSD has been able to build their reserves, a fact that the Finance Committee considers very prudent. At the end of FY05, the NRSD had approximately \$900,000 in their Excess & Deficiency (E&D) Account (an account similar to the town's Free Cash). This represents an increase over the balance left after the prior fiscal year of \$840,874.

In September 2005, the NRSD reduced FY06 assessments by returning to the district towns the amount that actual state aid to schools for FY06 exceeded the amount in the budget. Stow's assessment reduction was \$58,192, bringing the total assessment for FY06 down to \$10,848,015 (\$10,906,207 - \$58,192), an increase of \$720,097 or 7.1% over the previous fiscal year (\$10,127,918 + \$720,097 = \$10,848,015).

The Finance Committee remains encouraged at the financial steps the district has taken since the financial troubles of FY03, particularly in the significant increase in E&D. The E&D account can be used for emergency expenses as well as to mitigate future years' budget increases. The Finance Committee and other town officials also receive timely, accurate financial reporting from the district.

For Minuteman Tech, the Town's assessment for FY06 was \$987,068, an increase of 7.26% over the prior fiscal year's assessment of \$920,276.

Table 1: Stow's Share of School Budgets					
	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	% Change FY05-FY06
NRSD (incl. debt)	\$8,730,892	\$9,831,106	\$10,127,918	\$10,848,015	7.1
Minuteman	\$794,130	\$839,901	\$920,276	\$987,068	7.26
TOTAL	\$9,525,022	\$10,671,007	\$11,048,194	\$11,835,083	7.12

Town Expenditures

Total Stow expenditures increased 9.3% in FY06. These expenditures can be divided into two large groups: Municipal Government, which increased 3.8% and Education which increased 7.1%. Table 2 shows a comparison of total Stow expenditures for FY05 and FY06.

The growth in total Municipal Government was a modest 3.8%. The largest line items, Public Safety and Debt Service grew by 2.8 and 1.2% respectively. Special Articles decreased by 25%. We would like to emphasize that although Debt Service barely increased in FY06; it remains a significant part of the town's total expenditures at 6.9% of the total budget.

Table 2: Town Expenditures						
	FY05	FY05	FY06	FY06	\$ Change	% Change
	Voted	% of Total	Voted	% of Total	FY05-FY06	FY05-FY06
Municipal Govt						
General	663,428	3.9%	725,190	3.9	61,762	9.3%
Public Safety	1,594,073	9.3%	1,638,492	8.7	44,419	2.8%
Public Works	676,811	3.9%	761,198	4.0	84,387	12.5%
Human Services	170,434	1.0%	194,894	1.0	24,460	14.4%
Library & Recreation	218,548	1.3%	231,097	1.2	12,549	5.7%
Town Wide Expense	587,530	3.4%	647,054	3.4	59,524	10.1%
Special Articles	526,900	3.1%	393,131	2.1	-133,769	-25.4%
Recap Items	436,344	2.5%	503,862	2.7	67,518	15.5%
Debt Service	1,279,093	7.4%	1,294,683	6.9	15,590	1.2%
Total Municipal Govt	\$6,153,161	35.8%	6,389,601	34.0	236,440	3.8%
Education	\$ 11,048,194	64.2%	11,835,084	63.0	786,890	7.1%
Grand Total	\$17,201,355		18,795,314		1,593,959	9.3%

Source: Town Administrator, Budget Report, Annual Town Meeting

--- Departmental operating budgets include wages and expenses.

Town Revenues

Town Revenue increased 9.3% in FY06. Table 3 shows a comparison of revenue sources for FY05 and FY06. Property Tax, the largest source of town revenue, increased 7.9% in FY06. State Aid increased 7.9% in FY06. Local receipts increased 3.3% in FY06. Local receipts include excise tax, investment income, and fines collected by various departments.

Table 3: Revenue Sources						
	FY05 Voted	FY05 % of Total	FY06 Voted	FY06 % of Total	\$ Change FY05-FY06	% Change FY05-FY06
Property Tax	14,745,947	85.7%	15,912,029	84.6%	1,166,082	7.9%
State Aid	733,990	4.3%	791,811	4.2%	57,821	7.9%
Local Receipts	1,411,411	8.2%	1,458,100	7.8%	46,689	3.3%
Savings	287,667	1.7%	233,262	1.2%	-54,405	-18.9%
Override	250,000	1.5%	350,000	1.9%	100,000	40%
Other	22,340	0.1%	405,838	0.3%	33,498	149.9%
Total	17,201,355		18,801,040		1,599,685	9.3%

Source: Town Administrator, Budget Report, Annual Town Meeting

Town Savings

Town Savings increased \$147,715 or 23% in FY06. The percentage figure may be misleading because it was a small increase on a very small base. Town Savings are “rainy day” accounts that are built up during good times and drawn down in bad times. Town Savings is a key determinant of the town credit rating and the credit rating will affect the rate the town would pay should it decide to borrow money for some future use. There are two major Town Savings accounts: Free Cash and Stabilization Fund. Table 4 shows the status of our Stored Assets.

Free cash is unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year. It is certified by calendar year end 12/31. These funds are not considered to be a “luxury” and while the fund is available for appropriation it should be maintained as a balance to unforeseen expenditures. For the past several years, the town has used free cash to fund operating expenses, a practice which the Finance Committee considers imprudent.

The Stabilization Fund is designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes. A two-thirds vote of town meeting is required to appropriate funds to deposit into the stabilization fund.

Town Savings is about 4.2% of Stow’s total budget (\$796,876 / \$18,801,040). The Finance Committee would recommend that Town Savings be in the range of 5 to 10%. This would require an increase of between \$143,000 and \$1,083,000 in total savings amounts.

Table 4: Town Savings					\$ Change	% Change
	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY05-FY06	FY05-FY06
Free Cash	\$290,647	\$651,578	\$478,754	\$573,586	\$94,832	20%
Stabilization Fund	\$479,497	\$435,841	\$170,407	\$223,290	\$52,883	31%
Total	\$770,144	\$1,087,419	\$649,161	\$796,876	\$147,715	23%

*Balances at start of fiscal year (July 1)

Effect on Property Taxes

The average (mean) valuation of a single family house in Stow is \$457,435. The median valuation of a single family house is \$434,100. Over the past 5 years the average tax bill has increased 26%. The effect of changes to the budget on your tax bill is shown in Table 5:

Table 5: Effect on Property Taxes						% Change
	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY05- FY06
Tax Rate (per \$1,000 of Valuation)	\$14.70	\$14.48	\$14.64	\$14.36	\$14.04	-2.2%
Average Single Family Valuation	\$346,305	\$365,842	\$388,311	\$423,000	\$457,435	8.1%
Average Single Family Tax Bill	\$5,091	\$5,297	\$5,685	\$6,074	\$6,422	5.7%

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Robart, Chairman
Pam Glauner
Patti Heron
Charles Kern
David Walrath
Gary Bernklow, Associate

Henry Hagopian, Associate
Steve Pottle, Associate
Jim Salvie, Associate

Elizabeth Tobey, Administrative Assistant

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Capital Planning Committee is charged by Charter with consideration and recommendations of any request by a Town department of \$10,000 or more with a useful life of three years or more, as well as all land purchases.

For fiscal year 2006 Annual Town Meeting in May, the Committee considered capital requests for the following:

Article 34-1	Mower and Equipment for Cemetery Dept	\$13,445
Article 34-2	Pumper Truck and Rescue Truck for Fire Dept	\$350,000
Article 34-3	Pickup Truck for the Board of Health	\$20,000
Article 34-4	Dump Truck/Sander for Highway Dept	\$55,000
Article 34-5	Cruiser for Police Dept	\$29,000
Article 34-6	Painting of the Police Station	\$15,000
Article 34-7	Traffic Signal Improvement	\$15,580
Article 34-8	Library Roof Repair	\$14,000
Article 34-9	Hale Roof Repair	\$15,000
Article 34-10	Hale Door and Handle Replacement	\$12,000
Article 34-11	Pompo Bathroom Partition Replacement	\$13,000
Article 34-12	Pompo Water Tank Replacement	\$15,000
Article 34-13	Center Exterior Painting	\$20,000
Article 34-14	Center New Gym Roof	\$75,000

Capital Planning voted to support the passage of all requests. However, there was no action taken on Articles 34-7, 34-9, 34-11, 34-12, 34-13, and 34-14.

At the October 24, 2005 Special Town Meeting, the Committee voted to support the purchase of the Cushing property. We felt the mixed use proposed for the property would be beneficial to the Town.

At the December 15, 2005 Special Town Meeting the Committee faced several issues.

Article 1	Two Classroom Modular Unit	\$260,000
Article 2	Minuteman Property	\$4.23 mil
Article 3	Development of School Designs	\$2.03 mil
Article 4	Add/Reno at Existing Schools	\$10 mil
Article 5	Purchase of Crescent Street Property	\$255,000

The Committee voted unanimously to support Article 1; the majority voted not to support Articles 2 and 3; the majority voted to support Article 4; and unanimously voted not to support Article 5.

Arch Owen was unable to continue as a member of Capital Planning, and we miss his insight and computer skills! On a sadder note, our good friend and colleague Ed Merrick died suddenly in August. We miss his experience, common sense, good humor, and mostly his friendship.

We have struggled through the fall to fill our vacant seats. At this writing we have a full slate of great folks. We would like to have at least two associates. Please join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Lynch, Chair, Moderator's Appointee
Davis Arsenault, Moderator's Appointee
Kathleen Farrell, Finance Appointee

Steve Jelinek, Moderator's Appointee
Carole Makary, Selectmen's Appointee

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The real estate market continued to rise, leading to higher assessed values for residential and commercial property. The total assessed value for FY2006 is \$1,133,335,400, up from \$1,026,876,500 in FY2005 and representing a 10.4% increase overall. Existing property increased by 6.5% on average, with the remaining part of the overall increase accounted for by new growth. New growth amounted to almost \$42,000,000 of assessed value, and in tax dollars, was \$602,743, the largest new growth figure ever seen in Stow. Another portion of the overall increase is due to increasing land values in all sectors.

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR), every three years, certifies that property assessments are uniform throughout town and are representative of the real estate market (next year, FY07, will be a certification year). During the two years between, Stow has been adjusting values to maintain market value. These interim adjustments are now mandatory throughout the state, leading to more equitable comparative valuations between towns.

As taxes continue to increase, the senior population can be especially vulnerable. The Assessors would like to remind senior citizens that the 41C tax exemption of \$1000 is available for those over the age of 65 with limited income and assets. A notebook at the Assessors' window contains information on the details of the various exemptions, deferrals, and other programs designed to help with taxes. Do not hesitate to check to see whether you qualify.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge system continues to be administered by the Assessors' office. The total CPA surcharge raised during FY2005 was \$331,283 with matching funds received in September. Exemptions from the surcharge are available for certain income brackets. Check with the Assessors' office for more information.

The composition of the Board is unchanged this year. Jack Smith was re-elected to the position he has held for many years. From time to time, you may see one of two sub-contractors collecting data on property in Stow. We hope you will allow these representatives of the Assessors' office to do their job. Our property assessments are only as good as our data.

The Board of Assessors encourages taxpayers to ask any questions or discuss any matter that might help them better understand their assessments. The staff in the Assessors' office is available every day to assist the public.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Bolton, Chairman

John E. Smith

Walter L. Schwall

Dotty Wilbur, Principal Assessor

Louise Nejad, Assistant Assessor

**ASSESSORS'REPORT
FISCAL 2006 TAX RATE RECAPITULATION**

TAX RATE SUMMARY

A.	Total Amount to be Raised	\$19,820,190.02
B.	Total Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue	\$ 3,908,161.00
C.	Tax Levy	\$15,912,029.02

Distribution of Tax Rates & Levies

CLASS	LEVY PERCENTAGE	LEVY BY CLASS	VALUATION BY CLASS	TAX RATES
Residential	91.8959%	\$14,622,511.18	\$1,041,489,400	\$14.04
Open Space	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Commercial	4.5337%	721,397.66	51,381,600	\$14.04
Industrial	2.2419%	356,728.32	25,408,000	\$14.04
Personal	1.3285%	211,391.86	15,056,400	\$14.04
<hr/>				
TOTAL	100%	\$15,912,029.02	\$1,133,335,400	

GLOSSARY OF FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

General Fund: Used to account for most financial resources and activities governed by the normal Town Meeting appropriation process, unless required to be accounted for in one or more other funds.

Special Revenue Funds: Used to account for all financial transactions related to special revenue funds not recognized separately as another fund. These include Gifts and Donations, Highway Improvement, Federal and State Grants, Revolving Funds, Receipts Reserved for Appropriation (i.e. Community Preservation) and Outside Consultants.

Capital Project Funds: Used to account for the financial resources related to the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities. These include the Police Station and School Projects.

Enterprise Fund: Used to account for the portion of total costs of a service that is recovered through user charges. Enables the Town to reserve the “surplus” or retained earnings generated by the operation rather than closing it out to the general fund at year-end.

Trust Funds: Used to account for trusts whose principal may or may not be expended. These include Town, School and Library Trusts in the custody of the Treasurer or Trustees.

Agency Funds: Used to account for all financial transactions related to those funds that are custodial in nature. These include Performance Bonds and Police Outside Duty.

General Long-Term Debt Account Group: Used to account for all financial transactions related to long-term liabilities not accounted for in another fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	FY 2004	FY 2005	% Change
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE (TREASURER):	2,394,097	3,276,776	36.9%
RECEIPTS:			
Property Tax	13,733,313	14,637,989	6.6%
Community Preservation Surcharge	302,614	330,980	9.4%
Motor Vehicle & Other Taxes	985,684	1,115,658	13.2%
Tax Titles & Deferrals	85,452	22,608	-73.5%
Transfers from Trust Funds	275,056	14,042	-94.9%
Department & Misc Revenue	902,127	939,057	4.1%
State Aid & Grants	761,551	891,045	17.0%
Interest on Investments	31,436	58,369	85.7%
Offset Payroll Deductions	848,764	885,854	4.4%
Bond/Note Receipts	900,000	1,035,000	15.0%
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	18,825,997	19,930,602	5.9%

EXPENDITURES:			
Payroll	2,828,084	2,926,915	3.5%
Vendor	3,108,209	4,272,024	37.4%
School District Assessments	10,327,978	10,701,699	3.6%
Retirement Assessment	247,561	278,060	12.3%
Debt Payments	1,429,676	1,488,786	4.1%
Transfer to Trust Funds	1,810	5,950	228.7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	17,943,318	19,673,434	9.6%

ENDING CASH BALANCE (TREASURER):	3,276,776	3,533,944	7.8%
YEAR END ACCRUALS:	537,277	507,005	-5.6%
ENDING CASH BALANCE (TOWN ACCOUNTANT):	3,814,053	4,040,949	5.9%
TREASURER HELD TRUST FUNDS:	469,742	464,555	-1.1%
YEAR END TOTAL CASH BALANCE:	4,283,795	4,505,504	5.2%

Prepared by Pamela Landry, Treasurer-Collector

TOWN OF STOW
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN FUND EQUITY
STATE GRANTS & REVOLVING FUNDS
June 30, 2005

	Beginning Fund Equity	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Fund Equity
STATE GRANTS:				
Public Safety	\$ 19,481	\$ 32,883	\$ 27,047	\$ 25,317
Education Grant	2,469	-	-	2,469
Culture & Recreation	1,645	2,005	2,014	1,636
Council on Aging	-	4,083	4,083	-
Library	5,342	8,848	11,426	2,765
Other Grants	<u>434</u>	<u>7,220</u>	<u>7,645</u>	<u>9</u>
TOTAL STATE GRANTS:	\$ 29,371	\$ 55,039	\$ 52,214	\$ 32,195
REVOLVING FUNDS:				
Recreation	\$ 12,018	\$ 88,981	\$ 96,640	\$ 4,359
Inspectors	9,485	31,897	31,897	9,485
Ambulances Services	<u>-</u>	<u>6,504</u>	<u>6,504</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL REVOLVING FUNDS:	\$ 21,503	\$ 127,382	\$ 135,041	\$ 13,844

Prepared by:
Jacquelyn Cronin
Town Accountant
February 16, 2006

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT FY 2005

Tax & Levy Year	Tax Outstanding as of 7/1/04	New Commitments	Amount Collected	Exemptions & Abatements	Refunds	Tax Takings & Deferrals	Tax Outstanding as of 6/30/05
2005 Real Estate	\$0.00	\$14,584,444.55	\$14,380,066.96	\$60,007.53	\$33,102.96	\$30,305.23	\$147,167.79
2004 & Prior Real Estate	\$88,730.11	\$25,541.33	\$82,601.31	\$13,234.26	\$71.20	\$18,507.07	\$0.00
2005 Supplemental RE Tax	\$0.00	\$153,190.53	\$131,754.40	\$228.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,207.80
2004 Supplemental RE Tax	\$18,353.49	\$0.00	\$18,353.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chapter 61 Rollback Tax	\$0.00	\$69,647.70	\$65,884.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,763.44
2005 Comm Pres Act	\$0.00	\$340,265.88	\$328,249.66	\$8,981.98	\$704.26	\$382.93	\$3,355.57
2004 Comm Pres Act	\$2,299.96	\$0.00	\$1,976.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$323.23	\$0.00
2005 Personal Property	\$0.00	\$172,569.89	\$172,646.15	\$301.56	\$1,464.20	\$0.00	\$1,086.38
2004 Personal Property	\$4,274.52	\$673.21	\$2,674.92	\$1,340.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$932.70
2005 Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$750,569.97	\$672,019.98	\$17,190.14	\$3,481.07	\$0.00	\$64,840.92
2004 Motor Vehicle	\$72,448.50	\$156,065.84	\$214,379.71	\$9,978.50	\$3,822.64	\$0.00	\$7,978.77
2003 Motor Vehicle	\$6,370.99	\$5,133.36	\$7,765.95	\$1,354.18	\$582.25	\$0.00	\$2,966.47
2002 Motor Vehicle	\$3,429.80	\$0.00	\$599.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,830.01
2001 & Prior Motor Vehicle	\$7,421.54	\$10.00	\$1,272.92	\$1,442.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,715.99
Farm & Forest Excise Tax	\$70.00	\$3,555.30	\$3,625.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:	\$203,398.91	\$16,261,667.56	\$16,083,871.53	\$114,059.22	\$43,228.58	\$49,518.46	\$260,845.84
Interest & Fees Collected:			\$38,401.99				
Total Collected:			\$16,122,273.52				

Prepared by: Pamela Landry
Treasurer-Collector

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET (Unaudited)
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
June 30, 2005

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds		General Long-Term Debt Account Group	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Project Funds	Trust And Agency Funds			
Assets							
Cash and Interest Bearing Deposits	\$ 1,748,153	\$ 1,660,989	\$ 247,440	\$ 848,922	\$ -	\$ 4,505,504	
Cash and Investments Held by Trustees				767,935		767,935	
Receivables:							
Real Estate Taxes	147,168					147,168	
Personal Property Taxes	2,019					2,019	
Less Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions	(40,803)					(40,803)	
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	83,332					83,332	
Tax Liens	99,759	984				100,743	
Rollback Taxes Receivable	3,763					3,763	
Deferred Real Estate Taxes	34,523					34,523	
Supplemental Taxes	21,208					21,208	
Tax Foreclosures	65,873					65,873	
Ambulance	67,728					67,728	
CPA Surcharge		3,356				3,356	
Other	9,509	19,685				29,194	
Due From Other Funds	10,263	411,068	233,286			654,617	
Due From Other Governments	18,288	172,453	2,000			192,741	
Amount to be Provided for Notes and Bonds Payable							
Total Assets					10,640,000	10,640,000	
	\$ 2,270,783	\$ 2,268,535	\$ 482,726	\$ 1,616,857	\$ 10,640,000	\$ 17,278,901	
Prepared by: Jacquelyn Cronin Town Accountant							

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET (Unaudited)
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
June 30, 2005

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds		General Long-Term Debt Account Group	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Project Funds	Trust And Agency Funds			
Liabilities and Fund Equity							
Liabilities							
Warrants Payable	\$ 63,693	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,693
Accounts Payable	12,317						12,317
Accrued Payroll	58,621						58,621
Amounts Withheld from Employees and Other Liabilities	48,703	100		375,951			424,754
Due to Other Funds	644,354	370		9,893			654,617
Deferred Revenue:							
Personal Property and Real Estate Taxes	108,384						108,384
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	83,332						83,332
Tax Liens	99,759	984					100,743
Rollback Taxes	3,763						3,763
Deferred Real Estate Taxes	34,523						34,523
Supplemental Taxes	21,208						21,208
Tax Foreclosures	65,873						65,873
Ambulance	62,678						62,678
CPA Surcharge		3,356					3,356
Other		156,433					156,433
Bonds Payable			825,000			10,640,000	11,465,000
Total Liabilities	1,307,208	161,243	825,000	385,844		10,640,000	13,319,295
Fund Equity							
Retained Earnings (Deficit)		(370)	(424,032)				(424,402)
Reserved for Expenditure	50,000	1,165,404	81,758				1,297,162
Reserved for Appropriation		928,414					928,414
Reserved for Encumbrances	385,876						385,876
Reserved for Endowment		13,844		306,752			306,752
Designated for Revolving Funds							
Undesignated	527,699			924,261			1,451,960
Total Fund Equity	963,575	2,107,292	(342,274)	1,231,013			3,959,606
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	\$ 2,270,783	\$ 2,268,535	\$ 482,726	\$ 1,616,857	\$ 10,640,000	\$ 10,640,000	\$ 17,278,901

Prepared by: Jacquelyn Cronin
Town Accountant

TRUST FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

The following Town trust funds were managed by Morgan Stanley of Boston, Massachusetts and were invested as follows:
Government Money Market Fund (21%), Equities (9%), Certificates of Deposit (56%), and Mutual Funds (14%).

Stabilization Fund	Beginning Balance 7/1/2004	\$170,406.99	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Receipts	\$0.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$1,062.15	\$171,469.14
	Ending Balance 6/30/2005		
Conservation Fund	Beginning Balance 7/1/2004	\$50,323.25	
	Disbursements	(\$921.44)	
	Receipts - Article 12 of 5/2004	\$700.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$313.18	\$50,414.99
	Ending Balance 6/30/2005		
Town Farm	Unexpendable Original Deposit		\$8,751.96
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2004	\$28,076.36	
	Investment Earnings	\$229.55	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2005		\$28,305.91
Cemetery Perpetual Care Non-Expendable	Beginning Balance 7/1/2004	\$86,795.00	
	Receipts	\$4,350.00	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2005		\$91,145.00
Expendable	Beginning Balance 7/1/2004	\$28,558.35	
	Disbursements	(\$4,209.39)	
	Investment Earnings	\$715.90	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2005		\$25,064.86

TRUST FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

The following Town trust funds were managed by Morgan Stanley of Boston, Massachusetts and were invested as follows:

Mabel Hale	Unexpendable Bequest		\$35,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2004	\$11,999.87	
	Disbursements	(\$7,669.96)	
	Investment Earnings	\$273.20	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2005		\$4,603.11
Cyrus H. Whitney Central Common Fund	Unexpendable Bequest		\$1,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2004	\$242.71	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$7.74	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2005		\$250.45
James F. Whitney Central Common Fund	Unexpendable Bequest		\$2,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2004	\$524.14	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$15.74	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2005		\$539.88
Martha G. Whitney Street Light Fund	Unexpendable Bequest		\$1,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2004	\$4,646.82	
	Disbursements	(\$115.07)	
	Investment Earnings	\$34.86	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2005		\$4,566.61

TRUST FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

The following Town trust funds were managed by Morgan Stanley of Boston, Massachusetts and were invested as follows:

Mabel Hallock - Brookside Cemetery	Unexpendable Bequest		\$2,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2004	\$4,623.35	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$41.28	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2005		\$4,664.63
Mabel Hallock - Common Memorial & Flag	Unexpendable Bequest		\$1,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2004	\$1,610.22	
	Disbursements	(225.00)	
	Investment Earnings	\$15.73	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2005		\$1,400.95
Otto & Aina Stein Fund	Unexpendable Bequest		\$18,810.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2004	\$12,373.54	
	Disbursements	\$0.00 .	
	Investment Earnings	\$194.37	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2005		\$12,567.91
TOTAL TRUST FUND BALANCE:			\$ 464,555.40

Prepared by: Pamela Landry, Treasurer-Collector

RANDALL FUNDS

RANDALL RELIEF FUND

Balance January 1, 2005	\$ 60,226.72
Interest received	907.53
Contributions Received	0
Repayments Received	0
Payments	(2,000.00)
	<hr/>
Balance December 31, 2005 (Citizens Bank Insured Money Market Account)	\$ 59,134.25

RANDALL TOWN FUND

Balance January 1, 2005	\$ 20,000.00
Interest earned in 2005	491.41
Payment to Town Treasurer (includes other interest)	(927.84)
Balance December 31, 2005 (Citizens Bank 2-year Certificate of Deposit)	\$ 20,000.00

Respectfully submitted,
Louise E. Peacock

Jeffrey D. Smith
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen, Treasurer

HALE HIGH SCHOOL FUND AND PORTFOLIO
Income/Expense 7/1/03 – 6/30/04

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Dividends	\$ 3,704.46	Randall Library	\$ 12,000.00
Bond Interest	13,331.26	Hudson Savings Bank	
Mutual Fund Income	420.20	Management Services	2,655.19
Total Income	\$ 17,455.92	Total Expense	\$14,655.19

Portfolio Holdings
Number of shares as of 6/30/04

Security Description	Held	Market Value	Percent of Portfolio
Exxon Corp	1728	\$76,740.48	
General Electric Co.	1440	\$46,656.00	
SBC Communications Inc.	589	\$14,283.25	
Wright Major Blue Chip Fund	1122,930	\$12,071.50	
Wright Select Blue Chip Fund	1471,509	\$18,379.15	
Wright Int'l Blue Chip Fund	1051,913	\$13,790.58	
EQUITIES:		\$181,920.96	44%
Wright USG Near Term Fund	1485,277	\$14,897.33	
Ford Motor Credit			
6.125% Due 1/9/06	65,000	\$67,242.50	
Accrued Interest		\$3,842.50	
Household Fin Co			
6.5% Due 11/15/08	40,000	\$43,216.00	
Lehman Brothers			
7.75% 1/15/05	45,000	\$46,314.00	
U.S. Treasury Notes			
7.250% due 8/14/04	45,000	\$45,337.50	

Security Description	Held	Market Value	Percent of Portfolio
Accrued Interest		\$1,227.92	
BONDS:		\$222,077.75	54%
Federated U.S. Treasury			
Cash Money Market Fund		\$8,757.16	
CASH AND EQUIVALENTS		\$8,757.16	2%
*****GRAND TOTAL *****		\$412,755.87	100%

Respectfully submitted,

Ray S. Frost
Wayne A. Fletcher

Linda E. Hathaway
Jeffrey D. Smith
Robert F. Derby

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

It is with great pleasure that I report to you a number of significant events for 2005. Our most significant by far was having one of our own recognized as Massachusetts' Teacher of the Year. Suzanne Wintle, a third grade teacher at the Florence Sawyer Elementary School was nominated by her principal, Ken Tucker, and in typical fashion she modestly agreed to see the process through. She was notified in June of her selection after a grueling three months of interviews, site visits and presentations. Hers is but one face of the many talented teachers and paraprofessionals who deserve this type of recognition, and of course we are very proud of her selection.

Difficult to top but just as eventful are three important areas that highlighted this past year. The first is the recognition of the district's financial stability. Without this stability, our students, families and staff would not want to place their trust in us as an organization. Second, our educational direction has been set by the development of our strategic plan. Work has been done for the past two years by a committee comprised of staff, community members and administrators who have set a course for the future and what a course it is!! And lastly, 2005 came and went with the beginning of a technology revolution. As a result of this, communication software is now available to promote and support communication among parents, students and teachers.

It will be nice when the district's financial crisis in 2002 is but a footnote on a page. Our entire district is committed to making that become a reality. In June 2005 we reached a milestone when the Financial Advisory Board (FAB) voted themselves out of existence, two years in advance of their statutory exit. This was a significant event because they said the district was on the right course, acting in a financially prudent manner and in adopting policies and practices that will continue this course. The School Committee deserves the credit for having the forbearance to pursue common sense approaches to a transparent budget process, checks and balances for budget monitoring, and taking heed to recommendations in the auditor's report on an annual basis. In addition to a strong policy voice, the service of people like John Antonucci, former Assistant Superintendent; Charlotte Noponen, District Treasurer; and Patricia Marone, District Accountant, had the experience and skill to put into practice the fiscal oversight necessary to ensure that there won't be a repeat of the past.

Keeping our financial house in order will always be important, but setting the direction and carrying out the necessary steps to keep us focused on our educational mission is really our top priority. This past fall the School Committee adopted its strategic plan with four goals focusing our human and financial resources. These goals and the objective activities being planned will help elevate our district to levels of efficiency we have yet to comprehend. You can see our strategic plan in its entirety on our website (www.nrsd.net).

Within all of what we do, there is a common element that binds us all: communication. The more we communicate and the better we get our message across, the more people know and understand the issues. Our latest initiatives in technology have really begun to foster access and promote the possibilities for better, more timely and more valuable information that will help parents and students understand what it is that is expected, how the learning can be attained and how it will be graded. Two such communication investments the District has made include Connect Ed and Power School. Connect Ed is a telecommunication tool that enables us to contact parents in the event of an emergency, provides for community outreach and dissemination of general information to small group contacts. Power School is student information management software that has the ability to allow parents and students to access student data, monitor progress, and keep current with course syllabi. As I write this report, parents, teachers and administrators are working in committee discussing how to move this initiative forward. Technology is not a

panacea for all that we do, and sometimes it brings on new issues, but both initiatives have great potential for keeping stakeholders in our district well informed on a regular and timely basis.

A third investment is in the restructuring of all of the websites across the district. We have made them easier to read, locate and use information. What is probably most important but you can't see is the way we access them internally. We have made them easier to post information so that teachers, staff and administrators can post at their convenience. This is to ensure that the information there is current and timely. Our model has been nationally recognized by Microsoft in their Showcase School of the Month.

The students in our schools continue to show their commitment to learning by earning high marks on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessments System (MCAS). The District is performing well with 100% of our students passing the tenth grade MCAS and while we have areas we need to improve, we show continued growth for all but one sub group (See our entire report online at www.nrsd.net). The District has a curriculum cycle for reviewing, monitoring and implementing new materials or curricula, and this past year a foreign language task force and a science task force were formed.

Our enrollment in the District continues to grow, up four percent from October 2004. Much of our growth is beginning to show in our high school and in the primary grades in all three towns. In Stow our enrollment at Pompositticut includes 322 children in Kindergarten through second grade; Center has 274 students in grades three, four and five; and Hale has 276 students in grades six through eight. A modular building with two classrooms has been added at the Pompositticut Elementary School and all but one of the amphitheaters is now a classroom. Dr. Ron Larrivee left at the end of June 2005 as Principal of Center and Pompositticut Elementary Schools and the District welcomed Mr. Gregory Irvine in August 2005.

Community service is a big part of what we want our students to understand and value. Many of our students were very involved in raising funds for the American Red Cross to help out victims of Hurricane Katrina; bringing in supplies for animal shelters, raising money for UNICEF and participating in annual recognition of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In addition, the school was awarded two grants from the Alice Eaton Foundation to support continued efforts in Responsive Classroom and Science and Engineering instruction for the intermediate grades. The Fieldstone Foundation was also a donor for an instructional coach in science and engineering. Hale Middle School was the benefactor of a \$25,000 grant award from the Alice Eaton Fund for the revitalization of the softball field.

We did see change at all levels, including the departure of our colleague John Antonucci, who became Superintendent of Schools in Westwood in August. We were very fortunate to hire a fine executive, Mr. George P. King, Jr., the Town Manager for the Town of Framingham, as the next Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Finance. He came on board in December 2005.

In addition to all that is happening in our schools, many of our students have been recognized for their accomplishments.

Nashoba Regional High School Honors Accomplishments for 2005/2006

R. C. Granger has been selected to participate in the Massachusetts Lions Club All State Band

Scott Hogan and Alicia Maloney participated in the All New England Band Festival

Natala Betzig, Ashley Owen, Kelly McCue, Ellen Hartford, Daniel Munger, Collen Mackary, Melissa Babb, Alicia Maloney, and Christina Shea have been selected as participants for the Central District Massachusetts Musicians Educational Association

Wendy's High School Heisman Scholars-Citizen-Athlete Award (NRHS nominees)
Jillian Camilleri John Neal Hagermoser

Commended Students in the National Merit Program
Donald Allison Sarah Case
Francesca Chubb-Confer William Dawson
Kelsey Fly Robert Granger
Katherine Moore Jimmy Qian
Kelly O'Kane

DAR Good Citizen Award – Connor Hogan Burger King Scholar Nominee –
Lindsey Garsik

Toyota Community Scholars Nominee – Natalya Betzig Superintendent's Scholar –
Scott Sacra

Princeton Humanities Symposium Nominee – Donald Allison Comcast Leaders and Achievers
Scholarship Nominee – Lindsey Murray

Prudential Community of Spirit for Outstanding Community Volunteerism – Kelly O'Kane

Boston Globe Scholastic Art nominations- Joya Smith(portfolio), Emily Coppenrath, Peter Morse, Sam Ewing, Laura Balducci, Sean McCarthy, Hannah Daman, Kristen Caviston, Scott Traylor, Emily Schwarzkopf

Nominated for Art All-State – Tracey Butler and Bethany Slade

Worcester Telegram First team all-star for football- Zach Blanchflower

I am very pleased to share this annual report with the citizens of Stow. Nashoba Regional School District continues to serve the citizens of Stow with distinction and honor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L. Wood, Superintendent
Brian Burke, Stow Representative

Ellen Sturgis, Stow Representative
Christine Way, Stow Representative

**NASHOBA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2005**

A			Kristen	Lee	Carville
Lauren	Nicole	Abele	Jessica	Lindsay	Carwile
Hussain	Woodcome	Aldouri	Richard	James	Cataldo
Ryan	Joseph	Aldrich	Paul	Emmanuel	Charles
Hunter	Richard	Amabile	Allan	Denny	Cherichel
Jonathan	Eric	Anapol	Lauren	Marie	Clark *
Liam	James	Aylward *	Sean	Michael	Collier
Amanda	Jane	Ayres *	Jesse	Thomas	Conklin
B			Michael	John	Cook
Anna	Elizabeth	Baccei	James	Michael	Cost
Kristiina	Helena	Baker	Andre	Lourenco	Costa
Eli	Thomas	Baldwin *	Teagan	Heart	Costello
Christopher	Hilton	Balin	Noelle	Barrett	Cross
Cassandra	Leigh	Bates	Shayna	Renee	Cummings *
Sarah	Elizabeth	Batsford	Danielle	Leigh	Curll
Andrew	Dennis	Bawn *	D		
Ross	Alan	Beyeler *	John	Joseph Burke	Davey
Samantha	Marie	Birse	Rebekah	Ilene	Dawson
Cody	Tabor	Blair	Daniel	Bryan	Day
Robert	Elmore	Blanton Jr. *	Joshua	Albert	DeBenedetto *
Timothy	Nathan	Bolton	Jewel	Anne	Della Valle
Bradford	Ray	Bonazzoli	Jonathan	Richard	deMello
Neil	Patrick	Bonner	Alison	Elizabeth	DeMers
Laura	Ann	Bower *	Cable	Alexander	Dill
Joanna	Mae	Brench	Gregory	Ryan	Dragonetti
Kenton	Earl	Brister	Kyle	Sullivan	Dudley
Katie	Marie	Brooks *	Jeremy	Paul	Dusseault
Adam	Jay	Buchinski	E		
Patrick	Ryan	Burgwinkle *	Cassandra	Marie	Ela *
C			Christina	Marie	Evans
Carol	Elizabeth	Caines	F		
Lauren	Elizabeth	Caissie	Patrick	Joseph	Farragher
Jenny	Leigh	Caless	Owen	James	Fenwick
Ryan	James	Camacho	Timothy	Patrick	Ferrante
Ryan	Christopher	Carroll	Lauren	Marie	Ferrechio *

Christopher	Hale	Fleming	Melissa	Renee	Lauffer *
Derek	Vincent	Flores	Sarah	Noelle	Lelievre
Douglas	Charles	Frazer	Justin	Robert	Leonardi
Kathleen	Elizabeth	Fredrickson	Alexandra	Catherine	Lynch *
Erica	Marie	Freel		M	
Kaitlyn	Elaine	Frost	Brooks	Redfield	MacLeod
Jeremy	Keith	Funkhouser	Daniel	Tolman	Mandell *
	G		Richard	Craig	Manley
Neha	Akemi	Garge' *	Michael	Matthew	Marchilli
Andrew	Francis	Giles III	Cassandre	Keesha	Mathieu
Daniel	Scott	Glover	Eben	Thomas	McCormick
Matthew	Thomas	Glover	Ryan	Patrick	McGuane
Amy	Leigh	Gollins	Caroline	Marie	McNally
Rebecca	Lynne	Gould	Joseph	Michael	McNamara *
Laurie	Nicole	Goyne	James	Jess	Megee
Samantha	Coddington	Grady	Christie	Marie	Melanson
Evan	Michael	Gray	Nicole	Michele	Melanson
	H		Megan	Charlene	Melone
Brittany	Renee	Hallet	Caitlin	Leigh	Miller
Dietrich	Jon	Hamcke	Drew	Owen	Milligan
Kristen	Lynn	Harris	Stephanie	Natasha	Milton
Keith	Henry	Harris	Kelly	Ann	Montalto
Christopher	Thomas	Hartford *	Nicole	Suzanne	Moody
Cassandra	Joy	Hartwell	Thomas	Christopher	Mullane *
Jason	Scott	Hartwell	Jarra	Elizabeth	Munger
Bethany	Rachel	Helfrick	Richard	Kevin	Murray *
Jack	Wilhelm	Ho		N	
Katherine	Higby	Howard *	Gergely		Nemeth
Jonathan	Horgan	Hunt	Gary	Edward	Nixon
	I			O	
Lore	Elisabeth	Innamorati *	Jordan		O'Connor-Katz
	J		Anthony	Michael	O'Hare
Melissa	Ann	Jones	Katherine	Marie	O'Kane *
Garrett	Michael	Jones	Jonathan	Shaughnessy	O'Loughlin
Stephanie	Lindsay	Joseph	Stephen	Anthony	O'Neil
Wendell	Travis	Joseph	Seth	David	Orenstein
	K		Jillian	Erika	Osvold
Cameron	Henry Brandt	Kerr *		P	
Margot	Flum	Kistler *	Jacquelyn	Woodcome	Parker
	L		Ryan	Christopher	Patti
Mary	Kathryn	Labenski	Joseph	Newlands	Pawelski

Hannah		Peduzzi	Amy	June	Sorabella
Stacy	Rochelle	Pipich	Pia	Alexandra	Specht
Shannon	Tara	Plante	Kristin	Holmes	Squires *
Noelle	Whitney	Plante **	Lea	Marleen	Stauth
Melissa	Ann	Poulin	Katherine	Marie	Stefanis *
Robert	Coughlin	Powell	Michael	Jeffrey	Sterling
Edward	Joseph	Powers *		T	
	Q		Elizabeth	Jane	Taranto *
Erin	Lorraine	Quigley	Matthew	Powers	Tillo
Benjamin	Edward	Quirk	Kendall	Christine	Toland
Madelline	Alexia	Quiros	Michael	James	Traylor
	R		Joshua	Parker	Trefry
Nicole	Marie	Rich	Meghan	Elizabeth	Troisi
Ryan	Troy	Richardson	Meredith	Ann	Troisi
Casey	Thomas	Ruggiero		V	
	S		Gregory	Joseph	Vierkant
Andrew	Ogilvie	Sale	Jennifer		Vitti
Michael	Joseph	Sangermano *		W	
Whitney	Erin	Saunders	David	Mattern	Way
Amanda	Beajay	Savignano	Justin	Michael	Weatherbee
Ashley	Beth	Schandelmayer	Zachary	Randall	Weeks
Hilary	Kay	Schiffer	James	Thomas	Weliver
Harris	Joseph	Schnare	Jillian	Aynsley	Whalen
Justin	Aaron	Schultz	Andrew	Mark	Wheeler
Lisa	Marie	Shea *	Alexander	Kyle	Whitney
Leah	Elizabeth	Shoer *	William	Thomas	Wing
Pavel	Metodiev	Simeonov	Russell	Charles	Wise Jr.
Marlene		Soellner	** Certificate of Completion		
Allan	Christopher	Sondey	* National Honor Society		

MINUTEMAN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OF APPLIED ARTS & SCIENCES

Minuteman Regional School Committee 2005

Charles Olmstead of Acton	Rosalie Barton-May of Lancaster
Laura Morrisette of Arlington	Marjorie Daggett of Lexington
Linda Frizzell of Belmont	Kemon Taschioglou of Lincoln
Kileen Burgoyne of Bolton	Jeffrey Stulin of Needham (<i>Chairman</i>)
Donna Corey of Boxborough	Alice DeLuca of Stow (<i>Secretary</i>)
Nancy Weiss of Carlisle	Atty. Paul Lynch of Sudbury (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)
John Lang of Concord	Mary Ellen Castagno of Wayland
Frank Gobbi, Jr. of Dover	David Harmon of Weston
Student Representative – James Sullivan of Arlington	

After several years of dedicated service, three members left the Regional School Committee in 2005. The entire Minuteman Regional School District thanks Dr. Erin Phelps of Arlington, Dr. Michael Rudd of Concord and Mary Shaw of Weston for their years of service and leadership.

Class of 2005 Graduate Achievement Highlights

- 91% of the Class of 2005 graduated into college, employment in their field of study or the US military.
- Commercial & Human Services graduates achieved 94% placement rate with 25 of 48 (52%) enrolled in college and 20 of 48 (42%) employed in their field of study.
- Science Technology graduates achieved 92% placement with 53 of 64 (83%) enrolled in college, 2 of 64 (3%) employed in their field of study and 3 of 64 (6%) enlisted in the US military with 100% of electromechanical engineering, environmental science and graphic communications students attending college.
- Construction-Trades graduates achieved 89% placement rate with 16 of 72 (22%) enrolled in college, 47 of 72 (65%) entering the workplace in their field of study and 1 of 72 (2%) enlisting in the US military.
- 100% of Dental graduates passed the National Dental Board examination.
- 100% of Early Childhood Education graduates were certified by the Office for Child Care Services.
- 96% of Cosmetology graduates passed the state board examination.
- Medical Occupations graduates achieved 100% placement in college.
- Laura Cyr, a Carpentry graduate from Arlington, was honored as an Outstanding Vocational Student of the Year by the Minuteman Regional School Committee, the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and state Commissioner of Education, Dr. David Driscoll.
- Erin Meister, an Environmental Science student from Arlington, graduated Valedictorian in the Class of 2005 and earned the prestigious University Scholar status for enrollment at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.
- Student speakers at the Class of 2005 graduation ceremony were Valedictorian Erin Meister of Arlington, Salutatorian Kevin Maloney of Stow and Class President Deanna Reynolds of Cambridge.

The Class of 2005 – Stow Students

Benjamin Bonn	Health Occupations	<i>President's Award of Academic Excellence</i>
Brian Cumming	Plumbing	
Jessica Deppe	Culinary Arts	
Ryan Faasse	Graphic Communications	<i>President's Award of Academic Achievement</i>
Shane Makary	Pre-Engineering Academy	

Kevin Maloney	Biotechnology Academy	<i>President's Award of Academic Excellence</i>
Peter Mangolds	Electromechanical Engineering	
Beth O'Connor	Culinary Arts	
Sarah Priante	Culinary Arts	<i>President's Award of Academic Excellence</i>
Ashley Rice	Carpentry	
James Sproul	Computer Programming	<i>President's Award of Academic Excellence</i>

2005 Students of the Month

January	Christopher Wise , Needham, <i>Environmental Science</i>
February	Joseph MacDonald , Cambridge, <i>Marketing & Management</i>
March	John Steele , Arlington, <i>Plumbing</i>
April	Benjamin Bonn , Stow, <i>Health Services</i>
May	Ben Goldsmuntz , Arlington, <i>Environmental Science</i>
June	Ben Johnson , Lincoln, <i>Culinary Arts</i>
September	Brenda Lormil , Cambridge, <i>Marketing & Management</i>
October	Pierre Etienne , Lexington, <i>Biotechnology Academy</i>
November	Daniel Ceddia , Sudbury, <i>Plumbing</i>
December	TBD

Academic Division Highlights

- Minuteman Regional High School sophomores tied for third place in Massachusetts among regional technical schools on MCAS test performance.
- Forty-five students took advantage of college level pre-calculus and calculus courses under an articulation agreement with Middlesex Community College.
- Minuteman students on the Math Team competed strongly at all levels against academically diverse groups of area schools finishing the year ranked in first place in the state vocational conference for the third year in a row.
- A Latin course was expanded to serve the growing number of students interested in medical careers, biotechnology and science.
- The Minuteman Players, the school's drama students, produced and performed a full production of Neil Simon's, *"The Odd Couple"*.
- The Special Education Department teamed with mainstream teachers to help students achieve one of the highest levels of special education MCAS "pass" scores in the state.
- Faculty members from English, Guidance, Social Studies and several vocational fields designed another series of Character Education curriculum for use throughout the school.

Science & Technology Division Highlights

- The Biotechnology Academy formed a new partnership with Harvard University Molecular Biology Laboratory and Children's Hospital and introduced three new components into its curriculum, namely bioethics, cell graphing and forensic science.
- The first state-approved high school pre-engineering program entered its sixth year and graduated its second class of students, again with 100% attending college.
- Electromechanical Robotics students Alex Hatherly of Lexington and Patrick Maloney of Stow took National Third Place in Skills USA National Competition on Team Robotics and Automation held in Kansas City, MO in June 2004.
- Many new business/industry projects were achieved, including - - Verizon supporting with after-school technology training for middle school students, Cognex Corporation of Natick providing weekly on-line interactive training on Visions Systems, GTE helping with new physics units for biotechnology, the

Northeast Center for Telecommunications providing grant assistance, a \$80,000 gift from Adept Robots for the Electromechanical Engineering/Robotics program, etc.

- The Environmental Technology students were active in numerous off-campus service projects for such agencies as the MWRA, Cambridge Water Department, Bolton Conservation Commission, Sudbury Valley Trustees, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Northeastern University Marine Biology Research Laboratory, and the United States National Park Service, Minuteman National Historic Park.
- Minuteman staff members are active and taking a leadership role in working with the Department of Education in developing the vocational Certification of Occupational Proficiency (C.O.P.). They include Maryann Ham serving as state chair for Office Technology, George Taliadouros as state chair for Engineering and Richard Caruso as state vice-chair for Telecommunications.

Construction – Power Mechanics – Building Trades Division Highlights

- The Automotive Technology Department won the industry's Most Outstanding Automotive Program in Massachusetts award for the sixth year in a row.
- Students in Carpentry, Electrical Wiring, Plumbing and HVAC completed construction of the three-bedroom colonial home for the Lexington Housing Authority in partnership with the Lexington Rotary Club.
- Carpentry and Drafting students designed and constructed classroom improvements for the Brooks Elementary and Middle School in Lincoln.
- The Drafting & Design Technology students completed plans for a large garage to be built by Minuteman's construction students in Lexington.
- Underclassmen created four scaled New England style homes for display at the New England Home Show in Boston. Minuteman is the only participating vocational high school in MA.
- The Automotive Technology program earned the top honors 5-year recertification through the National Automotive Technical Education Foundation (NATEF).
- The Automotive Collision Repair program also earned the NATEF certification.
- The Landscape Management Department won several awards again, including their seventh consecutive First Place at the Annual New England Flower Show in Boston.

Commercial & Human Services Division Highlights

- The Child Development Center and the Early Childhood Education department was recertified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Many commercial centers do not receive this certification for excellence and good practice in curriculum implementation.
- The Culinary Arts Department became a certification site by the American Culinary Federation, awarded in June 2005.
- For the third year in a row, Culinary Arts students won first-place in the annual culinary competition at Newbury College and in so doing earned \$7,000 in scholarships for enrollment at Newbury College.
- As a community service project a team of junior Graphic Communications students worked with the Lahey Clinic in designing and printing a 2005 calendar incorporating artwork drawn by elementary age students who are patients in the "young hearts" clinic.
- Kara Burgoyne of Bolton, a sophomore Culinary Arts Baking student won National First Place in the Skills USA skills competition held in Kansas City, MO in June 2005. In 2003, she earned National Second Place in the same national competition.

National Honor Society

The Minuteman Chapter of the National Honor Society proudly served the school and the community with thousands of volunteer hours maintaining a solid and diverse membership while inducting thirteen new members.

Overall School Highlights

- A new Freshmen Exploratory program was designed and implemented as a means to ensure that members of the Class of 2009 have a full opportunity to experience each of Minuteman's twenty-two technical programs before choosing a major. This new exploratory program runs half of grade 9 and allows students to develop a better understanding of their talents and interests while exposing them to diverse careers.
- New and/or updated college articulation and advance credit agreements with numerous top colleges in 26 different career areas.
- Community Education services, including After School programs for middle school students, Adult High School services, Evening and Continuing Education courses and Summer School programs and camps, provided to member town residents continued at one of the highest participation and success levels in the state.
- The Facilities Management Department completed major campus renovation and facility improvement projects including conversion to gas heating, upgrading athletic fields, and renovation of the school's administrative offices.
- Numerous staff development efforts focused on obtaining national rather than just state certification in graphics & digital media, culinary arts, and collision repair (ASE).

Minuteman Students Take Gold and Bronze Medals at National SkillsUSA Competition

Fourteen students from Minuteman Regional High School represented their school and Massachusetts at a national competition, the SkillsUSA Championships in Kansas City, MO in late June. Ten came home with first, second or third place medals and three more returned with top ten placements.

Krista Burgoyne of Bolton, known now as "*The #1 Student Baker in the Country*", took National First Place and a gold medal in Commercial Baking, edging out other state winners in an all-day competition, during which visitors could watch contestants preparing, baking and displaying more than a half-dozen types of pastry and assorted confections. Krista accepted her award on stage in the Kemper Arena in Kansas City, among a crowd estimated at 11,000, including competitors from all 50 states and several U.S. territories, advisors, parents, and hundreds of business partners.

In addition to the medal and the cheers of the crowd, Krista was awarded a full tuition scholarship at the Culinary Institute of America for her first-place win. However, as Krista was a sophomore upon earning the scholarship she gets to return to National Competition in 2006.

The team of **Justin Graceffa of Lexington and Patrick Maloney of Stow** took their skills in Robotic and Automation Technology to the national level, and emerged as bronze medal winners, placing third in the country. Alex and Patrick's competition area, where they worked all day on Thursday to produce a medal-winning project, was directly below the sign announcing the competition, and drew many onlookers, but the experienced team seldom looked up, concentrating on their work. Members of the Class of 2004, both are headed to college in the fall.

Keynote speaker at the Friday night awards program in Kansas City's vast Kemper Arena, was Newell Rubbermaid CEO Joe Galli, who called the SkillsUSA Championships "one of the most impressive events on

the planet.” More than 240,000 students compete in 10,000 competitions “to earn the right to make this pilgrimage,” he said. He told contestants that each one of them is “in the top two percent in the country just by making it here.” He reiterated his company’s support of SkillsUSA through a video, a listing of contests the company finances, and by presenting a giant check for \$100,000 to national SkillsUSA director Tim Lawrence.

Two in National Top Ten

Following the awards ceremony, where the top three finishers were called on stage in an Olympic-style ceremony, a program was held for Massachusetts competitors, to recognize students who had placed in the top ten. **Josh Cyker of Harvard**, who won the state contest in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) to compete at nationals, placed fifth in the country and was given a certificate by the Massachusetts leadership team. **Adam Weiss of Carlisle**, a state winner in Related Technical Math and a member of Minuteman’s Class of 2005, placed sixth at the nationals and also was given a certificate recognizing his efforts. Other national competitors from Minuteman, all state winners, included **James Sproul of Stow**, Office Computer Applications; **Michael Forhan** of Stow, Collision Repair Technology; and **Eleanor Murtagh** of Stow, Prepared Speech.

Through leadership events and competitions on the district, state and national level, the organization helps students excel in their education and future technical, skilled and service careers, including health occupations. SkillsUSA serves nearly 265,000 high school and college/postsecondary students and their chapter advisors who are professional members.

Students Create Mobile Kitchen for Boston Crusaders

As the Boston Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps left in June for their 40-state summer tour, they departed with a new food trailer, thanks to a collaboration with Minuteman Regional High School. Students enrolled in electrical, plumbing, HVAC, welding and carpentry career majors transformed an empty trailer into a state-of-the-art mobile kitchen.

In addition to practicing the skills they have learned at Minuteman, students got an education in other areas, since the kitchen is traveling interstate. “We must follow Department of Transportation regulations,” said Ernie Houle, welding instructor and co-project manager with Leo DeSimone, who is also Minuteman’s division coordinator for the Building Trades and Power Mechanics Division. “Normally when we build something, we must get permits,” Mr. Houle added. “In having to follow federal guidelines, this has been a learning experience for the Boston Crusaders as well.”

Students applied problem-solving techniques and called upon their background in science and math to make sure the kitchen plan turned into a workable reality. Boston Crusaders sat in on Sam Cetrano’s Applied Physics class, for example, to see five student presentations that sought to answer the question, “What would be the best insulation system?” The trailer provides “cool projects for all departments,” said Mr. Houle, bringing together students from different career majors and also integrating technical skills with academic applications. “All four grade levels have had some connection,” Mr. Houle said of his welding students. They fabricated a beverage rack system and a compartment to hold propane tanks and also created two sets of portable aluminum stairs.

Future electricians worked on all the wiring, which included installing outlets and lighting, wiring kitchen equipment and putting in the main electrical panel. Plumbing students installed water and gas lines for the cooking center. Carpentry students constructed all the metal and wood framing for the trailer and built kitchen cabinets. HVAC students installed the ventilation system and the walk-in cooler.

Boston Crusaders said they expected the trailer kitchen to serve 56,000 meals to more than 200 touring members and volunteers. The trailer is an 18-wheeler donated by a moving company, and which carries

Crusaders equipment as well as the portable kitchen. It replaces an out-of-date kitchen. “Many, many thanks for all the fantastic work by the students and teachers at Minuteman,” a spokesperson wrote on the www.crusanders.com web site. Minuteman’s school logo will be placed in two locations on the trailer as a “token of how much the Corps appreciates their hard work.”

Art and Literary Magazine Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The ink is dry on the twentieth anniversary edition of Minuteman Regional High School’s Art & Literary Magazine, and as usual, the publication contains many outstanding examples of student-generated poetry and art. This year’s magazine showcases 21 poets and 16 artists.

The winners of school-wide poetry and art contests provide the content for the magazine. This year, approximately 150 poems from about 80 poets were submitted. In the art contest, 40 artists submitted 70 pieces of artwork. Originality is the primary criteria used in selecting work for inclusion in the magazine, and selection committee members also try to ensure a mixture of styles.

“We really have quite an artistic community at the school,” Mr. Donovan said. “We used to just get block printing, but now, it’s quite a variety. We added photography to the art contest three or four years ago. This year, there are quite a few pieces of artwork done in anime style. “Anime has become very popular in the school,” he said. “They had a Anime Club this year for the first time.

A third contest, open to juniors in the Graphics department, determines who designs the magazine’s cover. Gabrielle Powell of Belmont won this year’s cover design contest. “Gabrielle also did all of the magazine’s layout,” Mr. Donovan said.

Former Minuteman English teacher Denise R. Donovan served as the Copyright Editor, and the Graphics Coordinator was Graphics Department senior teacher Daniel Vardaro. The school’s Office Technology department did the word processing. “The magazine is truly an integrated student effort,” Mr. Donovan said. “By the time it’s done, many students from all majors and departments have played a part in its creation.”

The student artists featured in this year’s magazine are Melany Schacht and Sean Chickosky of Acton; Patrick Cooney, Miles Sarill, Julia Moden, Tammie Puopolo, Jillian Patti, and Stephanie Carson all of Arlington; Elizabeth Mullane and Stas Michalski of Cambridge; Adam Weiss of Carlisle; Nathaniel Bearg and Jeffrey Palma of Concord; Libby Haberkorn, Peter Mangolds and Luke Radl all of Stow, and Peta Stone of Sudbury.

The student poets featured in this year’s magazine are Andrew Anderson, Max Cane and Samantha Sexer all of Acton; Rob Largent of Arlington; Andrea Bergstrom and Courtney DeCosta both of Belmont; Berlhey Narcisse of Cambridge; Steve Willard of Lexington; Sarah Lynch of Medford; Ben Jordan and Eliza Leahy both of Needham; Jaad Chehab and Michael Lavy both of Waltham; Josh Eaton, Carole Ferolito and Laura Martino all of Watertown, George McKenna of Winchester; Kim March, Ellie Murtagh, Sarah Nichols and Niles Radl all of Stow.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Markham, Assistant Superintendent

Alice DeLuca, Stow Representative

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police department went through some changes during the year with personnel and technology. The personnel changes include the hiring of a full time patrolman, two public safety dispatchers, and the promotion of a patrolman to Sergeant and adding two more Special Police Officers. The technology advancements include a new computer system that all police departments in Massachusetts must have in order to issue firearms licenses and mobile data terminals, traffic lights and (4) school zone lights.

In January of 2005, Dispatcher Lazuka resigned his employment as a full time public safety dispatcher. For years, he was pursuing a career in the field of medicine. His dream did come true and he moved on and took employment with an area hospital. We wish him the best in his new endeavors.

The search began to fill the vacancy created by Christopher Lazuka leaving which resulted in the hiring of Tracy Thibaudeau. Tracy came to us with years of full time dispatching experience with Bolton and Lancaster Police & Fire Departments. We hired a second full time dispatcher to replace Dispatcher Michael Sallese who, was promoted to full time Patrolman. Michael had served our community as a Dispatcher and Special Police Officer for 7 years prior to his promotion to full time Police Officer. A promotion he earned and well deserved. The hiring of Jonathan Butler who came here with years of full time dispatching experience with the Boxboro Police & Fire Department and as a part time police officer for the Town of Wayland.

Patrolman Tim Lima was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Another promotion well earned and deserved. His duties will continue as safety officer with added responsibility. He will now oversee all investigations and assist with the day-to-day operations of the department.

We installed a new computer system to enable us the ability to continue issuing firearms licenses. This system known as the Massachusetts Instant Records Check System (MIRCS) takes a digital photo and electronic fingerprint of the applicant. This system searches for criminal history throughout the United States using the applicant's personal information. Only three police officers operate this system. Sgt Bosworth conducts a final review of the applicant's information before granting a permit.

Mobile Data Terminals, (MDTs). For many years I have wanted laptop computers installed in our patrol vehicles, this finally became a reality. The most complicated project I have ever been involved. This required the help from many people, researching the hardware, software and understanding technology and of course how to find the money to pay for it all. The many grants pursued by Rachel Belanger and myself for a total amounting to date of \$41,682.00 funded this project. The experience and technical knowledge contributed by Officer Michael Sallese and the ITAC Committee Members. We now have (4) four police cruisers outfitted with mobile data terminals. A special thanks to Paul Yannoni for donating a tremendous amount of time to guide us through the complicated world of technology. Paul is a member of the ITAC Committee.

The traffic lights located on Great Road at Gleasondale Road had a history of problems. The fact is that the system is old and parts were no longer available. By chance, I heard that the Town of Maynard had hired a consultant from New Hampshire to evaluate their traffic lights with a proposal for repairs and upgrades to make them more efficient. A phone call and a few hundred dollars later we hired the same consultant. Our traffic light upgrade added to the bid process along with the Town of Maynard gave us the opportunity to get the best possible deal. It worked;

we now have new LED lights and a new timing control system. The Highway Department funded this project.

The same consultant supplied information to upgrade the school zone lights at Center and Pompositticut School. Secretary Rachel Belanger took on this project and with funds already available from the town and the Nashoba School Districts monetary contribution made it possible.

Last year's town report I made a statement that Stow is a quiet town at times and the police officers are here to do what they can to keep it that way. The fact is our community is not exempt from serious crime. If you see or hear something that seems out of the ordinary, call the police and let us know. If you see or hear a strange vehicle or person in your neighborhood, call the police. If you have a strange feeling that something is not right, give us a call. We also have an email address for anyone who has a concern, comment or suggestion. The email address is StowPolice@Stow-Ma.gov. We will answer your question or forward the information to the appropriate person who can respond to your situation.

I wish thank the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Fire Chief Dave Soar, all the Firefighters and Emergency Medical Personnel, Highway Superintendent Michael Clayton, the Highway Department employees and last, but not least the officers and dispatchers of the department for their support during my first full year as Chief of Police.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Trefry, Chief of Police

Rachel R. Belanger, Administrative
Assistant

Full-time Officers:

William L. Bosworth, Sgt.

Timothy J. Lima, Sgt.

Ralph Marino, Sgt

Steven B. Sturtevant

Gary P. Murphy

David J. Goguen

Kimberly H. Doughty

Darren J. Thraen

Sean M. Collins

Michael Sallese

Special Police Officers:

Robert E. Blanton

Jonathan Butler

John Connors

John Fantasia

James F. Finneran

Lee Heron

Sherry J. Morton

Tracy Thibaudeau

Timothy Neufell

Jeremy G. Trefry

Enrico F. Maldari

Police Matrons:

Deborah L. Richardson

Rachel R. Belanger

Darlene D. Trefry

POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPARISON OF STATISTICS: 2003, 2004, and 2005

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Accidental 911 Calls	96	108	103
Alarms	205	212	250
Animal Calls	121	104	139
Assaults	6	41	7
Assist Citizens	440	243	398
Assist Other Agency	171	139	162
Burglary	9	17	22
Bylaw Violations	38	9	14
Disturbances	30	63	73
Domestic Disturbances	11	12	5
General Complaints	455	358	295
Citations	1058	1384	1361
House Checks	2253	2248	1957
Larcenies	38	38	41
Medical Calls	326	171	255
Missing Persons	10	3	7
MV Accidents	187	141	181
MV Stops	2105	3026	2232
Annoying Phone Calls	7	9	12
Found/Lost Property	48	26	33
Auto Theft	2	2	?
Disables MV Calls	127	71	130
Suspicious Activity	286	207	225
Threats	7	7	13
Vandalism	39	51	94

FIRE / RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department continues to support the town of Stow with emergency fire and EMS services. The dedicated individuals of this department work tirelessly, around the clock, to respond to a variety of emergency calls.

The year 2004 was a very busy year for the Fire Department. Your department responded to 676 combined fire and medical calls. Some of the major calls we answered are as follows. We responded to 1 structure fire at 13 Crescent Street. The department responded to 90 motor vehicle accidents, 2 of which life flight was requested however due to inclement weather they were unable to respond. Both calls the patients had major injuries and are recovering. The Fire Department also responded to Minuteman Airport for a plane crash, which the pilot and passenger survived. In April the department assisted many residents with water problems due to the heavy rains we received.

Fire Prevention was once again a major focus for your Fire Department in the year 2004. Under the direction of Lieutenant John Paul Benoit, the Fire Department completed 540 inspections for smoke detectors, wood stoves, oil burners and propane tank installation for all new construction as well as homes being sold. Our department also issued 510 Open Burning permits.

The Fire Department continues to upgrade our education program for the children of Stow. During Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department, in conjunction with the S.A.F.E. program, visited schools and day care centers to teach the children about general safety. At other times during the year, again working with the S.A.F.E. program, we perform other educational events (such as an open house) where the children learn about fire prevention. The Fire Department members also conduct many tours and safety talks throughout the year.

Training for our emergency personnel continues to be a major focus. As the scope of our jobs continues to change and broaden, it is essential that your Firefighters and EMT's be properly trained in all areas of Firefighting and EMS services as well as in hazardous materials, confined space rescues, auto extrications, firefighter and EMT safety and survival, and water and ice rescue. Members of the department conduct drills monthly and on weekends. We also attend classes offered by the Massachusetts Fire Academy and the National Fire Academy.

Apparatus and Maintenance

We continue to provide maintenance to the equipment and current apparatus in-house whenever possible. Firefighter Greg Vogel again this year has taken the position of Department Mechanics while other members of the department assist when possible.

Thanks From the Chief

The department would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Fire Department for your help and support during this year. Your dedication, commitment and professionalism make a department that we can all be proud of.

The department would also like to thank all the citizens of the town of Stow, the business community, the town administrator, the board of selectmen, and all other town departments for their support of the Fire Department. I would also like to thank the police department and the Highway Department for all your help during the year. The State Fire Marshall, Steve Coan also deserves special thanks for his help and support over this past year.

Thank you,
Respectively submitted,

David B. Soar, Fire Chief

Lisa McNiff, Administrative Assistant

Full-time Firefighters:

John Paul Benoit, Lt.

Gregory A. Vogel

Mark W. Guerin

Call Firefighters:

Charlie Boyle

James Byrne

Christopher Camelio

Kristin Clayton

Christopher Devoe

David Doucette

Rene Doucette

Scott Dwinells

Richard Ellis

Jeremy Fiorvanti

Michael Gallagher

Tim Gray

Becky Hagarty

Ray Hegarty

Peter Holman

Scott Landry

Stephen Landry

Christopher Lazuka

Lisa McNiff

Tim Neufell

Tom Neufell

Paul Nevala

Liana Pratt

James Rodgers

Michael Scimera

Suzanne Siewierski

Larry Stafford

Larry Stafford

George Taylor

Michael Trioli

Eddie Warren

Christopher Whitley

Shawn Whitney

FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS FOR 2005

<u>Accidents</u>
90 - Motor Vehicle
2 - Motorcycle
<u>Assists</u>
2- Police
33 - Public
<u>Municipal Fire Alarm Boxes Rec'd</u>
15 - Fire
<u>Other Alarm Investigations</u>
62 - Residential/Commercial Smoke & Heat Detectors
<u>Details</u>
3 – Assist Fire Marshall
<u>Fires</u>
3 - Chimney
1 - Appliance
2 - Structure
3 - Transformer
2 - Dumpster
<u>Hazardous Materials</u>
1- Incidents
<u>Investigations</u>
10 - Carbon Monoxide
6 - Electrical
3 - Natural Gas/Propane
4 - Indoor Smoke
15 - Odor
4 - Arching Wires

8 - Outdoor Smoke
<u>Medical Emergencies</u>
360 - Incidents
1 -Strike Team
3 - Life Line
2 - Lift Assist
<u>Mutual Aid Given</u>
3- Station Coverage
1- Building Fire
26-Medical
1-Brush
<u>Non-Emergency Incidents</u>
407 – Inspections Performed
<u>Outdoor Fires</u>
10 - Brush
6 - Illegal
<u>Rescues</u>
1 - Animal
12 - House L/O
<u>Water Emergencies</u>
12 - Incident
<u>Tree/Wires Down</u>
4 - Incidents
9 - Wires
<u>Other Statistics</u>
2 – Life Flight

FOREST WARDEN

The Stow Fire Department responded to 4 brush fires, 12 illegal burnings and 18 permit investigation/outdoor smoke.

The Town forest and other conservation lands were patrolled regularly for down trees and limbs that may block the fire roads. Brush cutting was also preformed where required to keep the roads open for emergency apparatus.

The open burning season was once again very busy for the Fire Department. 486 burning permits were issued from January 15 to April 30, 2003. Those who wish to obtain a burning permit may stop by the fire station. Town's people who have obtained a burning permit must call prior to burning for authorization 978-461-1400. Burning is allowed between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm; all fires must be started by noontime. Each day there will be a recorded message advising you if burning will be permitted for that day, all you will need to do is leave your permit number after the beep. This is a new procedure this year in hopes it will make it easier for the people to obtain burning authorization. In the past the town's people would have to call back if the on duty crew was out of the building. As in the past burning authorization will be dependant upon daily weather conditions and staffing.

I would like to thank the State Forest Fire Division and the Sudbury Fire Tower for all their help in locating and extinguishing some of these fires.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Soar, Fire Chief

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

In October 2004, Town Moderator Ed Newman appointed a Charter Review Committee. In accordance with the Charter, the Town is required to review the Charter at least once every ten years. The first Stow Charter was adopted in 1991, reviewed in 1996 and amended in 1997. Charter amendment is a three step process: approval of proposed amendments by a two-thirds town meeting vote, review and approval by the Massachusetts Attorney General and ratification at the subsequent annual town election.

The 2004 Charter Review Committee defined its mission as reviewing and revising the Charter to bring it current with town policies and practices and to make it useful for at least the next ten years. The Committee set to work by contacting town boards and citizens to compile issues for potential review. Throughout late fall and early winter in 2004, the Committee held extensive meetings to discuss these issues and narrowed them into six topics for amendment. Each committee member assumed responsibility for one topic and drafted appropriate amendments. In early 2005, the Committee held numerous meetings to revise and finalize the proposed amendments.

The Committee proposed six articles with amendments pertaining to schools, budget, capital outlay, master plan committee, transitional provisions and miscellaneous technical changes. The Committee then held a public meeting on the proposed amendments.

Five of the six articles passed at the annual town meeting and then received Attorney General approval. The Committee moved to take no action on the budget article due to citizen concerns that arose just prior to town meeting. Later in 2005, the Committee met to revise the article and held a public meeting. The article passed at the October 24, 2005 special town meeting and received Attorney General approval. All six articles will appear on the 2006 election ballot for final voter ratification and the Committee will then disband.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Painter, Chairman
Stewart Dalzell
Bob Billups
Doug Hyde

Marcia Rising
Linda Hathaway, Associate
Rob Kaufman, Associate

GENERAL BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Town of Stow Charter states that the General Bylaws will be reviewed by a committee of citizens every five years. The Board of Selectmen appointed the current General Bylaws Review Committee in January, 2005. The committee's first meeting was held on February 3, 2005 and the committee continues to meeting on a regular basis.

The committee's role is to review the current bylaws to identify any sections which may need to be updated to remove outdated information, clarify or correct apparent contradictions, and reflect changes in town government structure or procedures over the last several years. The committee has requested comments and suggestions from every town board, committee, and officer and has met with representatives of several boards to discuss proposed changes.

This review and discussion process, which will include public hearings, will continue through the summer. The committee plans to present its final recommendations to the Board of Selectmen in September. Proposed amendments to the General Bylaws will be considered at a Special Town Meeting, expected to be scheduled in the fall of 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Pavelchek, Chairman
Jack Clayton
George Cormier

Deb Woods
Linda Hathaway

SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

In May 2002, the annual Town Meeting appropriated \$125,000 for a school feasibility study for the purpose of "...conducting a building needs analysis and feasibility study, preparing a long range school plan and educational specification, and for developing the conceptual design drawings and project cost estimates for the remodeling, reconstruction, expansion or making of extraordinary repairs to the Center and Pompositticut schools, and for costs incidental and related thereto..." At the January town meeting in 2003, further money was allocated to expand that task to look at sites, in addition to Pompo and Center, for solving the long term educational space needs of our elementary school children.

The committee originally had 5 voting members as well as associate members. Over time the people have changed but it has remained a committee of 5 voting members and several associate and ex-officio members. The committee members have represented a broad range of people, in the skills they bring to the table, in terms of views of the solution to the problem, in their age and the age of their children. The one constant has been that the people of the committee have consistently let the facts dictate the solution.

In November, 2005, the SBC summarized its work and recommendations in a report presented to the selectmen on November 8, titled "A Summary of Work, Findings and Recommendations". This report is a comprehensive summary of the work of the committee and can be found at the Town Library and on the town web site. In addition, the 2004 annual report of the SBC is a good summary of the work of the committee through 2004. It is recommended that you refer to both these works to gain a complete understanding of the work of this committee. This current report will only cover the work of the committee in the year 2005.

When 2005 began, the committee had just examined the information from looking once again at Center School as a possible site for a pre-K through grade 5 school. After reviewing all the information from the newly done Center School study, the committee decided unanimously that there was insufficient space at the Center site for such a school. The committee then began the process of reviewing the other options available to the committee:

- An add/reno for grades 3-5 at Center site with a new preK-2 on a new site
- A new preK-5 on a new site.

The committee asked the architectural firm to develop conceptual plans and projected costs for the two options. At the time, the Kane property was the only possible site that the committee knew might be available, so the plans and projected costs were based on that site. Initially, the cost of the one school option was significantly cheaper but due to the questions and diligence of committee members, these costs were reevaluated. Although after further study the one school option still seemed the most economical, the difference in cost was not as great as originally thought. The SBC debated the pros and cons of both options and despite the appeal of a central location and smaller schools, the committee felt that the higher cost, the significant disruption to students and the complexity/cost of managing two schools (and two building projects) all made the new preK-5 school a better option for Stow.

In April 2005, the committee resolved once again (for the third time) that the best long term solution for Stow's elementary school needs was to build a new preK-5 school on a new site. The issue then became one of trying to identify a suitable parcel. Twice, the SBC issued an RFP for land for a school. The owner of the Kane parcel declined to put in a bid so that land was no longer a viable option. We had one response to the two RFPs. That was for the Corzine property. We had that property evaluated as a potential school site. In addition, during the summer and fall, the town was offered the right of first refusal on two properties as part of the requirement for bringing land out of chapter 61. The two properties were referred to as the Cushing property and the Minuteman property. The committee had both these properties evaluated as potential school sites. Although the town ended up purchasing the Cushing property at a special town meeting in the fall, the SBC determined that the site was too difficult for development as a school site. There were issues as to the access road, the topography and the soil type. The Corzine property was also determined to be a difficult and expensive site to develop given its location and topography. The committee then focused on the Minuteman property. Of the nine sites the committee has had evaluated, Minuteman was second in desirability only to the O'Grady property which is no longer available to the town. Our consultant thought the property a suitable parcel to site a school, with more reasonable development costs than most of the other parcels we had evaluated. In addition, the access road was deemed more than adequate to support the increase in traffic both for buses

and cars. The price tag for the property was \$4 million. Because of the price tag, the committee began meeting jointly with members from other town boards to determine the feasibility for some kind of mixed use on the property. The committee voted unanimously for the Selectmen to exercise the right of first refusal on the property. The Selectmen voted to exercise the right of first refusal dependent on a town meeting vote approving purchase of the property.

During the summer and fall of 2005, a joint committee met to determine the feasibility of a mixed use for the Minuteman property. Ultimately, due to lack of access to the property for purposes of digging soil samples and doing perk tests, it was decided to ask town meeting to purchase the land at this time for purposes of siting a school. The committee had a high degree of confidence that a portion of the site would support the septic and well for a school but was uncertain of the soils in much of the rest of the parcel. Based on the time constraints for chapter 61 land, special town meeting was set for December 12, 2005. Also, during this same time, the architect was tasked to come up with a conservative cost estimate (the most it would cost) for the school building project. The committee felt that the only fair thing to the town was to let them know up front what the true cost of the project would be. Our cost estimates included an inflation factor for not going out to bid on the project until 2008. The final cost estimate was approximately \$35 million for the school project exclusive of the cost of the land. Although we could not know with certainty that we would get a school building assistant grant from the state, we had a high degree of confidence that the state would eventually allow such a grant for something close to 50% of the cost. Certain members of the committee, as well as the architect, kept up with the developments of the newly formed state building authority and their work.

Leading up to town meeting, the committee did a great deal of work through its report, public forums, television broadcasts and many coffees to communicate the work of the committee and the reasons for its recommendations. In addition, prior to town meeting, the selectmen voted to support the recommendation of the SBC to build a new school on a new site. Fin Com was also in support of our recommendation at town meeting.

At special town meeting in December, the SBC asked the town to:

- purchase the Minutemen property
- spend approximately \$2 million on design development plans for the new school.

In addition, a separate group in town put in a petition article asking for \$10 million to renovate/add to Center school and to renovate Pompo. Town meeting did not support the 2/3 vote needed to pass these warrant articles although the articles did both have a vote of greater than the majority.

Once town meeting had concluded, the SBC needed to determine how to proceed. Most on the committee felt that they had accomplished the task originally set by the town to do the work and come up with a recommendation for the best long-term solution (both educationally and economically) for housing our elementary school children. However, despite our work and recommendation, no long-term solution has been approved. It was determined that it would be in the best interest of all town members to reconstitute the committee in order to pursue reaching a solution for our children that at least 2/3 of the town could support. To that end, in January, the SBC, for all practical purposes, dissolved. In order that all our work is not lost, the SBC submitted a memorandum to the Selectmen, dated January 10, 2006, which set forward our thoughts as to the work of the SBC and how things should proceed. That memorandum is set forth below.

To: The Board of Selectmen
From: The Stow School Building Committee
Re: Thoughts on how to proceed to solve the elementary school building needs
Date: January 10, 2006

As we all know, the issue of adequately housing the elementary school children of Stow was left unresolved by special town meeting on December 12, 2005. The Stow School Building Committee was tasked to present to the town the best educational and economical solution for housing those children. The fundamentals of the SBC recommendation were:

- We need to build a new school (or two schools or a new PreK-2 and add/reno to Center) to house PreK-5
- The current school sites cannot support the full program
- The most cost effective option is a new PreK-5 on a new site

The SBC recommendation did not garner the 2/3 vote necessary at town meeting. So—where do we go from here?

There are several people on the SBC who feel that the selectmen now need to take a leadership role in how we reach resolution of this pressing issue. The SBC, however, respectfully requests that the Board of Selectmen take into account the following thoughts and suggestions as you determine the next steps.

Although the SBC recommendation did not pass town meeting there are some fundamental SBC findings that we think need to be considered in any determination of a future project:

- Schools are overcrowded
- School support spaces do not support the current educational goals
- Schools are in poor condition due to age
- Enrollment is increasing
- Long term, Pompo's site is not large enough to support PreK-1
- Long term, Center's site is not large enough to support PreK-5

In addition there are further thoughts from the SBC of what should happen going forward:

- The SBC has concluded its original mission by preparing its report and giving its recommendation
- The Board of Selectmen has supported our recommendation and it is now in your purview to direct the town to reach a reasonable resolution—the need is now
- The Board of Selectmen should appoint (jointly with the Stow representatives of NRSD) a task force to find that reasonable resolution (which will likely include locating land or perhaps adding land to the existing sites)
- Task force should be evenly balanced to represent a broad spectrum of town opinions
- Task force should include any member of the current SBC who would like to continue to work to solve the problem—with a minimum of two members continuing to provide history and continuity of work done
- Task force must include a member of the School Committee (state statute) or its designee
- Task force needs to take account of the work done by the SBC—they should not be reinventing the wheel
- Task force needs to be cognizant of the 6-8 population of school children as well as the PreK-5
- Any project presented to the town needs to be fully documented and supported by professional cost estimates—the town deserves to know the total cost of the project

- Project needs to solve the whole problem even if spaced out over time
- Project must be built to be eligible for MSBA funding
- Project must meet the educational needs of the children
- Project should be the most cost effective solution for the town

And finally, the SBC feels that the problem is now and time is of the essence. Stow needs to move quickly to start meeting the needs of the town's elementary school children as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Way, Chairman
Edmund Green, Vice Chairman
Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Secretary
Gary Bernklow
Sara Kilkenny
Brian Burke, Associate
Anne Draudt, Associate

Greg Jones, Associate
Carole Makary, Associate
Derek Rocca, Associate
Steve Dungan, Ex-officio
Greg Irvin, Ex-officio
Bill Spratt, Ex-officio
Michael Wood, Ex-officio

LOCAL ACCESS CHANNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Formerly Public, Education and Government (PEG) Advisory Committee

The Board of Selectmen established and appointed the Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Advisory Committee in November 2002 for the purpose of establishing a local cable TV access channel for the Town of Stow to provide programming in areas of public affairs, education and town government. As part of the governance agreement established by the Board of Selectman on August 9, 2005, the name of the committee was changed to the Local Access Channel Advisory Committee (LACAC). Funding for operations of the channel is currently provided solely through a license agreement, originally with AT&T and now with Comcast.

The LACAC committee has agreed to:

1. Develop operating procedures and guidelines to operate the LACAC Channel,
2. Construct the facilities to operate the LACAC Channel,
3. Evaluate and procure equipment required to operate and broadcast a town bulletin board,
4. Evaluate and procure equipment required to record and cablecast meetings and content provided by Stow citizens,
5. Evaluate and hire staff to oversee the Stow TV operations, and
6. Operate Stow TV, Channel 9.

The committee held 15 meetings in 2005, choosing to focus its efforts on the evaluation, selection and installation of equipment required to support the recording and cablecast of meetings from the Town Building, selection and installation of equipment to support the use of portable equipment to record events at the Hale Middle School, planning for and recording/cablecast of annual and special town meetings, and cablecast of Board of Selectmen meetings.

We are pleased to report the following accomplishments in 2005:

- Continued to receive and promote community events / announcements with over 300 announcement events and twelve photo displays cablecast on the bulletin board.

- Cablecast 38 different local events produced by Stow residents, with the majority of these programs produced by Lew Halprin.
- In March, began scheduling video programs using the new scheduling system and publicizing schedules in local newspapers, email lists, school newspapers, Stow TV bulletin board, and the Stow TV web site.
- In March, working with the Board of Selectmen, provided town boards and committees an opportunity to record budget material and fiscal 2006 plans for cablecast in advance of the annual town meeting. Several departments took advantage of this capability, including the Finance Committee, LACAC committee, the Nashoba Regional School District Committee, and the School Building Committee.
- In May, cablecast Stow Candidates Night and “All about Voting”.
- In May, October, and December, recorded the annual town meeting and special town meetings for the first time cablecast of town meetings on Channel 9.
- In May, October and December, provided a summary of town meeting actions and election results on the bulletin board.
- In May, selected a solution which included cameras, microphones, audio / video mixing equipment, operator panel, and installation services from Great Northern Video. The installation of equipment in the Warren Room was completed in August.
- Cablecast Board of Selectmen meetings for the first time began in August 2005 for recorded cablecast and then in October 2005 for live cablecast.
- Working with the Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen as Issuing Authority, and outside legal counsel, the LACAC assisted in the development of a Governance Agreement that was signed by the Board of Selectmen on August 9, 2005. The Governance Agreement formalized the LACAC organization structure and responsibilities to include “Inform and educate the public about public, education and government access and cable television service; assess the access and cable needs of the community and make recommendations as needed; conduct regular meetings; report to the Issuing Authority on matters relating to its responsibilities; monitor and report on any complaints regarding access and cable needs; and generally keep informed about community programming and related issues and report to the Issuing Authority, as needed.”
- In November, with the Stow Cable Committee working with the Bolton Board of Selectmen and the Bolton PEG Committee, Bolton cable TV content became available for the first time to Stow residents with cable access on Channel 10.
- As we close out 2005, Stow TV is averaging thirty-five hours per week of locally generated cablecast content.

With the past accomplishments and those achieved by the LACAC in 2005, all of the six initial objectives from the Board of Selectmen in 2002 have been completed! The Committee plans to meet with the Board of Selectmen in 2006 to review accomplishments and future objectives for the LACAC.

Beginning in 2006, the LACAC committee plans to work with the following objectives:

1. Maintain current services

- a. Continue scheduling, publicity, recording, and cablecast of town government meetings and other programs of local interest, bulletin board announcements, and photo displays.

2. Expand services and material content for cablecast

- a. Offer other town committees the ability to record / cablecast their meetings from the Town Building.

- b. Offer training and support for local amateur producers to encourage a wider range of video program contributors and material content.
- 3. Provide for adequate personnel and space to support LACAC services**
 - a. Expand and train the base of volunteers to assist with operating Channel 9 and recording government meetings.
 - b. Recruit and train additional part-time staff to assist and back up the LACAC Program Coordinator with operating Channel 9 and recording government meetings.
 - c. Acquire and prepare additional space to support the Stow TV control room to accommodate the expanding cablecast technology infrastructure, storage of equipment and media, and staff and volunteers.
- 4. Create equipment infrastructure to support services**
 - a. Plan and equip Hale School auditorium and Town Hall with infrastructure to support easier setup / breakdown for recording and cablecast of events.
 - b. Evaluate and determine the need to equip other town facilities for cablecast / recording of events.
 - c. Plan and equip to use portable camera equipment and accessories to enable recording of events at sites with no permanent installations.
 - d. Prepare to implement next generation video technology, including digital server and non-linear editing capabilities to improve video quality, enhance programming, and facilitate archiving.

Anne VanTine was hired in December 2003 as LACAC Program Coordinator. Since assuming this part-time position, Anne has played a key role in assisting the LACAC committee, managing the day to day operations of Channel 9, taking on the responsibility for recording annual and special town meetings, and recording / cablecast of the Board of Selectmen's and other meetings. Lew Halprin has continued to assist the Committee in many ways. Lew produced over 33 video recordings of local events, assisted with recording town government meetings, provided technical services, prepared the Hale School for recording of town meetings and community events, and helped plan the station direction.

Stow residents Beth Zeranski, Brian Walsh, and Kent Seith also produced video of local events, and Beth contributed additional technical advice. Andy Dunn, with professional experience in the recording and production industry, has continued to provide expert technical and operations experience to the LACAC. Stow residents Mike Kopczynski, Penny Earis, and college student Justin Rosenbaum have assisted the LACAC Program Coordinator by creating bulletin board material. Stow resident Jerry Horne has continued to assist with audio capabilities at town meetings and to provide technical advice. Students Alex DeSisto, Claire Lavina, and Marie DeLuca have assisted with recording of selectmen meetings and town meetings. Local producer Dan Hnatio and editor Carmella Sainz contributed equipment and expertise. Bob Mong contributed time and technical expertise to help with installations and operation. Linda Hathaway and Susan McLaughlin collaborated to help us operate successfully. Individuals who contributed photo displays include Ann DeChristofaro, Greg Troxel, John Sangermano, Lew Halprin, Anne VanTine, Erika Mong, Alex DeSisto, Karen Benoit, Donna Jacobs, Alexandra Brown Conover, David Gray, and Jim Sauta. We are very thankful for all of these individuals' contributions to Stow TV.

Volunteers are required to assist the Program Coordinator with the day-to-day operations and recording of meetings. Stow TV was initially conceived to operate with an all volunteer staff working under the direction of the Program Coordinator. As we move into 2006, with increasing interest and expanding workload for Stow TV, additional volunteers are needed to assist or we may be unable to satisfy the cablecast needs of the community. Our only other alternative to a

volunteer staff would be additional paid staff. To cover this additional and un-budgeted expense, we would need to seek additional operating funds from local donors or request an operating budget at town meeting. While this is not a requirement for the coming fiscal year, we may request additional operating funds in future fiscal years as we continue to develop LACAC services, if we are unable to develop a group of additional volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the committee at 978-897-7732 or by e-mail stowtv@stow-ma.gov.

Merrily Evdokimoff, who joined the committee in December 2004, resigned in September 2005 to pursue graduate studies.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Dunn
Len Golder
Ed Newman
Jim Parr
Ross Perry

Merrily Evdokimoff, Associate (Resigned)

Anne VanTine, LACAC Program
Coordinator

CABLE LICENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

During 2005, the committee has worked with Comcast to finish the last task that was needed to complete the terms of the video cable license that Comcast has with Stow. That item was to give the cable subscribers in Stow the ability to view the Bolton community access video channel on Stow's channel 10 (along with Hudson on channel 8). The reason that the Cable Committee wanted to be able to provide Bolton's video channel to Stow subscribers is because Stow's High School and the Nashoba School Board are both in Bolton. Being able to view meetings and events at those two locations was considered important in our goal to provide complete coverage on the Stow cable system of activities that affect Stow subscribers.

Channel 10 in Bolton is now on the air but they are not yet very active with local coverage. Some of the members of the Stow Cable Committee are volunteering to assist Bolton with technical advice and assistance with the goal of televising the Nashoba School Board meetings on a regular basis in a way that will allow Stow subscribers to also view these meetings.

As of the start of 2005, Stow had 1744 subscribers to the cable system. We encourage the rest of the residents of Stow to obtain at least a basic cable service so you can share the great local coverage that is being provided by Stow Channel 9 of the Selectmen's meetings, other government meetings, activities going on around the town, and the local bulletin board full of announcements of Stow events. A minimal service can be very inexpensive if you take advantage of some low cost services not normally promoted by Comcast. For those in Stow not able to view the Stow cable channel because you don't have cable service or you already have the 'dish' satellite service, there is a video cable service available from Comcast called "Basic Service". For only \$13.00 per month (an additional Senior discount available if over age 62), this basic service includes the Stow, Hudson and Bolton video channels, all the TV stations that can be picked up with an outdoor antenna, and a small selection of other cable channels. Such a plan will allow a Stow residence to view the Stow cable channel at very little cost. When used with a 'dish' satellite video system, this 'basic' cable service could provide local stations as well as the Stow cable channel for about the same cost as the 'local-station option' with the dish company. If you already have broadband Internet service from Comcast, the 'Basic' service can be added almost for free (the discount for multiple services is almost enough to pay the cost of this minimal

cable video service). So, unless your house is a long distance from the road, there is no excuse for missing out on the great Stow Channel 9 programming.

Stow's 10-year license with Comcast started November 1, 2002, and negotiations on a new license will start about Nov 2009. Until then, other than monitoring Comcast compliance with their Stow cable license, and providing the Stow PEG Advisory Committee (LACAC) with technical assistance when requested, the Stow Cable Committee is mostly dormant.

Unfortunately, the State and Federal government regulates the cost to Town residents for the various levels of cable service and the video content that those levels contain, so the Town's license could not address those areas even though those are the areas receiving the most complaints from Stow customers.

As in the past, any complaints about cable service should first be made directly to Comcast. This is normally done through their Customer Service line at (888) 633-4266. If satisfactory service is not obtained there, then call Frank Foss, Manager of Community Relations for Comcast, at (978) 455-9249. If a resolution to the problem could still not be obtained, then the complaint should be passed on to the Stow Cable Advisory Committee, care of the Selectmen's Office (Stow Town Building, 380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775) to see if we can help resolve the problem.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Halprin, Chairman
Bob Mong
Army Buckman

George Scraggs
Patricia Crawford

METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL AND MAGIC

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is the regional planning and economic development district representing 101 cities and towns in metropolitan Boston. In addition, the Council shares oversight responsibility for the region's federally funded transportation program as one of 14 members of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Council's legislative mandate is to provide technical and professional resources to improve the physical, social and economic condition of its district, and to develop sound responses to issues of regional significance. The Council provides research, studies, publications, facilitation and technical assistance in the areas of land use and the environment, housing, transportation, water resources management, economic development, demographic and socioeconomic data, legislative policy and interlocal partnerships that strengthen the operation of local governments. More information about MAPC is available at www.mapc.org.

The Council is governed by 101 municipal government representatives, 21 gubernatorial appointees, and 10 state and 3 City of Boston officials. An Executive Committee composed of 25 members oversees agency operations and appoints an executive director. The agency employs approximately 30 professional and administrative staff. Funding for Council activities is derived from contracts with government agencies and private entities, foundation grants, and a per-capita assessment charged to municipalities within the district.

In the past year, the Council has focused on initiatives that respond to regional challenges, some of which include:

MetroFuture -- Making a Greater Boston Region: State law requires that MAPC prepare, from time to time, a comprehensive regional plan. This planning process is now underway and is called the *MetroFuture* initiative. It started by asking the people of Greater Boston about their aspirations for the future of the region, and continues with a comparison between those visions and the future that will arise if our current trends continue unchanged. We are finding both exciting prospects and interesting challenges lie ahead if we continue our current pattern of growth and development. Here are just a few of the results, out to the year 2030:

- **Population will grow slowly, while the number of households will grow more quickly.** By 2030, the region's population will have increased by 10%, approximately a third as fast as the projected U.S. population growth (29%). The number of households is projected to increase by 19% for that same time period, at a greater rate than the population, due to a continued decline in household size.
- **Consumption of land continues apace.** Fifteen percent of land that was open in 2000 will be developed by 2030.
- **An older population will demand more homes and health care.** There will be declines in all age groups under 55 and substantial increases in empty-nesters and elders, creating demand for different housing and contributing to an expected near-tripling of health care costs from 2000 to 2030.
- **Water in short supply outside the MWRA.** Communities with public water systems not connected to the MWRA system will face serious water constraints by 2030; approximately half will exceed their permitted withdrawal rates.

These are among the results that will serve as a starting point for discussions across the region about alternative paths the region could take, beginning with a series of briefings early in 2006. Visit www.MetroFuture.org to learn more about the project, and contact MetroFuture@mapc.org to learn about how to host a briefing about the region's future.

Municipal Planning: MAPC continues to assist municipalities in implementing Smart Growth Principles through local zoning changes. Under the Vision 2020 program, MAPC provided zoning analyses or draft bylaws to the towns of Duxbury, Stoughton and Hanover. Through FY05 funding from Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grants, MAPC assisted Topsfield in developing a Low Impact Development storm-water and erosion control bylaw. Under funding secured through the Priority Development Fund, MAPC is developing mixed use or multi-family bylaws for the towns of Bedford, Stow, Millis, Southborough and Stoughton. Just recently, MAPC received notice of approval of its application for Smart Growth Technical Assistance funds to assist the towns of Hopkinton, Ashland and Southborough in examining alternative futures for the 900 acre Weston Nurseries property. MAPC also continues to provide information to municipalities regarding the Smart Growth Overlay Districts enabled under Chapter 40R.

Transportation Planning: MAPC staff played an active role in helping to revise the MassHighway Design Manual, now known as the Project Development and Design Guidebook. As vice chair of the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization, MAPC worked to develop the annual Transportation Improvement Program, including transportation spending priorities for the region. We also developed population and employment projections to the year 2030, to be used in scenario modeling in the new Regional Transportation Plan and MetroFuture (see above) in 2006.

Legislative Advocacy: The Legislative Committee has worked to promote legislation that is of regional interest and is informed by smart growth principles (visit http://www.mapc.org/regional_planning/MAPC_Smart_Growth.html to view the list of principles).

At the beginning of the legislative session the Committee recommended for endorsement a full legislative agenda, which was subsequently endorsed by MAPC's Executive Committee. Among many items, the priorities include reform of the state's surplus land disposition policy; recapitalization of the brownfields redevelopment fund; reform of the state's antiquated zoning laws; and repeat offender legislation. Contact Legislative Director Joel Barrera at jbarrera@mapc.org to learn more about the committee's priorities and how your community can get involved in regional advocacy efforts.

Metropolitan Highway System Advisory Board: MAPC staffs this board, established in 1997 by the Commonwealth to advise the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority on issues relative to land use, air rights, zoning, and environmental impacts associated with development of land owned by the authority. In 2005, the Board reviewed a number of Requests for Proposals and development proposals for various parcels along the Central Artery surface.

Regional Services Consortiums: The Regional Consortiums Project collectively procured more than \$3,000,000 in office supplies for 32 municipalities, and highway maintenance services valued at \$16,000,000 for South Shore and MetroWest cities and towns. The project also facilitates collegial forums among members' chief administrative officers that focus on collective problem solving and resource sharing. MAPC, in partnership, with the Greater Boston Police Council, assists over 300 units of local government in procuring police, public works and general use vehicles, along with various public safety supplies.

Public Safety and Homeland Security: MAPC provides planning and fiduciary services to the Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council (NERAC), the Northeastern Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) and the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (METROLEC). Activities include procurement, research, and planning to enhance the delivery of public safety services and to ensure the region is prepared for either a terrorist attack or natural disaster.

Hazard Mitigation: *Pre-Disaster Mitigation* (PDM) plans help communities prepare for natural disasters such as floods, winter storms, wind, and geologic hazards. In 2005, MAPC completed PDM plans for 10 communities on the North Shore and 10 communities on the South Shore. MAPC is also developing PDM plans for 9 Inner Core communities, including Boston and neighboring communities, which will be completed in 2006. FEMA has awarded a grant to MAPC to develop PDM plans in 28 towns in the MAGIC, MetroWest, and North Suburban subregions, beginning in 2006.

495/MetroWest Water Resources Strategy: Working with the 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership, MAPC completed three major components of a comprehensive water strategy for the corridor:

- the *Massachusetts Low Impact Development Toolkit*, available at <http://www.mapc.org/lid.html>, was published and two regional workshops were held to present the toolkit to the public. The toolkit recently received the 2005 Outstanding Planning Project Award from the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association;

- *Once Is Not Enough*, a guide to water reuse in Massachusetts, was published. It is available at http://www.mapc.org/regional_planning/waterreuse.html; and
- two regional contracts for Leak Detection Services were developed for both the 495/MetroWest communities, as well as all the entire MAPC region. Learn more about leak detection services that are available to cities and towns in MAPC's January edition of the *Regional Record*, our electronic newsletter, located at www.mapc.org.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Every five years, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council is responsible for developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in partnership with the Economic Development Administration. The 2005 CEDS, *Insuring Greater Boston's Prosperity*, contains an analysis of economic trends and conditions and highlights five challenges to economic well-being. It sets a context for inviting regional participation that moves toward a regional response to the challenges. The report is included in the January edition of MAPC's *Regional Record*, available at www.mapc.org.

MEPA Project Reviews: MAPC reviews projects under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and submits comments on projects with significant regional impacts. In 2005, MAPC reviewed 166 MEPA filings (Environmental Notification Forms, Environmental Impact Reports, and Notices of Project Change), and submitted comments to EOEa on 58 of these. One of the most significant reviews of the year was a "Peer Review" conducted by MAPC and the Old Colony Planning Council on the proposed *Village Center Plan* for the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. Visit http://www.mapc.org/whats_new/SWNAS/SWNAS_Summary_Document.pdf to view our comments.

Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) (Acton, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow)

In 2005, the MAGIC subregion organized a major Emergency Preparedness Forum to discuss federal, state, regional, local, and public health emergency planning functions, plans, coordination, and cooperation; began preparations to participate in Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning under a federal grant received by MAPC; joined MetroWest, the Southwest planning group, and MAPC in a roundtable discussion of "The Community Preservation Act: Five Years' Experience"; hosted two legislative breakfasts; provided feedback to MAPC on the role and function of subregions, on legislative priorities, and on MAPC's Strategic Plan; monitored activities related to BRAC review of Hanscom, potential plans under expansion and closure scenarios, and potential roles for MAGIC/MAPC; hosted a morning Planners' Roundtable where local planners and planning boards could share information, learn about innovative tools and techniques, and plan cooperative approaches; and provided input into various transportation plans, including TIP projects, planning study ideas for the UPWP, regional bicycle and pedestrian plans, and the State Transportation Plan. MAGIC also provided support for multi-community (Bedford-Stow) development of mixed use zoning bylaws funded by the state's Priority Development Fund program. In this project, a visual preference poll, information on existing and model bylaws, and public education materials are being designed to benefit other communities.

MAPC Annual Report prepared and submitted by Marc D. Draisen, Executive Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

In 2005, the Stow Historical Commission focused on three tasks: promoting and maintaining the Stow West School House Museum, planning potential renovations to the old blacksmith shop and procuring a fire suppression system for the Town Hall.

The Commission celebrated the newly constructed parking lot at the Stow West School House Museum with four fabulous summer programs: Finnish heritage, Christmas in July, American Indian lore and a re-enactment of a 19th century school teacher. These programs brought many visitors to the museum, filling the new parking lot, which was constructed with funds from the Community Preservation Act. Music, arts and crafts filled the rafters of the one-room school house during each program. Attendees enjoyed the talents of a Finnish musician, Christmas carols by members of Sing a New Song, American Indian lore by Walks in Peace and an old-fashioned school marm performance by our own Jennifer Hofmann. Our thanks go to those who assisted the Commission with these programs and to Karen Gray, our Vice-Chair, for making these programs successful. Grants from the Stow Cultural Council with the Massachusetts Cultural Council will permit the Commission to continue these programs in 2006. The Commission also supervised minor repairs and maintenance to the exterior of the West School House and continues to safeguard this historic treasure.

The Commission took measures with Community Preservation Act funds to secure the blacksmith shop on Great Road. The Commission continues to evaluate renovations to the blacksmith shop and hired a local artist to provide a creative sketch of the building in its potentially restored state. The Commission intends to organize a program for Springfest 2006 with a working blacksmith and solicit public opinion on potential uses for this historic building.

The Commission has also taken steps to investigate the design and installment of a fire suppression system for the Town Hall. The Commission intends to provide the Town with complete information on the feasibility and cost of procuring such a system.

The Commission also served the Town by assisting the Planning Board with its Lower Village lighting scheme, sponsoring a table at the 2005 Springfest and continuing its efforts to preserve historical artifacts such as the Butternut hay wagon and the First Parish Church spire. The Commission meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Commission office in Town Hall, on Great Road across from the Town Building.

Respectfully submitted,

John Makey, Chairman
Karen Gray, Vice-Chair
Liz Painter, Secretary/Treasurer
Wayne Fletcher
Joseph Mishley
Gail Webb

Phoebe Haberkorn, Associate
Bob MacDonald, Associate
Ernie Dodd, Associate
Carol Dudley, Associate
Lew Halprin, Associate
Jennifer Hofmann, Associate

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE

For the past 32 years the Ancients Documents Committee has been working with Stow's exceptional collection of historical records covering more than 300 years of town history. The Town Vault located in the Town Building houses maps, photographs, genealogical records, special collections, church and school records, war records, books and other materials.

The committee meets twice monthly, October to June, and each member is responsible for a particular area of the collection. Much of the work involves developing an inventory for all historical materials. All archival supplies for the old records are purchased through the generosity of the Stow Historical Society. Each year the ADC and the Stow Historical Society join to present a special program at Springfest, and to research historical information for the Town Report. A new display on John Randall was established in the upstairs museum in the Randall Library under the direction of Karen Green and Dorothy MacDonald. Work will continue on updating the museum displays.

The volunteer genealogists researched information on old Stow families including Benjamin Edwards, Elizabeth Fairbanks, Abigail Rice, Solomon Rice, Ruth Maynard, Robert Conant, Richard Hastings, Lois Warren Patch, Joseph Eveleth, John Eveleth, Hannah Hayes, Ebenezer Locke, Hannah Russell, and Godding ancestry.

Jody Newman compiled a computerized list of all elected and appointed town officials back to the first listings in 1873 in the Town Reports. This is an invaluable aid to the Town Clerk. Many of the postcards in the Lake Boon Postcard Book in the Images of America series, published this year, came from the Town Vault collection. The editors are Lew Halprin and Alan Kattelle. Donations of Stow artifacts were gratefully received from Dori Rogers of Stow, Ohio; Faith Field, Chris Childs, and Ann Allison.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Sipler, Chairman
Bob Walrath
Maxine Buckman, Associate
Bill Byron, Associate
Karen Gray, Associate
Karen Green, Associate

Lew Halprin, Associate
Dick and Ann Luxner, Associate
Dorothy MacDonald, Associate
Jody Newman, Associate
Linda Hathaway, Ex-officio

TOWN CLERK

The year 2005 was a busy year in the town clerk's office with two special town meetings and town elections, in addition to May's annual town meeting and election. The December special town meeting had the second largest town meeting turnout recorded to date with 740 voters checked-in. Voters filled the Hale auditorium, the gym and overflowed into the cafeteria. Over the year, voter turnout varied from a low of 132 for the second night of the December town meeting to a high of 1220 for the annual election.

The Board of Registrar of Voters, of which the town clerk is a member, saw some changes as Phil Detsch, long time Registrar resigned to once again be the warden at Stow's elections. He replaces warden, Carolyn Johnson, who oversaw the polls since 1996. We wish Carolyn well in

her next endeavor. We also said good-bye to Amy Spound who moved from town. Pam Weathers was appointed to vacancy created by Amy's departure. A few of the responsibilities of the Registrars include voter registration, certification of signatures on nomination papers and census /street listing information.

The work in the Town Clerk's office continues to increase as the town grows and requirements increase. There are seventy-three chapters and four hundred fifty-one statutes of the Massachusetts General Laws that direct the Town Clerk's duties. This office interacts with all of Stow's town boards, as well as, several state agencies on a regular basis. There are also more dogs to license, more voters and residents to enter into the voter/census database, and more filings by the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Due to the Homeland Security Act, banks are now requiring business certificates from all businesses when previously only companies 'doing business as' (DBA's) had to apply for business certificates. This office currently assists with the official town website.

I am especially grateful for those who assisted me in the office this year. Kay Desmond, assistant town clerk, is responsible for street numbering, typing all of the vital record index cards and the vitals log book. She also assists with town meeting and various other projects over the course of the year. Ellie Beaudette works in the office a few hours a week assisting with filing, dog licensing, and a multitude of other clerical tasks. Finally, I would like to thank Virginia Benjamin for the many hours she devoted to this office over the years. She retired at the end of 2005. Virginia's main task was to stuff the census/street listing forms in the envelopes in December and then open and sort most of the census forms and dog licenses as they were returned in January and February. Virginia never complained about the tediousness of the task. She will be missed. Thank you to all of you for all of your help.

The reader should know that the town offices and departments are staffed by many dedicated people, many who reside in this community and others who commute from out of town. I am very fortunate to work with them and am grateful for their support and friendship.

2005 VITAL RECORDS

BIRTHS	77
DEATHS	31
MARRIAGES	11

Individual vital record listings are omitted as a security precaution to deter identity theft.

TOWN CLERK 2005 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Fees Collected

Vital record copies, bylaws, maps, etc	\$ 2,930.35
Fines, bylaw violations, late fees	1,670.00
Uniform Commercial Code filings	237.27
Business Certificate filings	890.00
Fuel storage tank registrations	20.00
Raffle permit	80.00
Dog Licenses	9,740.00
Kennel Licenses	<u>390.00</u>
Total Fees Collected	\$ 15,957.62

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 16 AND 17, 2005
(First Session)**

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of April 12, 2005, posted by the Constable on May 4, 2005, the annual town meeting was called to order by Moderator Edward Newman at 7:00 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School.

The meeting was led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by a group of Hale School students. An invocation was given by Mr. Newman.

Upon the request of Moderator Newman, the meeting voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Gary Horowitz as Deputy Moderator. Dr. Horowitz was to serve as Moderator in the gymnasium, designated as an "overflow area". Mr. Newman introduced the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Counsel, Selectmen's Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Finance Committee members and other town officials in attendance. He also recognized those volunteers who assist in setting up and maintaining the sound system and the taping of the meeting for viewing on the local cable television channel.

At the request of Mr. Newman, the meeting voted to allow several non-voters to address the meeting: John Antonucci, Nashoba School District Assistant Superintendent; William Callahan, Minuteman Regional High School Superintendent-Director; Robert Gledhill, Cemetery Superintendent.

On motion of Selectman John Clayton, it was voted unanimously that the reading of the warrant and return of the constable thereon be waived but made a part of the record of this meeting, and that the Moderator be permitted to refer to each article by subject matter instead of reading each article in its entirety. Also voted that no new article, or any section thereof, be considered after ten-thirty p.m., and that as soon as practicable after ten-thirty the meeting be adjourned to Tuesday, May 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 1. Town Officers Not Elected by Ballot

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously that the members of the Board of Selectmen be elected to serve as Field Drivers for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2. Reports of the Selectmen and Other Officers and Committees

On motion of Selectman Carole Makary, it was voted unanimously that the reports of the Selectmen and other Town Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions be accepted as printed in the Town Report of 2003 and the Town Report of 2004, with the following correction to the Annual Town Election report for May 27, 2003: The second Nashoba Regional School District Committee seat, as described on Page 137 of the 2003 Town Report, should read "*One for one year*", not "One for three years".

ARTICLE 3. Reports of Special Committees

On motion of Selectman Edward Perry, it was voted unanimously that the reports of the Ancient Documents Committee, Cable TV Advisory Committee, Community Preservation Committee, Lake Boon Commission, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Public Education & Government (PEG) Advisory Committee, School Building Committee, Stow Housing Authority, Stow Light Pollution Committee, Stow Master Plan Committee, Stow Municipal Electric Department (2003 only), be accepted as printed in the Town Report for 2003 and the Town Report for 2004.

Finance Committee chair Jason Robart reviewed the Town's current financial position, as was printed in the town meeting warrant booklet. The entire FY2006 budget, if approved, represents a 6.3% increase over FY2005 and a \$335 increase for the average real estate taxpayer. Mr. Robart advised that 65% of the tax dollars are dedicated to education, 14% for municipal purposes, 9% for public safety and 7% for debt service. Expenses are growing faster than revenue, and the Town's "free cash" is at its lowest level since 1995. The Finance Committee recommends passage at the town election of the \$350,000 Proposition 2-1/2 override. Mr. Robart noted that Bolton and Lancaster have each approved their Nashoba School District budget request, therefore, reductions will have to be made in municipal services if the override is not successful.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Selectman Janet Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to take the following articles out of the order in the warrant and take action on Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31, as said motions are printed in the Consent Calendar, a copy of which has been provided to the voters at this meeting, without debate on any such articles and provided that upon the request of any voter at this meeting made before the vote is taken on this motion, an article shall be dropped from the Consent Calendar and shall be acted upon in the ordinary course and order of business at this town meeting.

Note: Articles 10, 13 and 14 were dropped from the Consent Calendar to be acted upon in the ordinary course and order of business.

Finance Committee member David Walrath advised its recommended approval of Articles 13, 22 and 29. The report of the Community Preservation Committee is to be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

ARTICLE 6. Reserve Fund

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 for a Reserve Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005.

ARTICLE 7. Tax Title Proceedings

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from the amount previously appropriated for the purpose of Land Court proceedings for tax title foreclosure, including court costs and legal expenses related thereto; to be expended by the Treasurer-Collector.

ARTICLE 8. Audit of Financial Records

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,800.00 to be expended for an audit of the Town's financial records.

ARTICLE 9. Revolving Fund for Inspection Fees

Voted to authorize, upon the recommendation of the Selectmen, a revolving fund for certain inspection fees, pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 for Fiscal Year 2006, to which shall be credited all permitting fees received for wire, gas, plumbing and fire alarm permits and for weights and measures sealing, to a limit of \$40,000.00 for Fiscal 2006, to be expended by the Selectmen without further appropriation for the purpose of payment of fees to the inspectors administering such permits and reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the Town.

ARTICLE 11. Revolving Fund for Advanced Life Support Services

Voted to authorize, upon the recommendation of the Selectmen, the establishment of a revolving fund pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 for Fiscal Year 2006, to which shall be credited all fees received for advanced life support services provided by the Town of Stow, to a limit of \$40,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2006, to be expended by the Fire Department without further appropriation for the purpose of payment of all costs associated with providing advanced life support ambulance services.

ARTICLE 12. Transfer to Conservation Fund

Voted to appropriate and transfer from the Conservation Land Maintenance Account to the Conservation Fund the sum of \$230.00, to be expended by the Conservation Commission.

ARTICLE 15. Update of Property Valuations

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be added to the balance remaining from the amount previously appropriated for the purpose of updating property valuations in the town to full and fair cash value; to be expended by the Assessors.

ARTICLE 16. Town Records Binding and Repair

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200.00 to be added to any balance previously appropriated for the purpose of binding and repairing town records in accordance with Mass. General Laws Chapter 66, Section 9; to be expended by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 17. Highway Department

Voted to raise and appropriate the following sums of money for highway purposes:

1. For the Road Machinery Account: the sum of \$30,291.00
2. For repairs on private ways: the sum of \$10,000.00

ARTICLE 18. Road Construction

Voted to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$156,063.00 for construction, reconstruction and/or improvements to town roads, as requested by the Board of Selectmen, to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth pursuant to Chapter 291 of the Acts of 2004.

ARTICLE 19. Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,800.00 to be added to any balance remaining from previous appropriation for the purpose of satisfying the compliance requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, in accordance with State regulations; to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health.

ARTICLE 20. Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from previous appropriation for the purpose of providing for household hazardous waste collection; to be expended by the Board of Health.

ARTICLE 21. Emerson Hospital Home Care

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from previous appropriation to provide home care services and communicable disease follow-up to Stow residents; to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health.

ARTICLE 22. Solid Waste Disposal Container

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,200.00 for the purpose of renting a container and disposing of solid waste which has been dumped on Town land and roadsides; to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health.

ARTICLE 23. Stow Cultural Council

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from previous appropriations to produce cultural activities and programming in Stow, including \$2,000.00 of these funds to be used to support Springfest activities; to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator.

ARTICLE 24. Snow and Ice Account – FY2005

Voted to appropriate and transfer from the Free Cash Account the sum of \$25,000.00 to supplement the Town's FY2005 Snow and Ice Account.

ARTICLE 25. Purchase of Information Technology Equipment

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$31,500.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated for the purchase of information technology equipment and software for various town departments, to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator; and to authorize the Town Administrator to sell, trade or otherwise dispose of existing equipment in connection therewith.

ARTICLE 26. Legal Services – FY2005

Voted to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$8,576.00 from the Town's Overlay Surplus Account, and appropriate and transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from the Town's Court Room consultant Account to supplement the Town's FY2005 Legal Account.

ARTICLE 27. Legal Services – FY2006

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from previous appropriation for the purpose of funding the Town's FY2006 Legal Account.

ARTICLE 28. Policeman and Firemen Medical Payments

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated in anticipation of possible claims presented to the Town under the provisions of Chapter 41, Section 100 of the General Laws, for the payment of medical and other allowable expenses incurred by police officers or firefighters injured in the performance of and within the scope of duty.

ARTICLE 29. Community Preservation Committee Expenses

Voted to appropriate and transfer from FY2006 Community Preservation Fund Annual Revenues the sum of \$30,000.00, to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated, to be expended for wages and expenses associated with the creation, implementation and maintenance of Community Preservation programs, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act, including but not limited to office supplies, clerical assistance, property surveys, appraisals, attorneys' fees, and other professional services, recording fees, printing and all other necessary and proper expenses for Fiscal Year 2006, in accordance with a budget to be prepared for and approved by the Town Administrator.

ARTICLE 30. Community Preservation Reserves

Voted to reserve for later appropriation monies from the Community Preservation Fund Balance collected from both the Community Preservation Act Surcharge and the State Trust Fund Distribution and collected from Fiscal Year 2006 Community Preservation Fund Annual Revenues for the undertaking of Community Preservation projects, as follows: \$65,000.00 to be reserved for Preservation of Historic Resources; \$65,000.00 to be reserved for Preservation of Open Space; and \$65,000.00 to be reserved for Affordable Housing.

ARTICLE 31. Veterans' Benefits

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00, to be added to any balance remaining from previous appropriations, to be used for providing Veterans' Benefits to eligible Stow veterans, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 115; to be expended under the control of the Veterans' Agent.

===== **End of Consent Calendar** =====

ARTICLE 4. Wage and Salary Schedules

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously to amend Article 11 of the General Bylaws of the Town, Personnel Administration, by deleting from Section 20.h. the existing Salary Schedules A, B, C, D, E and F and inserting in place thereof new Schedules A, B, C, D, E and F, as printed in the warrant.

TOWN OF STOW
WAGE & SALARY SCHEDULES
Effective July 1, 2005 (3%)

SCHEDULE A
ANNUAL RATE POSITIONS

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Police Chief	\$60,722	\$62,930	\$66,242	\$71,762	\$81,173
Fire Chief	54,636	56,822	60,101	65,564	71,028
Supt. of Streets	53,806	57,167	60,533	63,894	67,259
Town Accountant	47,847	50,838	53,828	56,820	59,808
Police Lieutenant	57,915	62,285	65,564	68,642	71,028
Treasurer-Collector	45,188	48,014	50,838	53,660	56,485
Building Inspector	44,236	46,999	49,764	52,530	55,295
Planning, Zoning & Environmental Coord.	42,094	44,726	47,356	49,991	52,619
Library Director	42,094	44,726	47,356	49,991	52,619
Selectmen's Admin. Asst.	33,235	35,210	37,282	39,350	41,422
Town Clerk	33,235	35,210	37,282	39,350	41,422

SCHEDULE B
HOURLY RATE POSITIONS

<u>GROUP A</u>					
<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Parks & Commons Worker	\$9.61	\$10.44	\$11.32	\$12.15	\$12.98
Cemetery Worker	9.61	10.44	11.32	12.15	12.98
Custodian	9.61	10.44	11.32	12.15	12.98

<u>GROUP B</u>					
<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Assistant Town Clerk	\$10.91	\$11.74	\$12.62	\$13.67	\$14.69
Capital Prog. Comm. Secry.	10.91	11.74	12.62	13.67	14.69

<u>GROUP C</u>					
<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Bd. of Appeals Secretary	\$11.74	\$12.79	\$13.80	\$14.86	\$15.88
Town Secretary	11.74	12.79	13.80	14.86	15.88
Highway/Tree/Grounds Worker	11.74	12.79	13.80	14.86	15.88

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>GROUP D</u>		<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>			
Highway/Tree/Grounds Driver-Laborer	\$14.53	\$15.46	\$16.36	\$17.25	\$18.15

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>GROUP E</u>		<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>			
Highway Dept. Equipment Operator	\$15.87	\$16.86	\$17.84	\$18.85	\$19.82
Tree Worker (Moth)	15.87	16.86	17.84	18.85	19.82
Maintenance Person	15.87	16.86	17.84	18.85	19.82

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>GROUP F</u>		<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>			
Highway Dept. Mechanic	\$16.83	\$17.81	\$18.94	\$19.99	\$21.02
Crew Chief	16.83	17.81	18.94	19.99	21.02

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>GROUP G</u>		<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>			
Highway Dept. Foreman	\$17.80	\$18.91	\$20.01	\$21.12	\$22.22

SCHEDULE C
SINGLE RATE POSITIONS PAID ANNUALLY

Registrar of Voters	\$ 113
Assistant Registrar of Voters	226
Animal Control Officer	14,381
Animal Inspector	2,745
Director of Summerthing	2,269
Beach Director	4,888
Cemetery Superintendent	10,286
Veterans' Agent	1,239
Council on Aging Secretary	788

SCHEDULE D
SINGLE RATE POSITIONS PAID HOURLY

Election Warden	\$ 8.64
Election Clerk	8.64
Election Teller	7.65
Election Clerical Assistance	7.65
Lifeguard	9.50
Lifeguard (W.S.I.)	11.21
Beach Checker	7.65
Street Lister	8.25
Street Listing Clerk	7.65
Street Numberer	7.65
Per Diem Firefighter (call)	11.31
Apprentice Firefighter (call)	11.63
Firefighter (call)	13.29
Emergency Medical Technician (call)	13.29
Firefighter/EMT (call)	13.89
EMT - w/Defib & Epi Pen (call)	14.50
Firefighter/EMT - w/Defib & Epi Pen (call)	15.11
Officers - Fire or Medical (call)	16.33
Police Officer, part-time	18.58
Police Matron	16.39
Auxiliary Police Officer	12.13
Dispatcher, part-time	12.13
Summerthing Assistant	7.65

SCHEDULE E
FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL SINGLE RATES

Deputy Fire Chief (call)	\$820
Fire Engineer	711
Fire Captain (call)	546
Fire Lieutenant (call)	437
Fire Medical Officer	328
EMS Quartermaster	218
EMS Schedule Coordinator	165
EMS Assistant Coordinator	274
EMS Records Coordinator	328

An employee who qualifies to receive benefits from the Town's Educational Incentive Program will earn a 5%, 10% or 15% annual bonus above his or her base Step Schedule wage or salary.

SCHEDULE F **FEE RATE POSITIONS**

Wire Inspector	90% of fees collected
Deputy Wire Inspector	90% of fees collected
Gas Inspector	90% of fees collected
Assistant Gas Inspector	90% of fees collected
Animal Disposal Officer	\$10 per animal
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Total fees collected

ARTICLE 5. General Budget for Fiscal 2006

Selectman Kathleen Farrell moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,329,451.00, as recommended by the Town Administrator and Selectmen for items 1 through 74 inclusive, as printed in the warrant under the column entitled "*FY2006 Budget Town Admin/Selectmen Recommend*", each item to be considered a separate appropriation for the purposes designated and the same to be expended only for such purposes.

Moderator Newman read off each group of line items, and item 70, Nashoba Regional School District Assessment, was held for discussion. Those items not held were put to a vote, and those sums as printed in the warrant carried unanimously.

Item 70: Nashoba School District Superintendent Michael Wood and Asst. Superintendent John Antonucci spoke to the requested assessment of \$10,906,207. The Finance Committee did not recommend approval. Chair Jason Robart advised the Committee did not feel that adding personnel (16 positions) was appropriate nor prudent at this time, given the Town's fiscal picture. When put to a vote, the sum of \$10,906,207.00, as requested by the District and as printed in the warrant, was declared carried by more than a majority.

General Government

1	Moderator Salary	\$ 34.00
2	Moderator Expenses	42.00
3	Selectmen Administrative Asst. Salary	37,282.00
4	Selectmen Expenses	8,515.00
5	Town Administrator Salary	84,823.00
6	Town Administrator Expenses	500.00
7	Town Building Clerical Wages	7,714.00
8	Finance Committee Wages	2,747.00
9	Finance Committee Expenses	445.00
10	Accountant Salary	30,038.00

11	Accountant Clerk Salary	3,864.00
12	Accountant Expenses	875.00
13	Assessors' Assistant Salary	47,356.00
14	Assessors' Clerical Wages	38,272.00
15	Assessors' Expenses	6,300.00
16	Treasurer-Collector Salary	56,985.00
17	Treasurer-Collector Clerical Wages	44,160.00
18	Treasurer-Collector Expenses	37,050.00
19	Town Clerk Salary	39,350.00
20	Town Clerk Other Wages	14,679.00
21	Town Clerk Expenses	9,000.00
22	Conservation Commission Wages	49,701.00
23	Conservation Commission Expenses	4,517.00
24	Planning Board Wages	82,315.00
25	Planning Board Expenses	6,050.00
26	Board of Appeals Wages	5,343.00
27	Board of Appeals Expenses	2,800.00
28	Municipal Building & Property Wages	16,867.00
29	Municipal Building & Property Expenses	48,052.00
30	Town Reports Expenses	<u>9,765.00</u>

General Government Total	\$695,441.00
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Public Safety

31	Police Chief Salary	\$ 81,173.00
32	Police & Dispatch Wages	886,196.00
33	Police & Dispatch Expenses	73,000.00
34	Fire Chief Salary	65,564.00
35	Fire & EMS Wages	382,604.00
36	Fire & EMS Expenses	70,050.00
37	Building Inspector Salary	55,295.00
38	Building Dept. Clerical Wages	13,586.00
39	Building Inspector Expenses	<u>4,000.00</u>

Public Safety Total	\$1,631,468.00
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Public Works and Facilities

40	Supt. of Streets Salary	\$ 64,394.00
41	Highways & Grounds Wages	373,871.00
42	Highways & Grounds Expenses	104,525.00
43	Snow & Ice Removal Expense	100,000.00
44	Municipal Lighting	12,075.00
45	Gasoline & Diesel Fuel Expense	45,000.00
46	Cemetery Salary & Wages	35,082.00

47 Cemetery Expenses	<u>4,000.00</u>
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Public Works and Facilities Total	\$ 738,947.00
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Human Services

48 Sanitary Agent Wages	\$ 16,962.00
49 Health Dept. Administrative Asst. Salary	65,429.00
50 Health Department Expenses	7,900.00
51 Council on Aging Executive Director Salary	39,350.00
52 Council on Aging Wages	51,581.00
53 Council on Aging Expenses	9,880.00
54 Veterans' Agent Salary	1,229.00
55 Veterans' Agent Expenses	<u>200.00</u>

Human Services Total	\$ 192,531.00
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Culture and Recreation

56 Library Director Salary	\$ 53,169.00
57 Library Wages	68,474.00
58 Library Expenses	47,954.00
59 Recreation Wages	39,350.00
60 Recreation Expenses	22,150.00
61 Lake Boon Commission Wages	2,745.00
62 Lake Boon Commission Expenses	710.00
63 Historical Commission Expenses	450.00
64 Memorial Day Expenses	950.00
65 Lighting of Clock Expenses	<u>100.00</u>

Culture and Recreation Total	\$ 236,052.00
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Town-Wide Expenses

66 Educational Incentive	\$ 50,000.00
67 Group Insurance	468,354.00
68 Insurance & Bonds	106,700.00
69 Telephone	<u>22,000.00</u>

Town-Wide Expenses Total	\$ 647,054.00
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Education

70 Nashoba Regional School District Assessment	\$10,906,207.00
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71 Minuteman Voc-Tech Assessment	<u>987,068.00</u>
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Education Total	\$11,893,275.00
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Debt Service

72 Principal, Long-Term Debt	\$ 735,000.00
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73 Interest, Long-Term Debt – Bonds	556,683.00
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74 Interest, Temporary Loans – Revenue	<u>3,000.00</u>
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Debt Service Total	\$1,294,683.00
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TOTAL GENERAL BUDGET	\$17,329,451.00
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At this point, Minuteman School District representative Alice DeLuca introduced William Callahan, the new Superintendent of Minuteman High School., and Thomas Markham, the Assistant Superintendent. Former Superintendent Ronald Fitzgerald retired last year after 28 years of service at Minuteman.

Moderator Newman recognized those individuals who are retiring from service to the Town, elected or appointed.

Mr. Newman made note that on this day, May 16th, in 1883 the Town of Stow was incorporated. He led the meeting in the singing of "Happy Birthday" in recognition of 322 years. It was the sense of the meeting that an appropriate celebration be held for the 325th birthday in 2008.

ARTICLE 6. Reserve Fund: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 7. Tax Title Proceedings: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 8. Audit of Financial Records: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 9. Revolving Fund for Inspection Fees: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 10. Revolving Fund for Conservation Commission

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to authorize, upon the recommendation of the Selectmen, a revolving fund pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 for Fiscal Year 2006, to which shall be credited revenue derived from the sale of Open Space and Trail Map books, or other products offered by the Conservation Commission, to a limit of \$5,000.00 for Fiscal 2006, to be expended by the Conservation Commission without further appropriation for enhancement and/or maintenance of land under the jurisdiction of the Commission including, but not limited to, costs associated with mapping efforts.

This article had been held out from the Consent Calendar in order to address the questions of a voter.

ARTICLE 11. Revolving Fund for Advanced Life Support Services: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 12. Transfer to Conservation Fund: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 13. Addition to Conservation Fund

On motion of Selectman Janet Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to the balance remaining in the Conservation Fund; to be expended by the Conservation Commission.

This article has been held out from the Consent Calendar in order to answer questions as to the current balance in the Fund, its purpose, and that of the Wetlands Protection Fund that is derived from permit fees and used for administration of the Wetlands Protection Act. The Finance Committee recommended approval.

ARTICLE 14. Transfer from Wetlands Protection Fund

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from the Wetlands Protection Fund the sum of \$7,032.00 as an additional appropriation to the Conservation Commission, to be expended by the Conservation Commission in performing its duties under the Wetlands Protection Act.

ARTICLE 15. Update of Property Valuations: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 16. Town Records Binding and Repair: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 17. Highway Department: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 18. Road Construction: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 19. Federal Safe Drinking Water Act: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 20. Household Hazardous Waste Collection: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 21. Emerson Hospital Home Care: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 22. Solid Waste Disposal Container: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 23. Stow Cultural Council: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 24. Snow and Ice Account – FY2005: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 25. Purchase of Information Technology Equipment: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 26. Legal Services – FY2005: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 27. Legal Services – FY2006: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 28. Policemen & Firemen Medical Payments: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 29. Community Preservation Committee Expenses: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 30. Community Preservation Reserves: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 31. Veterans' Benefits: See Consent Calendar

ARTICLE 32. Cemetery Engineering Plans

On motion of Selectman Edward Perry, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,000.00, such funds to be added to the remaining balance in the Brookside Cemetery Special Article Account No. 02-40-91-78400, for the purpose of developing survey and other engineering plans necessary to allow for improvements to and the possible extension of Brookside Cemetery.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

ARTICLE 33. Digital Postage Machine

On motion of Selectman Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,300.00 for the purpose of purchasing a digital mailing machine for the Treasurer/Collector's office.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

ARTICLE 35. Nashoba Regional School District Agreement Amendment

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously to advance action on Article 35 prior to acting upon Article 34.

Selectman Clayton moved to amend the Nashoba Regional School District Agreement, *Section 4.(A) Method of Apportioning Costs of the Regional School*, by deleting Article A and Article C(1) and replacing with a new Article A and Article C(1), leaving C(2) and C(3), to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

The Finance Committee recommended against passage. It objected to the apportionment among member towns of capital costs based on the average of the previous five years' enrollment as of October 1st of each of the preceding years. Also, some expenses could become capital items rather than maintenance. All three member towns must agree to the amendment.

When put to a vote, the motion DID NOT CARRY. Yes 69 to No 100.

ARTICLE 34. Capital Requests

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to discuss the items of this article individually and vote upon each separately as to the amount to be appropriated for each item, as set forth in separate motions proposed.

ARTICLE 34-1. Cemetery Mower and Maintenance Equipment

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$13,445.00 for the purpose of purchasing a mower and maintenance equipment for use by the Cemetery Department.

The Finance Committee was in favor. The Capital Planning Committee approved.

ARTICLE 34-2. Fire Department Pumper Truck and Rescue Truck

On motion of Selectmen Farrell, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate by borrowing the sum of \$350,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing both a pumper truck and a rescue truck for use by the Fire Department; provided, however, that an affirmative vote shall be null and void and of no further force and effect, unless the Town approves a ballot question to exempt the amount appropriated from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half.

The Finance Committee was in favor. The Capital Planning Committee approved.

Note: The vote on the ballot question taken at the Annual Town Election of May 24, 2005 was in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 34-3. Health Department Pick-Up Truck

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a pick-up truck for use by the Board of Health.

The Finance Committee was in favor. The Capital Planning Committee approved.

ARTICLE 34-4. Highway Department Dump Truck/Sander

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$55,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a dump truck/sander for use by the Highway Department.

The Finance Committee was in favor. The Capital Planning Committee approved.

ARTICLE 34-5. Police Department Cruiser

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$29,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a cruiser for use by the Police Department.

The Finance Committee was in favor. The Capital Planning Committee approved.

ARTICLE 34-6. Police Station Exterior Painting

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$15,000.00 for the purpose of painting the Police Station.

The Finance Committee was in favor. The Capital Planning Committee approved.

ARTICLE 34-7. Traffic Signal Improvement

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to take no action on this article.

The article concerned upgrade of the traffic signals at the Great Road/Gleasondale Road intersection. Supt. of Streets Michael Clayton advised exploration of Chapter 90 funding for the purpose.

ARTICLE 34-8. Randall Library Roof Repair

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,000.00 for the purpose of repairing the Randall Library roof.

The Finance Committee was in favor. The Capital Planning Committee approved.

ARTICLE 34-9. Hale School Roof Repair

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to take no action on this article.

The Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee approved the motion.

ARTICLE 34-10. Hale School Door and Handle Replacement

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$11,817.00 for the purpose of replacing doors and handles for the Hale School.

The Finance Committee was in favor. The Capital Planning Committee approved.

ARTICLE 34-11. Pompositticut School Bathroom Partition Replacement

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted by majority to take no action on this article.

The Finance Committee was not in favor of the motion. The Capital Planning Committee felt there were existing unencumbered funds that could be used for the purpose.

ARTICLE 34-12. Pompositticut School Water Tank Replacement

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted by majority to take no action on this article.

The Finance Committee was not in favor of the motion. The Capital Planning Committee supported the motion.

ARTICLE 34-13. Center School Exterior Painting

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted by majority to take no action on this article.

The Finance Committee felt this was maintenance rather than a capital expense. The Capital Planning Committee was in favor of the motion and felt painting could be accomplished with existing funding.

ARTICLE 34-14. Center School New Gymnasium/Kitchen Roof

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted by majority to take no action on this article.

The Finance Committee was not in favor of no action. The Capital Planning Committee supported the motion.

ARTICLE 35. Nashoba Regional School District Agreement Amendment

Considered and acted upon after Article 33 of this session.

ARTICLE 36. School Building Committee Fund Transfer/Evaluations

On motion of Selectman Carole Makary, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$30,000.00 from the remaining funds in the School Building Committee's "Pompositticut and Center School Capital Projects" account, as established by an affirmative vote on Article 26 at the Annual Town Meeting, May 19, 2003, for the purpose of evaluating building sites as possible locations for Stow's elementary or middle schools, and for preparing conceptual plans, cost projections, and other documents required to submit a formal request to a future town meeting, and for expenses related to land acquisition for a school construction/renovation project.

ARTICLE 37. Open Space Conservation Restriction

On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$35,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Reserve for Open Space Preservation purposes, to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee for expenses associated with purchasing a Conservation Restriction on property known as Hale Woodlands, consisting of 23 acres, more or less, located near Maple Street, Stow, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, shown on Assessor's Map R-2, Parcel 20, such restriction to be recorded at the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds; said Conservation Restriction to limit the use of the land to open space and conservation purposes in perpetuity or for the longest period of time allowed by law, and to authorize the Community Preservation Committee, or other appropriate entity in consultation with the Community Preservation Committee, to pursue and accept a Conservation Restriction on said property in accordance with statutory requirements.

ARTICLE 38. Stow Affordable Housing Trust

On motion of Selectman Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 55C, paragraphs (a) through (j) inclusive, establishing a municipal affordable housing trust fund.

The Finance Committee recommended passage.

At 10:21 p.m. the meeting was adjourned to reconvene on Tuesday, May 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in Hale School Auditorium.

**MAY 17, 2005
(Second Session)**

Moderator Edward Newman declared the second session in order at 7:00 p.m. A group of Hale School eighth graders led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Boy Scout leader John Sangermano introduced eight young men who had earned Eagle status and described their accomplishments. Selectman Kathleen Farrell read a proclamation in recognition of their contributions to the community.

ARTICLE 38. Stow Affordable Housing Trust – Motion to Reconsider

Ellen Sturgis moved to reconsider Article 38. It was felt that more information was needed. Discussion ensued. When put to a vote, the motion to reconsider failed to carry by the required two-thirds. Yes 60 to No 50 (74 necessary).

CHARTER AMENDMENT

Elizabeth Painter, chair of the Charter Review Committee, presented an overview of the review process of the Charter last amended in 1996-97. The suggested amendments were described as housekeeping and technical in nature, intended to reflect actual and current procedure and conditions. A two-thirds vote is required for approval. Following approval at this meeting, the amendments are to be submitted to the Attorney General for review. If approved, the amendments will appear on the ballot for next year's annual town election.

ARTICLE 39. Chapter Amendment – Deletion of Article VIII, Transitional Provisions and Amendment of Related Sections

On motion of Selectman John Clayton, it was voted by a declared vote in excess of two-thirds to amend the Charter, adopted in 1991, amended in 1996, by deleting Article VIII in its entirety, amending Article IV by adding a new Section 4-6, amending Article V by adding a new Section 5-5, amending Section 4-1, and amending Section 4-4 (b) to read in their entirety as printed in the warrant, except for the first sentence of the second paragraph in Article IV, Section 4-6, where "two of which" should read "*two of whom*".

The Finance Committee was in support of the article.

A motion to amend by retaining the third paragraph of Section 4-6 (c), failed to carry. Another motion to retain the last sentence of the same third paragraph also failed to carry.

A. Amend Article VIII --Transitional Provisions-- by deleting in its entirety.

B. Amend Article IV --Town Administrator-- by adding new Section 4-6 to read in its entirety as stated below:
--

Section 4-6: Selecting a Town Administrator

Immediately upon notification of a vacancy or pending vacancy in the office of Town Administrator, the process of establishing a screening committee for the purpose of soliciting, receiving, and evaluating applications for the position of town administrator shall commence.

The screening committee shall consist of five voters, two of whom shall be appointed by the board of selectmen and three by the town moderator. Such voters, at the time of appointment, shall not be serving in any elective office or as a member of any multiple member board.

Not more than thirty days following the notification of a vacancy or pending vacancy in the office of town administrator the appointed members of the committee shall meet to initiate the process of selecting the new town administrator.

The screening committee shall review all applications received by it, screen all qualified applicants by checking and verifying work records and other credentials, and provide for interviews to be conducted with such number of candidates as it deems to be necessary.

As soon as is feasible, the committee shall submit to the board of selectmen the names of not less than three nor more than five persons whom it believes to be available and suited to perform the duties of the office of town administrator.

The board of selectmen, in an expedient manner, shall choose by majority vote one of the said nominees to serve as town administrator.

The entire selection process, beginning with the announcement of a vacancy or pending vacancy in the office of the town administrator, shall be completed within a period of 180 days in agreement with the provisions of Section 4-4 (b) of this charter.

Upon the appointment of a town administrator, the screening committee established hereunder shall be considered discharged.

C. Amend Article V --Administrative Organization-- by adding a new Section 5-5 to read in its entirety:
--

Section 5-5: Town Administrative Organization

Until such time as a different form of organization shall be provided, in accordance with the provisions of Section 5-1 of this charter, the following outline of organization shall be operative:

- (a) The board of selectmen shall appoint:
 - a town administrator to serve for an indefinite term;
 - an administrative assistant to the board of selectmen and town administrator whose duties shall be determined by said board;
 - a conservation commission;
 - an open space committee;

- a board of registrars of voters in the manner provided by general law;
- a zoning board of appeals;
- a council on aging, as provided by bylaw;
- a development and industrial commission, as provided by bylaw;
- an industrial development finance commission in the manner provided by general law;
- a cable television advisory committee;
- a public education and government committee;
- a cultural council as provided by general law;
- a board of cemetery trustees;
- constables;
- an emergency management officer and related personnel;
- an historical commission;
- a superintendent of streets and employees of said department;
- a police chief and other police officers;
- a fire chief and other fire fighting personnel or a board of fire engineers;
- a forest fire warden;
- a town collector and treasurer;
- a town accountant;
- an inspector of buildings;
- a zoning enforcement officer;
- a wire inspector, a plumbing inspector and a gas inspector;
- a sealer of weights and measures;
- a recreation commission;
- at least two members of the Lake Boon Commission;
- town counsel;
- the Randall Relief Fund Trustees;
- the Randall Town Fund Trustees;
- the Hale School Fund Trustees;
- a surveyor of wood and lumber;
- a fence viewer;
- a field driver;
- a tree warden;
- a pest control officer;
- a veterans' agent; and
- a veterans' graves committee.

(b) Town Clerk

- (1) Term of office – The town clerk shall be appointed by the board of selectmen for a term of three years.
- (2) Powers and Duties – The town clerk shall be the keeper of vital statistics for the town, the custodian of the town seal, shall administer the oath of office to all persons elected or appointed to any town office, shall issue such licenses and permits as are required by law to be issued by town clerks, supervise and manage the conduct of all elections and all other matters relating to elections,

be the clerk of the town meeting, keep its records and, in the absence of the town moderator or deputy town moderator, to preside pending the election of a temporary town moderator. The town clerk shall have such other powers and duties as are given to town clerks by general law, by this charter, by bylaw or by other town meeting vote, so long as not inconsistent with the General Laws.

- (c) The board of health shall appoint:
 - a health agent (s); and
 - an animal control officer (s)

D. Amend Section 4-1 --Town Administrator-- to read in its entirety as stated below:

Section 4-1: Appointment; Qualification; Term

The board of selectmen shall appoint a town administrator from a list prepared by the screening committee established by Section 4-6 of this charter. The board of selectmen shall appoint the town administrator to serve for an indefinite term and shall fix the compensation for such person, annually, within the amount appropriated by the town. The town administrator shall be appointed on the basis of demonstrated executive and administrative qualifications and especially fitted by education, training and previous experience to perform the duties of the office. A town administrator need not be a resident of the town or of the Commonwealth at the time of appointment, nor at any time during the period of such service. The town administrator shall not have served in an elective office in the town for at least twelve months prior to appointment. The town may from time to time establish, by bylaw, such additional qualifications as seem necessary and appropriate.

The town administrator shall devote full time to the office and shall not hold any other public office, elective or appointive, nor engage in any other business or occupation during such service, unless such activity is approved in advance and in writing by the board of selectmen.

The board of selectmen shall, not less frequently than annually, review the job performance of the town administrator and establish objectives for ensuing periods. Copies of the review and objectives shall, at least in summary form, be a public record.

E. Amend Section 4-4 (b) --Town Administrator-- to read in its entirety as stated below:

Section 4-4: Acting Town Administrator

- (b) Vacancy – Any vacancy in the office of town administrator caused by absences greater than thirty days, suspension, removal, resignation or death shall be filled as soon as possible by the board of selectmen in accordance with the procedures of Section 4-6 of this charter, but, pending such regular appointment, the board of selectmen shall appoint a town employee or other person to perform the duties of the office on an acting basis. Any temporary appointment shall be for a period not

exceeding ninety days and may be renewed for an additional period not exceeding ninety days. Compensation for such person shall be set by the board of selectmen.

ARTICLE 40. Charter Amendment – Submission of Budget and Budget Message

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to take no action on this article.

Douglas Hyde of the Charter Review Committee explained that questions remain in these regards. Rather than attempting amendment on the floor of town meeting, it is felt best to not consider change.

ARTICLE 41. Charter Amendment – Capital Planning and Definitions

On motion of Selectman Carole Makary, it was voted unanimously to amend the Charter, adopted in 1991, amended in 1996, by amending Section 6-7, deleting Section 7-5 (a), inserting a new definition for "Town Bulletin Board", and re-lettering Section 7-5, to read in their entirety as printed in the warrant.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

A. Amend Section 6-7 --Finance & Fiscal Procedures-- to read in its entirety as stated below:

Section 6-7: Capital Outlay Program

Capital outlays, as established by bylaw, shall be included in any capital outlay program. The capital planning committee shall submit a capital outlay program to the board of selectmen and the finance committee approximately sixty days prior to the date scheduled for town meeting, and it shall include:

- (a) a clear and concise general summary of its contents;
- (b) a list of all capital outlays proposed to be expended during the next ensuing five fiscal years, with supporting information as to the needs for and the benefits of each capital outlay;
- (c) cost estimates, methods of financing and recommended time schedules for each outlay; and
- (d) the estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining each facility and piece of major equipment involved.

The capital outlay program shall be revised annually and a report thereof distributed with the finance committee report.

B. Delete Section 7-5 (a) --General Provisions-- Definitions. Delete (a) Capital Outlays, insert a new definition, "Town Bulletin Board", and re-letter Section 7-5 to read in its entirety as stated below:

Section 7-5: Definitions

Unless another meaning is clearly apparent from the manner in which the work is used, the following words as used in this charter shall have the following meanings:

- (a) Charter – The word "charter" shall mean this charter and any amendments to it which may hereafter be adopted.
- (b) Day – The word "day" shall refer to a calendar day unless preceded by the word "business" in which case it shall mean a day, except Saturday, Sunday or a recognized holiday.
- (c) Public Hearing – The words "public hearing" shall mean a duly noticed public meeting in which the town agency presents information, responds to inquiries and hears testimony of interested persons.
- (d) Public Meeting – The words "public meeting" shall mean a meeting of a town agency called to conduct its usual and customary business.
- (e) Town – The word "town" shall mean the town of Stow.
- (f) Town Agency – The words "town agency" shall mean any officer, board, commission, committee, department, division or office of the town government.
- (g) Town Bulletin Board – The place designated by the town clerk for posting notices required by bylaw, charter, constitution or general law.
- (h) Voter – The word "voter" shall mean a registered voter of the town.

ARTICLE 42. Charter Amendment – Schools

On motion of Selectman Edward Perry, it was voted unanimously to amend the Charter, adopted in 1991, amended in 1996, by amending Section 3-1 (a), Section 3-3, Section 4-2 (h), Section 4-2 (j), and Section 6-6 to read in their entirety as printed in the warrant.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

A. Amend Section 3-1 (a) --Elected Officials-- to read in its entirety as stated below:

- (a) Elected Offices - The town offices to be filled by ballot shall be a board of selectmen, school committees(s) in accordance with Section 3-3, a town moderator, a board of health, a planning board, a board of assessors, a board of library trustees, members of the housing authority, and such members of regional authorities or

districts as may be established by statute, regional agreement or otherwise, except the representative to the regional vocational school who shall be appointed by the moderator.

B. Amend Section 3-3 --Elected Officials-- to read in its entirety as stated below:

Section 3-3: School Committee(s)

There shall be schools governed by local or regional school committees as determined by town meeting vote.

- (a) Local school committee – The local school committee shall have all of the powers and duties that school committees may have under the constitution and general laws of the commonwealth, and it shall have such additional powers and duties as may be authorized by this charter, by bylaw, or other town meeting vote. The powers of the school committee shall include, but are not intended to be limited to, the following:
 - (1) To appoint a superintendent of the schools and all other officers and employees connected with the schools, to fix their compensation, to define their duties, to make rules concerning their tenure of office, and to discharge them;
 - (2) To make all reasonable rules and regulations consistent with law for the administration and management of the public schools and for the conduct of its own business and affairs; and
 - (3) To work with the town administrator and other town agencies to further the interests of the town, its citizens, and its children.
- (b) Regional school committee – The powers and duties conferred upon the school committee by this charter may be transferred to a regional school committee in accordance with the procedures contained in the general laws.

C. Amend Section 4-2 (h) --Town Administrator-- to read in its entirety as stated below:

- (h) To recommend to the board of selectmen proposals for the rental and use of all town facilities and property except school property and property under the control of the conservation commission. The town administrator shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of all town buildings and facilities placed under the town administrator's control by the board of selectmen, including school property if so voted by the local school committee.

D. Amend Section 4-2 (j) --Town Administrator-- to read in its entirety as stated below:

- (j) To assure that a full and complete inventory of all property of the town, both real and personal, is kept including all property under the jurisdiction of the local school committee.

E. Amend Section 6-6 --Finance & Fiscal Procedures-- to read in its entirety as stated below:

Section 6-6: Local School Committee Budget

- (a) Public Hearing: The local school committee shall conduct a public hearing on its proposed annual budget not less than seven days prior to the meeting at which it is scheduled to vote on such budget. Notice of the public hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the town no less than seven days prior to the hearing. The notice shall contain a general summary of its proposed budget and shall specifically indicate any major variations from the budget for the then current fiscal year and the reasons for such changes. It shall further indicate the times and places at which complete copies of its proposed budget are available for examination by the public.
- (b) Submission to town administrator: The budget as adopted by the local school committee shall be submitted to the town administrator no later than seventy-five days prior to the date scheduled for town meeting in accordance with the bylaws so as to enable the town administrator to consider the effect of the local school department's requested appropriation upon the total town operating budget which is required to be submitted under this article.

ARTICLE 43. Charter Amendment – Master Plan Committee

On motion of Selectman Janet Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to amend the Charter, adopted in 1991, amended in 1996, by amending Section 7-7 (c), General Provisions, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

Section 7-7: Periodic Review of Charter and Bylaws

- (c) Master Plan Committee: The Master Plan shall be reviewed at the direction of the Planning Board every five years, and a Master Plan Committee shall be appointed two years before the next update is due. The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a special committee of seven members comprised of a member of the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Board of Health, the Conservation Commission, and the Finance Committee and two Stow voters at large, who are not members of the above named boards.

The appointed committee shall present a final report to the Planning Board and said report shall include a Master Plan or updates to any existing Master Plan as required by Chapter 41 of the General Laws. The committee shall be discharged six months after the Master Plan or Master Plan updates have been presented to the Planning Board.

ARTICLE 44. Charter Amendment – Miscellaneous

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously to amend the Charter, adopted in 1991, amended in 1996, by amending Sections 2-2, 2-7(a) and (c), 7-7(a), and 7-8(a) to read in their entirety as printed in the warrant.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

A. Amend Section 2-2 --Legislative Branch-- to read in its entirety as stated below:

Section 2-2: Presiding Officer

The town moderator shall preside at all sessions of the town meeting. At the first session of the annual meeting, the moderator may appoint a voter to serve as deputy moderator to assist the moderator. The appointment of a deputy moderator shall be subject to ratification by the town meeting.

In the absence of the moderator and the duly ratified deputy at any session of the town meeting, the town clerk shall open the meeting and preside over the election of a temporary moderator. In the absence of a moderator and the town clerk, the presiding officer of the first session of the town meeting shall be determined in accordance with the General Laws.

B. Amend Section 2-7 (a) and (c) --Legislative Branch-- to read in their entirety as follows:
--

Section 2-7: Initiation of Warrant Articles

- (a) Initiation – The board of selectmen shall receive at any time all petitions addressed to it which request the submission of any matter to the town meeting or ballot process by the voters, including petitions submitted in accordance with Section 21C of Chapter 59 of the General Laws, and which are filed by: (1) any town agency acting by a majority of its members; (2) any ten or more voters for an annual town meeting; (3) any one hundred or more voters for a special town meeting; and (4) any two hundred or more voters for a special election article, except in all cases when any other number is required by the General Laws.
- (c) Inclusion on Warrant – The board of selectmen shall include in the warrant for an annual town meeting the subject matter of all petitions, found and certified by the registrars of voters to be sufficient, which have been received by it ninety or more days prior to the date fixed by bylaw for the town meeting to convene.

C. Amend Section 7-7 (a) --General Provisions-- to read in its entirety as follows:
--

Section 7-7: Periodic Review of Charter and Bylaws

- (a) Charter Review – At least once in every ten years, a special committee of five voters shall be appointed by the town moderator for the purpose of reviewing this charter

and to make a report, with recommendations, to the town meeting concerning any proposed amendments which the committee may determine to be necessary or desirable.

D. Amend Section 7-8 (a) --General Provisions-- to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 7-8: Procedures Governing Multiple Member Bodies

- (a) Meetings – All multiple member bodies shall meet regularly at such times and places within the town as they may by their own rules prescribe. Except in cases of emergency, special meetings of any multiple member body shall be held on the call, by notice to each member at least forty-eight hours in advance of the time set, of the respective chairman or by one-third of the members thereof. A copy of said notice shall also be posted on the town bulletin board. Special meetings of any multiple member body shall also be called within ten days after the date of the filing with the town clerk of a petition signed by at least fifty voters and which states the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is to be called. Except as authorized by law, all meetings of all multiple member bodies shall be open and public.

ARTICLE 45. Planning Board Traffic Study

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be expended by the Planning Board for Lower Village Traffic Study and Concept Design Services.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

ARTICLE 46. Zoning Amendment – Planned Conservation Development

On motion of Selectman Makary, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Sections 8.5.1, 8.5.4 and 8.5.10 to read in their entirety as printed in the warrant, except that Section 8.5.4 g) shall read: "is consistent with the Stow Master Plan or succeeding plan, as amended".

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

Amend Section 8.5.1 by changing the bullets to letters, to read in its entirety as stated below:

- 8.5.1 Purpose – The purpose of the Planned Conservation Development is to allow residential development which encourages
- a) protection of Stow's rural character by development of land in clusters and villages which is in greater harmony with the town's natural resources and historic development patterns;

- b) preservation of land for conservation, OPEN SPACE, recreation, agriculture and forestry;
- c) preservation of significant land and water resources, natural areas and scenic vistas;
- d) preservation of unique and significant historical and archaeological resources;
- e) a greater mixture of housing types and more energy-efficient and cost-effective residential development; and
- f) reduced costs of providing municipal services.

It is not the intent of this bylaw to make undevelopable land developable, nor to permit an increase in the number of BUILDING LOTS that would otherwise be possible on a conventional plan pursuant to the provisions of the zoning bylaws that otherwise apply, but rather to encourage the preservation of important site features.

Amend Section 8.5.4 by changing the words "Growth Management Plan" in the last bullet to "Master Plan" and changing the format from bullets to letters, to read in its entirety as stated below:

8.5.4 Planning Board Action – In evaluating the proposed Planned Conservation Development, the Planning Board shall consider the general objectives of this bylaw and of Planned Conservation Development in particular; the existing and probable future development of surrounding areas; and the appropriateness of the proposed layout of the lots and the proposed layout and use of the Open Land in relation to the topography, soils and other characteristics and resources of the tract of land in question. The Planning Board shall grant a special Permit for a PCD if it finds that the PCD:

- a) protects and enhances the rural character and environment of Stow;
- b) provides Open Land which is of a size, shape and location and has adequate access so as to benefit the town and the residents of the PCD;
- c) is appropriate to the natural terrain of the tract of land to be developed;
- d) provides for the convenience and safety of vehicular and pedestrian movement in the development in a manner that is compatible with the narrow, tree-lined country roads of Stow;
- e) the application sets forth a specific plan for maintenance of all Open Land, waste disposal and drainage facilities, roadways and other improvements to be constructed in the development;
- f) complies with all other legal requirements for a Special Permit and the Zoning Bylaw, including those for a PCD; and

g) is consistent with the Stow Master Plan or succeeding plan, as amended.

Amend Section 8.5.10 by changing the format from bullets to letters, to read in its entirety as stated below:

8.5.10 Ownership of the Open Land – The Open Land shall be owned in common by the owners of all DWELLING UNITS in the PCD or shall be conveyed in whole or in part to:

- a) the Town of Stow and accepted by it; or to
- b) a non-profit organization, the principal purpose of which is the conservation of open space and/or any of the purposes and uses to which the Open Land may be dedicated; or to
- c) a corporation or trust owned, or to be owned, by the owners of lots or residential units within the PCD. If such a corporation or trust is utilized, ownership thereof shall pass with conveyances of the lots or residential units.

Report of the Planning Board re Article 46:

The Planning Board held a duly noticed Public Hearing on April 26, 2005 in the Stow Town Building, to consider a proposed amendment to the Stow Zoning Bylaw by amending Sections 8.5.1, 8.5.4 and 8.5.10.

Sections 8.5.1 and 8.5.10 – These proposed bylaw amendments are intended to change paragraph bullets (▪) to letters, permitting a reference to a specific paragraph. Wording in the bylaw remains the same.

Section 8.5.4 – This proposed bylaw amendment is intended to change the reference to the Stow "Growth Management Plan" to the "Master Plan"; and to change paragraph bullets (▪) to letters, permitting a reference to a specific subparagraph.

At its meeting of April 26, 2005, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 47. Zoning Amendment – Site Plan Approval – Developable Site

On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaws by amending Section 9.3.11.2 to read as follows:

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

9.3.11.2 The DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA shall be clearly identified on the plan and shall meet the requirements of Section 1.3.16 (definition):

Report of the Planning Board re Article 47:

The Planning Board held a duly noticed Public Hearing on April 26, 2005, in the Stow Town Building, to consider a proposed amendment to the Stow Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 9.3.11.2. This proposed bylaw amendment is intended to correct the reference to the "definitions" section of the bylaw, which defines DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA.

At its meeting of April 26, 2005, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 48. Zoning Amendment – Phasing of Growth

On motion of Selectman Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 8.6.4.4, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

8.6.4.4 Planned Conservation Development – Any proposed approval under Section 8.5 will be subject to the following schedule provided that the OPEN SPACE is deeded to the Town:

# Units in Development	Maximum DWELLING UNITS per Year*
1 - 11	8
12 - 33	9
34 - 66	30%
67 - 99	19 units or 26%
100 +	25 units or 22%

- * Number of units in the development for which building permits may be authorized each year beginning on the anniversary date of the issuance date of the first building permit for the development. In instances where the calculated numbers are less than whole numbers, they will be rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Report of the Planning Board re Article 48:

The Planning Board held a duly noticed Public Hearing on April 26, 2005, in the Stow Town Building, to consider a proposed amendment to the Stow Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 8.6.4.4. This proposed bylaw amendment is intended to change the term "Open Space Residential Development" to "Planned Conservation Development" which more accurately reflects the term as defined in Section 8.5 of the Zoning Bylaw.

At its meeting of April 26, 2005, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 49. Zoning Amendment – Active Adult Neighborhood

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 8.8, by adding a new Section 8.8.12, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

8.8.12 ACTIVE ADULT NEIGHBORHOOD UNITS constructed under a Special Permit issued in accordance with this section are exempt from Section 8.6 Phasing of Growth.

Report of the Planning Board re Article 49:

The Planning Board held a duly noticed Public Hearing on April 26, 2005, in the Stow Town Building, to consider a proposed amendment to the Stow Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 8.8.12. This proposed bylaw amendment is intended to exempt Active Adult Neighborhood units from Section 8.6 (Phasing of Growth) of the bylaw. An Active Adult Neighborhood provides housing designed for adult residents age 55 and older who no longer want to maintain a single-family home. These units have minimal impact on Town services. This amendment, if adopted will prevent prolonged construction activity and available of senior housing units and revenue to the Town.

At its meeting of April 26, 2005, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 50. Transfer to the Stabilization Fund

On motion of Selectman Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000.00 to the Stabilization Fund.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

ARTICLE 51. Balance the FY2006 Budget

On motion of Finance Committeeman Jason Robart, it was voted to take no action on this article.

ARTICLE 52. Town Election

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously that the meeting be adjourned until the Annual Election of Tuesday, May 24, 2005, commencing at 7:00 a.m., then and there to act on Article 52 for such election of officers and Ballot Questions as listed in the warrant; and thereafter, at the close of the polls, to dissolve this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m. to reconvene on May 24, 2005 at 7:00 a.m. for the Annual Election.

Checkers at the Door: Cathy Derby, Janet Derby, Carol Dudley, Utahna Hallet, Diane Lowden, Elizabeth MacGilvra, Eila Makey

Tellers for the Town Meeting: George Cormier, George Dargaty, Allan Fierce, Jean Lynch, Margaret Lynch, Peter Masters, William Maxfield, Edwin Merrick, Jayne Merrick, Joanne

Newman, Edward R. Perry, Sr., Marcia Rising, Kathleen Sferra, Dwight Sipler, John C. Toole, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Christine Way

Timekeeper: Catherine Desmond

<u>Number of Voters Checked:</u>	Monday, May 16th	228
	Tuesday, May 17th	142

Note: The amendments to the Zoning Bylaws adopted under Articles 46, 47, 48 and 49 were approved by the Attorney General on July 13, 2005. Posted as a Town Bulletin on July 15, 2005.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION MAY 24, 2005

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of April 12, 2005, the annual town election was held in Center School Gymnasium/Auditorium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m. to act on Article 52 of the annual town meeting warrant.

After examining the ballot box and finding it empty and in good order, the counter was set to zero. The ballot box was then locked and the keys delivered to the Warden who declared the polls open.

During polling hours forty absentee ballots were opened, recorded and cast into the ballot box. There were six spoiled ballots received from voters and these voters were given a replacement ballot. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m., with 1220 ballots cast. There were 4354 registered voters. At 9:30 p.m., the final results were announced as follows:

Selectman (one - three year term)

Stephen M. Dungan 954

Blanks 249

Write-ins 17

Assessor (one - three year term)

John E. Smith 886

Blanks 329

Write-ins 5

Planning Board (one - five yr. term)

Kathleen A. Willis 898

Blanks 318

Write-ins 4

Randall Library Trustee

(two – three yr. terms)

Timothy H. Reed 936

Carolyn C. Howe 47

Blanks 1433

Write-ins 24

Nashoba Regional School District

Committee (one - three year term)

Gary M. Bernklow 583

Brian P. Burke 598

Blanks 37

Write-ins 2

Stow Housing Authority

(one-five yr. term)

John C. Toole 876

Blanks 340

Write-ins 4

Board of Health (one - three year term)

Mary E. Cormier 914

Blanks 303

Write-ins 3

QUESTION 1

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to assess an additional Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Town's operating budget and the Town's two Regional School District assessments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005?

Question Passes. Yes - 620 No – 574 Blanks -526

QUESTION 2

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to finance the purchase of two new fire trucks?

Question Passes. Yes - 727 No – 452 Blanks -41

BALLOTS CAST - 1220

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS - 4354

ELECTION WORKERS

Warden

Carolyn R. Johnson

Clerk

Helen R. Faford

Ballot Box Officers

Elizabeth A. Lindberg

Elizabeth W. Tolbert

Checkers

Janet Derby

Betty Holly

Elizabeth D. MacGilvra

Eila J. Makey

Loretta A. Sagar

Betty M. Sauta

Judith A. Scraggs –Deputy Clerk

Ballot Counters

Cathy L. Derby

Utahna G. Hallet

Joanne C. Newman

Diane L. Parker

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OCTOBER 24, 2005

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of September 27, 2005, posted by the Constable on October 7, 2005, the special town meeting was called to order by Moderator Edward Newman at 7:05 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School.

Mr. Newman led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He then introduced Deputy Moderator Gary Horowitz, the Selectmen, Town Administrator William Wrigley, Town Counsel Jonathan Witten, Selectmen's Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Finance Committee members and other town officials in attendance. He referenced the Town Meeting Handbook and called attention to town meeting procedures and etiquette printed therein.

At the request of Mr. Newman, the meeting voted to allow Holly Johnson of Beals & Thomas to address the meeting, particularly as related to Article 2.

Jason Robart, chair of the Finance Committee, presented an overview of financial matters since the annual town meeting in May when an \$18,000,000 budget was approved for Fiscal 2006, representing a 6% increase over Fiscal 2005. Following that meeting, there was an increase in local receipts and the Nashoba School District assessment was reduced due to an increase in State aid. As a result, Mr. Robart advised that if the seven warrant articles to be moved as "raise and appropriate" were to be approved, the average tax bill will not increase any more than it would have by the actions of the May meeting.

On motion of Selectman Edward R. Perry, Jr., it was voted unanimously that the reading of the warrant and return of the constable thereon be waived but made a part of the record of this meeting, and that the Moderator be permitted to refer to each article by subject matter instead of reading each article in its entirety.

ARTICLE 1. Rescission of Prior Action

On motion of Selectman John Clayton, Jr., it was voted unanimously to rescind the borrowing authority granted under Article 43 of the 2003 Annual Town Meeting to purchase the

parcel of land consisting of 36+/- acres, shown as Parcel Number 65, Map R-10 on the Assessors' maps of Stow, the so-called "Villages at Stow" development.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of the article.

ARTICLE 2. Acquisition of Cushing Property

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted by declaration of the Moderator of a hand vote in excess of the two-thirds required to appropriate \$1,758,050 in the amounts and for the purposes described below for the acquisition by purchase, eminent domain or otherwise of the following described portions of the 70+/- acres parcel of land consisting of a portion of Map R-01 Lot (parcel) 27 on Walcott Street, Stow, known as the so-called Cushing Property, and for the costs associated therewith including legal, title, appraisal, engineering and other costs or fees incidental thereto:

\$500,000.00 for purpose of Open Space

Portion of Property: That portion of land containing approximately 44+/- acres shown as Open Space/Passive Recreation and Open Space/Active Recreation on the plan referenced below, excluding 15+/- acres containing proposed parking lot and ball fields;

\$347,500.00 for purpose of Active and Passive Recreation

Portion of Property: That portion of land containing approximately 15+/- acres shown as Open Space/Active Recreation on the plan referenced below, containing proposed parking lot and ball fields:

\$252,500.00 for purpose of Affordable Housing

Portion of Property: A portion of land containing approximately 3.1+/- acres shown as two building lots on the plan referenced below;

\$658,050.00 for General Municipal Purposes

Portion of Property: A portion of land containing approximately 7.9+/- acres shown as three building lots and a roadway on the plan referenced below;

as shown on a plan prepared by Beals and Thomas, Inc. titled "Preferred Development Alternative, Figure 4" and dated 10/7/2005;

that to meet this appropriation, \$1,100,000 shall be transferred from the Town's Community Preservation Fund for the acquisition of the portions of the property to be acquired for open space, active and passive recreation and affordable housing under G.L. c.44B, and the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$658,050 for the acquisition of the portion of the property to be acquired for general municipal purposes under G.L. c.44, §7(3) or any other enabling authority; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to enter into such agreements, execute such documents and apply for and accept any federal or state aid as may be available for reimbursement to the Town for these purposes; and further to sell a portion of the approximately 7.9+/- acres being acquired for general municipal purposes for the development of market rate housing in accordance with G.L. c.30B as applicable; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to convey all or part of the land as appropriate to the care,

custody and control of the Conservation Commission and/or the Recreation Commission, and/or convey easements and conservation restrictions with respect to such land, and to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition two and one-half) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

The Finance Committee was in favor of this article, as was the Capital Planning Committee.

Kathleen Sferra of the Conservation Commission and Robert Wilber of the Community Preservation Committee, members of a "working group" charged with formulating a plan for acquisition and municipal use of the approximately 70 acres out of a total of 106 to be removed from the Chapter 61 program, presented a proposed plan for use of those portions. Under the provisions of the Chapter 61 program, the Town has the right of first refusal when the owner has in hand a bonafide offer for purchase. The plan, drawn up by Beals & Thomas, delineated those areas proposed for ball fields, open space, affordable housing and general purposes, as outlined in the motion. It was pointed out that there is very little open space in that part of town as compared to other sections. In addition, there is need for playing fields.

John Beusch of the Stow Conservation Trust announced the pledge of \$100,000 toward the open space component of the project.

Voters spoke for and against the motion. Mrs. Alice Cushing, owner of the property, spoke in an attempt to clarify certain aspects of the purchase and sale agreement with Habitech. Holly Johnson of Beals and Thomas addressed the proposed plan. Gregory Jones doubted that the number of house lots proposed could be developed, given the soil conditions and topography. Ms. Sferra pointed out that the Town had no access to the property, therefore, no percolation or soil tests have been performed. She noted that Title 5 regulations have changed, thus allowing more land to be developed.

A call for the question failed to carry, and discussion continued until another call for the question that did carry. Discussion ceased. When put to a vote, the motion CARRIED by more than the required two-thirds vote.

NOTE: The vote on Question 1 taken at the October 25, 2005 special town election was in the affirmative to exempt the borrowing from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half.

At this point, Deputy Moderator Gary Horowitz assumed the gavel.

ARTICLE 3. Town Employee Salary Changes

On motion of Selectman Carole Makary, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$67,000.00 for the purpose of providing salary increases in FY2006 to specific Town employees, as recommended by the Salary Survey Study Committee.

Town Administrator Wrigley reported on the formation of the committee in 2004 to review employee salaries and wages. Comparisons were made with like positions in eight communities felt to be comparable to Stow. Utilizing the information gathered in the survey, a formula was developed that resulted in the recommendations for increase for certain positions

The Finance Committee was in favor of the article but reminded that this will be an on-going expense. It was felt important to pay employees fair wages.

ARTICLE 4. Fuel Oil and Gasoline Supplements

On motion of Selectman Janet Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,788.00 for the Municipal Building Account and \$10,000.00 for the Fuel Expense Account, for the purpose of off-setting expected increases in both fuel oil and gasoline costs during FY2006.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of the article.

ARTICLE 5. Road Construction

On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$161,435.00 for construction, reconstruction and/or improvements to Town roads, as requested by the Board of Selectmen, to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth pursuant to Chapter 291B of the Acts of 2004.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of the article.

ARTICLE 6. Well Repair at Town Center

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,127.54 to pay for repairs to the Town of Stow well pump and piping within the well.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of the article.

ARTICLE 7. Purchase of a Council on Aging Van

On motion of Selectman Dungan, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,600.00 which represents twenty percent (20%) of the costs, to be paid to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Construction's Mobility Assistance Program/Section 5310 Capital Grant used for the purchase of a 10-person van to be used to transport the elderly, persons with disabilities (regardless of age), and individuals transitioning from public assistance to employment where other forms of mass transportation are unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate; and to authorize the Town Administrator to sell or otherwise dispose of the existing van in connection therewith, in conformance with G.L. c.30B.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of the article.

ARTICLE 8. Purchase of Police Department Telephone Equipment

On motion of Selectman Makary, it was voted unanimously to take no action on this article.

ARTICLE 9. Charter Amendment & General Bylaw Amendment – Submission of Budget and Budget Message

On motion of Selectman Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to amend the Charter, adopted in 1991, amended in 1996, by amending Section 6-2 as printed in the warrant, and to amend Article 4 of the General Bylaws by inserting a new Section 10 of said Article 4, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

Charter Amendment: Delete Section 6-2 (a) – (Article VI Finance and Fiscal Procedures - Submission of Budget and Budget Message) - in its entirety, and re-letter Section 6-2 (b) to Section 6-2 (a).

General Bylaw Amendment: Insert a new Section 10 to Article 4. Town Finance and Administration to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 10. No later than one hundred days prior to the date scheduled for the town meeting in accordance with the bylaws herein, the town administrator shall call a public meeting of the finance committee, the school committee(s), representatives of any regional school committees, the assessors, the capital planning committee and the board of selectmen to review the financial condition of the town, revenue and expenditure forecasts and other information relevant to the budget in preparation for the annual town meeting.

At this point, Moderator Newman assumed the gavel.

ARTICLE 10. General Bylaw Amendment – Wetlands Protection

On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously to amend the Town of Stow General Bylaws, Article 9. Wetlands Protection, Section 7.2.j. and Section 7.4.b., and delete Section 7.4.c., so that the amended sections of the Wetlands Protection Bylaw shall read in their entirety as printed in the warrant.

Amend Section 7.2 by deleting the following words in subsection j.: "whether or not said stream or body of water is located within the Town of Stow", to read as follows:

j. Any activities, changes or work that pollute a stream or body of water.

Amend Section 7.4 by amending subsection b., and deleting subsection c. and subsections c.(1), c.(2) and c.(3) in their entirety

b. The term "qualifying wetland" shall mean only inland fresh water wetland areas, which are seasonally flooded or basins or flats or inland fresh water meadows.

ARTICLE 11. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Table of Dimensional Requirements

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 4.4 by correcting the section number referenced in Footnote (1), to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

- (1) If the LOT abuts a residential or recreation-conservation district, whether directly or separated by a public or railroad right-of-way, the side and rear YARDS abutting the

residential or recreation-conservation district shall be increased as follows and shall include a 50' landscaped buffer that consists of an opaque screen as defined in Section 7.7.4.1 of the Zoning Bylaw.

Minimum Side or Rear YARD

Compact Business District	50 feet
Business District	50 feet
Commercial District	50 feet
Industrial District	100 feet

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on October 11, 2005 in the Stow Town Building to consider proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw. This proposed amendment changes the current section number referenced in Footnote (1) from 7.7.5.1, which doesn't exist, to the correct Section 7.7.4.1. At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 12. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Definition of Open Space

On motion of Selectman Dungan, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 1.3.42, by changing the word "impermeable" to "permeable", to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

- 1.3.42 OPEN SPACE – An area of natural or landscaped vegetated growth. This may include within said area recreation areas, playing fields, benches, trails, footpaths, bodies of water and certain other surfaces such as gravel, cobblestone, brick, pavers or other similar materials when used to construct permeable walkways as may be approved by the Special Permit Authority or Site Plan Approval Authority.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on October 11, 2005 in the Stow Town Building to consider proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw. By changing the word "impermeable" to "permeable", this proposed amendment corrects an apparent error, and makes the word consistent with the obvious intent of the definition. At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 13. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Common Driveways

On motion of Selectman Makary, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 6.2.2, by adding the second sentence, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

- 6.2.2 The maximum length of the common drive shall be five hundred (500) feet and shall be measured from the near side line of the street along the center line of the common drive to the throat of the furthest junction. As part of an approved subdivision or special permit granted by the Planning Board, the length of a common drive may be longer than five hundred (500) feet.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on October 11, 2005 in the Stow Town Building to consider proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw. The Planning Board believes that the use of common drives should be promoted rather than discouraged. This proposed amendment will allow the use of common drives where multiple parallel single drives might otherwise be required, thereby reducing impervious surface area and site disturbance. At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 14. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Inclusion of Affordable Housing

On motion of Selectman Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 8.9.2.1, by changing the word "will" to "could" in the third line, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

- 8.9.2.1 Beginning with the effective date of this Bylaw, any development or division of land subject to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Sections 81-K through 81-GG, which could result in the creation of six (6) or more DWELLING UNITS, shall require a Special Permit from the Planning Board, and shall include as a condition of said permit that:
- A. At least 10% of the units be priced for QUALIFIED AFFORDABLE HOUSING PURCHASERS;
 - B. The mix of AFFORDABLE DWELLING UNITS and market rate housing built in any one year be equivalent to the overall mix for the entire development;
 - C. Deed restrictions, acceptable to the Town, and established in accordance with the standards of DHCD or successor or additional programs adopted by the Commonwealth or its agencies, shall be placed on the appropriate property to ensure that AFFORDABLE DWELLINGS UNITS created under this section shall remain AFFORDABLE DWELLING UNITS in perpetuity or for as long as a period as is allowed by law.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on October 11, 2005 in the Stow Town Building to consider proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw. The change of the word "will" to "could" will allow the Planning Board to address the issue of the creation of affordable units on a parcel that could at some point in the future support the creation of six or more dwelling units even if the proposal before them at the time creates less than six dwelling units. One possibility then open to the Planning Board would be the requirement of placing an affordability deed restriction on the parcel, or a portion thereof, in the event it is further subdivided. One possible drawback would be that if the Board chooses to place a deed restriction on one of five or fewer lots being created, it may give an incentive to a developer to create more lots initially. At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 15. Zoning Bylaw Amendments – Inclusion of Affordable Housing

On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously to discuss the items of this article individually and vote upon each separately, as set forth in separate motions proposed.

(A) On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw Section 8.9.2.1 by deleting the words "subject to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41, Sections 81K through 81GG, so that the first paragraph of Section 8.9.2.1 shall read as follows:

8.9.2.1 Beginning with the effective date of this Bylaw, any development or division of land, which could result in the creation of six (6) or more DWELLING UNITS, shall require a Special Permit from the Planning Board, and shall include as a condition of said permit that:

(B) On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw Section 8.9.6 by replacing the words "Authority or its designee" with the words "Affordable Housing Trust Fund", so that Section 8.9.6 shall read as follows:

8.9.6 **Fees-in-Lieu of AFFORDABLE DWELLING UNIT Provision** - As an alternative to the requirements of Section 8.9.2.1, and as allowed by law and with the approval of the Planning Board, an applicant may contribute an amount in cash equal to the costs of constructing such AFFORDABLE DWELLING UNITS, and satisfactory to the Planning Board in consultation with other relevant Town boards, to the Town of Stow Affordable Housing Trust Fund, for the development and preservation of affordable housing, in consultation with the Planning Board and other appropriate Town Boards, in lieu of constructing and offering AFFORDABLE DWELLING UNITS within the locus of the proposed development or off-site, as set forth in Section 8.9.6.1 below.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on October 11, 2005 in the Stow Town Building to consider proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw. Part (A) of this article proposes to delete reference to sections of MGL Ch. 41, which is the Subdivision Control Law, because there is a belief that these provisions should apply to any development of a parcel, not just by subdivision.

Part (B) of this article allows for a developer to make contributions to the newly created Affordable Housing Trust Fund rather than the Housing Authority, which serves a different function.

At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 16. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Accessory Apartments

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 8.1.2.3 by adding the words "secondary and" to subsection 1; correcting the reference "(Sanitary Code – Title V)" to "(Sanitary Code – Title 5)" in subsection 4; and deleting the current language in subsection 6 and replacing it with the words "this subsection language deleted October 24, 2005"; so that Section 8.1.2.3 as amended shall read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

8.1.2.3 provided that all of the following requirements are met:

1. The ACCESSORY APARTMENT shall be a use secondary and incidental to the single-family DWELLING and shall contain no more than 700 square feet of GROSS FLOOR AREA.
2. No more than one ACCESSORY APARTMENT shall exist on the LOT.
3. Either the single-family DWELLING or the ACCESSORY APARTMENT shall be occupied by the owner of the LOT. For the purposes of this section, the "owner" shall be one or more individuals who holds legal or beneficial title to said LOT and for whom the DWELLING is the primary residence for voting and tax purposes.
4. Both the single-family DWELLING and the ACCESSORY APARTMENT shall satisfy the requirements for 310 CMR 15.00 (Sanitary Code – Title 5) and Stow Board of Health regulations.
5. The LOT on which the single-family DWELLING or ACCESSORY BUILDING is located shall contain no less than 1.5 acres.
6. *This subsection language deleted October 24, 2005.*
7. Any entrance required by the inclusion of an ACCESSORY APARTMENT shall be clearly secondary to the main entrance of the primary DWELLING UNIT.
8. Any modification to the existing entrances on the front facade of the single-family DWELLING shall result in the appearance of a single main entrance.
9. A minimum of two (2) off-street parking spaces shall be provided for each DWELLING UNIT. There shall be adequate provision for ingress and egress from all parking spaces.
10. There shall be no more than one (1) driveway per LOT.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on April 26, 2005 in the Stow Town Building to consider proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw. The current language in subsection 6, which this article proposes to delete, states: "All stairways to the ACCESSORY APARTMENT shall be enclosed". The Planning Board believes that this issue is adequately addressed in the Building Code. The current language creates the apparently unintended consequence of forcing stairs from decks to be enclosed. The changes in subsections 1 and 4 are merely for clarification. At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 17. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Swimming Pools Fencing

On motion of Selectman Dungan, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 6.6.3, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

6.6.3 Swimming Pools Fencing

- 6.6.3.1 Every outdoor swimming pool, whether or not filled with water, shall be completely surrounded at all times by a FENCE or WALL, in compliance with the Massachusetts State Building Code, 780 CMR, Section 421.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on April 26, 2005 in the Stow Town Building to consider proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw. The Planning Board believes that the extensive and detailed language in the current version of the Bylaw is adequately dealt with in the Building Code and need not be part of our Bylaw,

especially where the possibility exists of conflicting language between our Bylaw and the Building Code. At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 18. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Dimensional Regulations

On motion of Selectman Makary, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 4.1.2 by adding the words "commercial, or industrial", so that Section 4.1.2 as amended shall read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

- 4.1.2 Only one main BUILDING may be built or placed on any LOT within the Town except within a business, commercial, or industrial district. Any main BUILDING hereafter ERECTED shall be on a LOT which has frontage upon a STREET as defined in this Bylaw.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on April 26, 2005 in the Stow Town Building to consider proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw. The Planning Board believes that it was not the original intent of this section to allow only one building on lots within the commercial and industrial districts, but rather that it was just an oversight in the language. At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 19. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Definitions

On motion of Selectman Wheeler, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 1.3.39, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

- 1.3.39 MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING – A BUILDING for residential USE, other than a DWELLING conversion or ACCESSORY APARTMENT, containing more than one DWELLING UNIT but not more than 4 DWELLING UNITS.

Planning Board Report: The Planning Board held a duly noticed public hearing on April 26, 2005 in the Stow Town Building to consider proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw. The current definition of Multi-family is buildings that contain more than two dwelling units. This proposal changes the definition of Multi-family to include buildings with more than one dwelling unit, but adds an exception for dwellings with accessory apartments which are dealt with separately. This proposed change will allow two-family dwellings (duplexes) where multi-family dwellings are allowed, such as in Active Adult Neighborhoods (AANs). At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment.

ARTICLE 20. Special Town Election

On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously that the meeting be adjourned until the Special Town Election on Tuesday, October 25, 2005, commencing at 7:00 a.m., then and there to act on Article 20 for such election of the Ballot Question as listed in the warrant; and thereafter, at the close of the polls, to dissolve this meeting.

At 10:07 p.m. Moderator Newman adjourned the meeting to reconvene on Tuesday, October 25, 2005 at 7:00 a.m. for the Special Town Election.

Checkers at the Door: Carol Dudley, Utahna Hallet, Ann Luxner, Elizabeth MacGilvra, Eila Makey, Judith Scraggs, Dolores Wesley

Tellers: Cindy Curley, Kathleen Farrell, Margaret Lynch, Peter Masters, Joanne Newman, Marcia Rising, Thomas Ryan, Debra Seith, Dwight Sipler, Diane Smith, Ellen Sturgis, Elizabeth Tobey, Pamela Weathers, Gail Webb

Timekeeper: Catherine Desmond

Number of Voters Checked: 287

Note: The amendments to the General Bylaws adopted under Articles 9 and 10 were approved by the Attorney General on January 20, 2006. Posted as a Town Bulletin on February 8, 2006.

The amendments to the Zoning Bylaws adopted under Articles 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 were approved by the Attorney General on January 20, 2006. Posted as a Town Bulletin on February 8, 2006.

SPECIAL ELECTION OCTOBER 25, 2005

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of September 27, 2005, the special election was held in Center School Gymnasium/Auditorium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m. to act on one ballot question on the town meeting warrant.

After examining the ballot box and finding it empty and in good order, the counter was set to zero. The ballot box was then locked and the keys delivered to the Warden who declared the polls open.

During polling hours nineteen absentee ballots were opened, recorded and cast into the ballot box. There were six spoiled ballots received from voters and these voters were given a replacement ballot. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m., with 586 ballots cast. There were 4331 registered voters. At 8:40 p.m. October 25, 2005 the final results were announced as follows:

Question 1.

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued to finance the acquisition, for any municipal purpose, of approximately 70 +/- acres of land, shown as Parcel 27 on Map R-01 of the Assessors Maps of the Town of Stow, located off of Walcott Street, Stow and known as

the “Cushing property”, and to fund the costs associated with said acquisition, including legal, appraisal, engineering and other costs or fees associated thereto?

Question Passes. Yes – 333 No – 253 Blanks - 0

BALLOTS CAST - 586

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS - 4332

ELECTION WORKERS

Warden

Philip J. Detsch

Clerk

Helen R. Faford

Checkers

Janet Derby

Carol J. Dudley

Deputy Warden

Newton P. Wesley

Ballot Box Officers

Elizabeth A. Lindberg

Nancy L. Harris

Elizabeth D. MacGilvra

Judith A. Scraggs –Deputy
Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

DECEMBER 12 & 13, 2005

(First Session)

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of November 15, 2005, posted by the Constable on November 23, 2005, the special town meeting was called to order by Moderator Edward Newman at 7:02 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School.

Mr. Newman advised that the proceedings of the meeting were being recorded for cablecast over Comcast Channel 9 (local access). He explained the yellow voter paper that had been distributed to each voter at sign-in. It included provision for paper ballot voting on warrant articles, should that be voted. He then recited an invocation provided by Moderator Ned Perry of Concord, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

"Before we start the business of this Special Town Meeting, let us commence, as has long been our custom, by standing and remaining silent for a moment. Let each of us reflect on how, through this Town Meeting, we and our neighbors provide for our common good. As we deliberate and vote tonight, let us be reminded that the passions of the moment are not always the best guide for our conduct in the future, and that if sacrifice by a few is required, the sacrifice should be only where the common goal is worthy of the sacrifice. Let us approach each issue, no matter how divisive, with an open heart and with an open mind. And above all, let each of us maintain a saving sense of humor, so that the debates at this Town Meeting will not be a source of division among us when our business here is finished."

Deputy Moderator Gary Horowitz and Assistant Moderator Elizabeth Painter were introduced. Others recognized were the Town Clerk Linda Hathaway; Assistant Town Clerk Catherine Desmond; Selectmen Edward Perry, Jr., John Clayton, Jr., Carole Makary, Janet Wheeler and Stephen Dungan; Town Administrator William Wrigley; Town Counsel Jonathan Witten; Finance Committee members; Capital Planning Committee members; Planning Board

members; School Building Committee members. Several non-voters were given approval to address the meeting.

Moderator Newman explained there will be five ballot questions to be voted upon at a special election on December 22nd for exemption from the provisions of Proposition 2-1/2. Those related articles, to be voted upon at this meeting, will require a two-thirds vote for passage, under the provisions of Proposition 2-1/2.

On motion of Selectman Edward R. Perry, Jr., it was voted unanimously that the reading of the warrant and return of the constable thereon be waived but made a part of the record of this meeting, and that the Moderator be permitted to refer to each article by subject matter instead of reading each article in its entirety.

Finance Committee chair Jason Robart addressed the financial status of the Town. The Fiscal 2006 budget as voted as the May annual meeting stands at \$18,755,833. Action voted at this meeting will have no impact on the budget until Fiscal 2007. The purchase of the Cushing property at the October special town meeting will add \$28 to the average real estate tax bill for Fiscal 2007 and for the next nine years. Mr. Robart reported that a strengthening of the Town's savings accounts is beginning, but is behind the state average. The existing debt is 6.4% of the operating budget. Five of the warrant articles to be considered at this meeting will have a direct financial impact and could add \$440 to the average tax assessment if approved.

ARTICLE 1. Purchase of Two-Classroom Modular Unit

On motion of Selectman John Clayton, Jr., it was voted by declaration of the Moderator of a hand vote in excess of the two-thirds required to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$260,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing and constructing a two-classroom modular unit, together with any engineering and architectural costs, and any other incidental costs related thereto. Such borrowing is to be undertaken by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, or as otherwise authorized by law, provided that an affirmative vote on this article shall be null and void and of no further force and effect unless the town approves by an affirmative vote a ballot question to exempt the debt service on the amount to be borrowed hereunder from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee recommended approval. The Selectmen were in favor.

A voter inquired what would become of the unit when it is no longer needed. Supt. of Schools Michael Wood responded it would be moved to Hale School in preparation for those students moving there. The life of such a unit was said to be about twenty years. Purchasing, rather than leasing, was felt to be a better value.

NOTE: The vote on Question 1 taken at the December 22, 2005 special town election was in the affirmative to exempt the borrowing from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half.

ARTICLE 2 (Purchase of Minute Man Property), ARTICLE 3 (PreK-5 School Design Plans) AND ARTICLE 4 (Improvements and Construction at Existing School Sites).

On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously to have a combined discussion on Articles 2, 3 and 4 and vote upon each article separately as to the amount to be appropriated, as set forth in separate motions proposed.

Selectman Perry moved that the Town vote on Article 2, Article 3 provided that Article 2 receives an affirmative vote, and on Article 4 by paper ballot.

Discussion ensued concerning the paper ballot process and possible reconsideration at the adjourned session. When put to a vote, the motion to vote by paper ballot DID NOT CARRY.

For purposes of information and discussion, Selectman Stephen Dungan read the proposed motions for the three articles.

Christine Way, chair of the School Building Committee, briefly outlined that body's work over the last three and one-half years. Enrollment has grown and the existing buildings are outdated. Gary Bernklow of the committee presented a more detailed report. The committee first considered addition and/or renovation of existing sites, but felt there were drawbacks. The recommendation was to build a new preK-5 school. Vacant land in Stow is limited. The Minute Man property with 114 acres off Boxboro Road has become available and is currently under a purchase and sale agreement for \$4,000,000. It is large enough to provide a school site. Land not utilized might be mixed use affordable housing, market rate house lots and conservation. A conceptual plan was presented for a 110,000 sq. ft. building for 722 students with room for expansion. Construction estimate at this time is \$35,000,000. SBA funding is likely to be 40 to 50%. With such SBA reimbursement, the average tax bill might increase by \$712. The recommendation of the School Building Committee is a new school on a new site. The Minute Man site meets those needs.

Chair Robart said the Finance Committee recommended approval of Articles 2 and 3. He indicated an amendment would be proposed to control the cost of the project. The Committee does not recommend Article 4. The Capital Planning Committee did not recommend Articles 2 and 3 as they represent too much debt.

Deborah Woods presented Article 4 that appeared on the warrant as a citizens' petition. The petitioners do not support the recommendation of the School Building Committee. They wish to preserve the Town's center that includes Center School. The proposal is to use and improve the existing school buildings. An addition to Center School would increase it from 30,000 sq. ft. to 66,000 sq. ft. with a total of twenty-four classrooms. The \$10,000,000 request may not be sufficient, but plans and estimates could come before another town meeting. The proposal is to engage the services of a consultant specializing in remodel/renovation rather than new school construction. This may add \$365 to the average tax bill.

The Finance Committee did not recommend Article 4. However, if Articles 2 and 3 fail, it would support Article 4 with a proposed amendment. The Capital Planning Committee supported Article 4 and felt it in the best interests of the capital needs of the Town.

Moderator Newman declared a discussion period on Articles 2 and 3 when there were questions and comments alternating between the auditorium and the gymnasium where Deputy Moderator Horowitz held forth. After thirty minutes, there was a call for the question. When put to a vote, the motion to suspend debate on Articles 2 and 3 carried by more than two-thirds, as declared by the Moderator.

Discussion ensued on Article 4 with questions and comments alternating between the auditorium and gymnasium. After thirty minutes, there was a call for the question. That motion carried, and debate on Article 4 ceased.

ARTICLE 2. Purchase of Minute Man Property

Selectman Stephen Dungan moved that the Town vote to appropriate \$4,235,000.00 for the acquisition of the property described below for the purpose of constructing a school, or any other municipal purposes, and authorize the Selectmen to acquire by exercising its option to purchase under Chapter 61A of MGL, or to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise as provided by MGLs on such terms and conditions as are in the Town's best interests, 114.3 acres shown as Parcel 22B-3 on Map R-18 of the Assessors' Maps of Stow, located off Boxboro Road, known as the so-called Minuteman Property.

Further, that such appropriation shall be met by a borrowing to be undertaken by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, under MGL Chapter 44, or as otherwise authorized by law, in the amount of \$4,235,000.00 for the acquisition thereof and the costs associated therewith including legal, title, appraisal, engineering, and other costs or fees incidental thereto.

Further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into such agreements, execute such documents and apply for and accept such state or federal grants as may be available for reimbursement to the Town for these purposes.

Further, subject to voter approval at a subsequent town meeting, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell a portion of the land for the development of market rate and/or affordable housing or for other purposes in accordance with Chapters 30B and 44B as applicable, convey part or all of the land to the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission and/or the Recreation Commission, and/or convey easements and impose conservation restrictions, the proceeds of any conveyances to reimburse the Town for the costs of the acquisition and to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; provided that an affirmative vote on this article shall be null and void and of no further effect unless the town approves by an affirmative vote a ballot question to exempt the debt service on the amount to be borrowed hereunder from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 2: There were 691 votes counted. Two-thirds was necessary for passage, or 461 votes. The hand count was Yes 369, No 322. The motion DID NOT CARRY.

Note: The vote on Question 2 taken at the December 22, 2005 special town election to exempt borrowing under Article 2 from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half was in the negative.

ARTICLE 3. PreK-5 Elementary School Design Plans

On motion of Selectman Carole Makary, it was voted unanimously to take no action on Article 3.

Note: The vote on Question 3 taken at the December 22, 2005 special town election to exempt borrowing under Article 3 from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half was in the negative.

ARTICLE 4. Improvements and Construction at Existing School Sites

Thomas Ryan moved that the Town vote to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$10,000,000.00 to be expended under the direction of the Stow Board of Selectmen, or their designee, in order to and for the purpose of remodeling, construction, reconstruction, expansion and/or making extraordinary repairs at the Center and Pompositticut Schools, together with any appurtenances thereto and including any and all engineering, architectural, project management, borrowing and legal costs, or any other costs incidental thereto; provided, however, that an affirmative vote shall be null and void and of no further force and effect unless the Town approves a ballot question to exempt the debt service on the amount to be borrowed hereunder from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half; in addition an affirmative vote shall be null and void and of no further force and effect should affirmative votes be taken by Town Meeting to purchase the so-called "Minuteman Property" (Article #2) AND to appropriate funding for a so-called "Purchase of PreK-5 Elementary School Design Plans" (Article #3), AND the Town approves ballot questions to exempt the debt service on the amounts to be borrowed for such purposes (for Articles #2 Minuteman and #3 School Design), from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half.

Mr. Robart of the Finance Committee moved to amend by adding: The Board of Selectmen or designee shall present detailed design plans for this project to town meeting for approval prior to committing any funds for renovation, rehabilitation or construction costs.

The motion to amend carried. 560 votes cast. Majority vote required: 281. Hand count was Yes 285, No 275.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 4: There were 573 votes on the main motion as amended. Two-thirds was necessary for passage, or 382. The hand count was Yes 298, No 275. The motion DID NOT CARRY.

Note: The vote on Question 4 taken at the December 22, 2005 special town election to exempt borrowing under Article 4 from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half was in the negative.

At this point, as many voters had left the meeting, Selectman Makary asked for a "sense of the meeting" as regards a new school on a new site. Those still in attendance appeared to be in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 p.m. to reconvene on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School.

**DECEMBER 13, 2005
(Second & Final Session)**

Moderator Edward Newman called to order the second and final session of the special town meeting at 7:02 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School.

As a historical note, Mr. Newman noted that former Moderator and Police Chief Winthrop Addy will celebrate his 101st birthday on December 18th. He is currently residing in the Masonic Home in Charlton.

Mr. Newman recognized those persons who were instrumental in setting up and assisting the town meeting.

Deputy Moderator Gary Horowitz assumed the gavel.

ARTICLE 5. Purchase of Crescent Street Property

On motion of Selectman Edward Perry, Jr., it was voted unanimously to take no action on Article 5.

The Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee were not in favor of purchase.

Moderator Newman assumed the gavel.

ARTICLE 6. Adoption of a Right-to-Farm Bylaw

On motion of Selectman John Clayton, it was voted unanimously to consider Article 7 prior to acting on Article 6.

ARTICLE 7. Establishment of an Agricultural Commission

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously to establish an Agricultural Commission. Said Commission shall serve as a facilitator and advocate for encouraging the pursuit of farming and agriculture in Stow, shall promote agricultural-based economic opportunities in the town, shall provide dispute resolution services, and shall work with town officials and boards to promote and protect agricultural interests, as printed in the warrant.

Agricultural Commission

The Commission shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The initial term of two members shall be three years, of two members shall be two years, and of one member shall be one year. After the initial term, the term of a member shall be three years. A maximum of three associate members may be appointed by the Commission. The term of an associate member shall be one year. Members and associates must be either residents of Stow or a resident of Massachusetts who operates a farm in Stow. The Board of Selectmen shall fill a vacancy based on the unexpired term of the vacancy in order to maintain the cycle of appointments, based on recommendations of the Commission.

Guiding Principles for Commission Appointment: Members and associates should: represent town geographically, represent the diversity and scale of agricultural businesses,

represent the diversity of the Town's population, encourage next generation farmers. The overall intent is to be inclusive, not exclusive.

The Finance Committee supported the article.

ARTICLE 6. Adoption of Right to Farm Bylaw

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, as amended, it was voted unanimously to amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Article 15, Right to Farm, to read in its entirety as follows:

ARTICLE 15. RIGHT TO FARM

SECTION 1. Legislative Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this Bylaw is to state with emphasis the Right to Farm accorded to all citizens of the Commonwealth under Article 97 of the Constitution, and all state statutes and regulations thereunder including, but not limited to, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3, paragraph 1; Chapter 90, Section 9; Chapter 111, Section 125A; and Chapter 128, Section 1A. We, the citizens of Stow, restate and republish these rights pursuant to the Town's authority conferred by Article 89 of the Articles of Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution ("Home Rule Amendment").

This General Bylaw encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Stow by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and town agencies. This Bylaw shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the town.

The word "farm" shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land, or water bodies, used for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, or accessory thereto.

The word "farming" or "agriculture" or their derivatives shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;
- dairying;
- production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities;
- growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, and any other forestry or lumbering operations;
- raising of livestock, including horses;
- keeping of horses as a commercial enterprise; and
- keeping and raising of poultry, livestock and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees.

"Farming" shall encompass activities including but not limited to the following:

- operation and transportation of slow-moving farm equipment over roads within the town;

- control of pests including, but not limited to, insects, weeds, predators and disease organism of plants and animals;
- application of manure, fertilizers and pesticides;
- conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities, including agri-tourism, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm;
- processing and packaging of the agricultural output of the farm and the operation of a farmer's market or farm stand including signage thereto;
- maintenance, repair or storage of seasonal equipment or apparatus owned or leased by the farm owner or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management or sale of the agricultural products; and
- on-farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations.

SECTION 2. Right to Farm Declaration

The Right to Farm is hereby recognized to exist within the Town of Stow. The above-described agricultural activities may occur on holidays, weekdays and weekends by night or day and shall include the attendant incidental noise, odors, dust and fumes associated with normally accepted agricultural practices. It is hereby determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through the normal practice of agriculture is more than offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community and society in general. The benefits and protections of this Bylaw are intended to apply exclusively to those commercial agricultural and farming operations and activities conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. Moreover, nothing in this Bylaw shall be deemed as acquiring any interest in land, or as imposing any land use regulation, which is properly the subject of state statute, regulation or local zoning law.

SECTION 3. Disclosure Notification

Not later than 21 days after the purchase and sale contract is entered into, or prior to the sale or exchange of real property if no purchase and sale agreement exists, for the purchase or exchange of real property, or prior to the acquisition of a leasehold interest or other possessory interest in real property located in the Town of Stow, the landowner shall present the buyer or occupant with a disclosure notification which states the following:

"It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy lies within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include, but are not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within the town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations including the ability to access water services for such property under certain circumstances."

A copy of the disclosure notification shall be given on a form prepared by the Town and shall be signed by the prospective landowner prior to the sale, purchase, exchange or occupancy of such real property. A copy of the disclosure notification must be filed with the Board of Selectmen or

its designee prior to the sale, purchase, exchange or occupancy of such real property. In addition to the above, a copy of this disclosure notification shall be provided by the Town to landowners each fiscal year by mail.

SECTION 4. Resolution of Disputes

Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the Board of Selectmen, the Zoning Enforcement Officer or the Board of Health in accordance with statute and appropriate bylaws and regulations of the Town. The filing of the grievance does not suspend the time within which to pursue any other available remedies that the aggrieved may have. The Zoning Enforcement Officer or Board of Selectmen shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance and report its recommendations to the referring town authority within an agreed upon time frame.

The Board of Health, except in cases of imminent danger or public health risk, shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance and report its recommendations to the Board of Health within an agreed upon time frame.

SECTION 5. Severability Clause

If any part of this Bylaw is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this Bylaw. The Town of Stow hereby declares the provisions of this Bylaw to be severable.

This Bylaw restates the various protections afforded to commercial farms throughout Massachusetts state law and is intended to educate citizens that farming activities are valued in Stow. Our few remaining commercial farms provide essential components to maintain the character of the Town. The notification provisions of the Bylaw will enhance awareness relative to the value of agriculture in Stow. There are no new benefits or protections provided in this Bylaw beyond those contained in state laws.

Amendment: Motion to amend by adding the word "prospective" before the word "landowner" in the first sentence of the third paragraph of Section 3 carried with a hand-counted vote of 78 in favor and 36 opposed, with 114 votes cast.

The Finance Committee did not recommend the article as it was not felt necessary to state Massachusetts law in the General Bylaws. The feeling was education could be accomplished in a different manner. Dwight Sipler, who spoke to the article, advised that the notification requirement is not contained in state law. When put to a vote, the motion as amended carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 8. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Erosion Control

On motion of Selectman Dungan, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw Section 3.8.1.10 by amending subsection 3, and adding a new subsection 7, to read in their

entirely as printed in the warrant in subsections (A) and (B) of this article; except that the semicolon after the word "development" in Section 3.8.1.10, subsection 7 shall be deleted and replaced with a comma.

(A) Amend Section 3.8.1.10, subsection 3 by replacing the words "areas" with the word "area", and the words "two acres" with the words "one acre", to read in its entirety as follows:

3. No area totaling one acre or more on any parcel or contiguous parcels in the same ownership shall have existing vegetation clear-stripped or be filled six inches or more so as to destroy existing vegetation, unless in conjunction with agricultural activity, or unless within STREETS which are either public or designated on an approved subdivision plan, or unless a special permit is approved by the Planning Board on the condition that runoff will be controlled, erosion prevented and either a constructed surface or cover vegetation will be provided not later than the first full spring season immediately following completion of the stripping operation. No stripped area or areas which are allowed by special permit shall remain through the winter without temporary cover of winter rye or similar plant material being provided for soil control, except in the vase of agricultural activity when such temporary cover would be infeasible.

(B) Amend Section 3.8.1.10 by adding a new subsection 7 to read in its entirety as follows:

7. Before a project disturbs one acre or more of land, either by itself or as part of a larger development, and storm water could run off the site in a directed manner (via a culvert, ditch, storm sewer system, roadway, storm dug channel, etc.) and reach a surface water (pond, stream, wetland, etc.), a copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP) and the Notice of Intent filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) shall be submitted to the Planning Board.

Planning Board chair Bruce Fletcher stated that the amendment bring the bylaw in line with EPA requirements. The Finance Committee was in support.

Report of the Planning Board: The article proposes to change the Special Permit requirement for areas greater than "two acres" cleared of vegetation to areas greater than "one acre" cleared of vegetation, consistent with the Federal requirement for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit; and to require submission of a copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Notice of Intent filed with the EPA under the NPDES permit to the Planning Board. At its meeting of December 6, 2005, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT the proposed amendments to Section 3.8.1.10 of the Zoning Bylaw, as printed in the warrant and further amended by changing the semicolon after the word "development" to a comma.

ARTICLE 9. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Common Drives

On motion of Selectman Clayton, it was voted unanimously, as declared by the Moderator, to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 6.2 by adding a new subsection 6.2.7, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

6.2.7 As part of an approved subdivision or special permit granted by the Planning Board, the number of LOTS served by a common drive may be increased to five (5).

Kathleen Willis of the Planning Board explained that the amendment increases the number of lots to be served by a single drive from three to five. The lot owners are to be responsible for maintenance of the common drive.

Report of the Planning Board: The Planning Board believes that the use of common drives should be promoted rather than discouraged. This proposed amendment will increase the number of lots from 3 to 5 allowed to be served by a common drive, thereby reducing the number of parallel single drives that might otherwise be required, and reducing impervious surface area and site disturbance. At its meeting of December 6, 2005, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 10. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Non-Conforming Uses and Structures

On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaws Section 3.9 by deleting the first paragraph of Section 3.9 and the entirety of Section 3.9.1 as currently written and substituting new Section 3.9 and Section 3.9.1, and adding new Sections 3.9.6 and 3.9.7, to read in their entirety as printed in the warrant, except that the word "applications" in Section 3.9.7.2 shall be deleted and replaced with the words "Special Permit Petitions", and a comma shall be inserted after the word "provision" and after the word "reconstruct".

Report of the Planning Board: At its meeting of October 11, 2005 the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT this proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment, as printed in the warrant and further amend by changing the word "applications" in the first paragraph of Section 3.9.7.2 to "Special Permit petitions" (four in favor, one opposed).

3.9 NON-CONFORMING USES and STRUCTURES

3.9.1 A pre-existing NON-CONFORMING USE or STRUCTURE may continue. However, other than Wireless Service Facilities, which may not be altered or extended unless specifically allowed in Section 3.11 of the Bylaw, no lawful pre-existing, NON-CONFORMING USES or STRUCTURES may be extended or altered except in conformance with Sections 3.9.6 and 3.9.7 below. All applications for extensions and/or alterations shall include a scaled floor plan of the STRUCTURE(S) in question showing FLOOR AREA and ground coverage prior to and following the proposed changes in order to determine the degree to which the use has expanded from its original size. All applications for such special permits shall include such information and plans as required for a special permit as required in Section 9.2. Applicants shall also comply with the following site planning standards for "NON-CONFORMING USE or STRUCTURES".

3.9.6 Changes of Use and Limitation on Intensity and Size of Use – Other Than Single or Two-Family Residential Dwellings:

3.9.6.1 As provided in G.L. c. 40A, sec. 6, a lawfully pre-existing non-conforming use and/or structure, other than a single or two-family residential dwelling, may be reconstructed, altered or extended only if:

1. said reconstruction, alteration or extension itself conforms with all the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw;
2. there is a finding by the Board of Appeals that such reconstruction, alteration or extension will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing non-conforming structure or use;
3. that said extension, alteration or change is in accordance with the guidelines noted below; and
4. that the Board of Appeals grants a special permit as provided in Section 9.2.

3.9.6.2 Guidelines for Review of Extensions, Alterations or Changes to Pre-Existing, Non-Conforming Uses and Structures:

Recognizing the need to provide guidelines for determining relative impacts upon the Town and the immediate neighborhood from an expansion, alteration or change of pre-existing non-conforming uses and structures, and recognizing the basis and consistent principles of zoning with respect to minimizing non-conforming uses and structures, the following shall apply to the review of special permit applications under this Section:

1. the Board of Appeals shall encourage extensions, alterations or changes to non-conforming structures and uses toward greater, if not complete, conformance with the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw and to reduce the degree of non-conformity;
2. the Board of Appeals shall not encourage the expansion of a non-conforming structure or use as measured by either the
 - a) amount of floor space or land area used, or
 - b) volume of activity, including but not limited to an increase in the intensity of use and/or a change in the nature or purpose of the use;
3. the Board of Appeals shall prohibit the expansion of non-conforming structures and uses unless there will be no demonstrable adverse impacts on abutting properties and those properties that generally characterize the neighborhood or locus within which the expansion is sought, and;

4. the Board of Appeals shall not encourage the expansion of non-conforming structures and uses if the expansion will negatively impact the Town of Stow's ground or surface water bodies.

3.9.6.3 Table of Presumptively Not More Detrimental Extensions, Alterations, or Changes to Pre-Existing, Non-Conforming Uses and Structures:

An extension, alteration or change to a lawfully pre-existing non-conforming use or structure shall be presumed not to be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood if the guidelines of Section 3.9.6.2 are considered and if the extension, alteration or change also is in compliance with the following:

TABLE OF PRESUMPTIVELY NOT MORE DETRIMENTAL EXTENSIONS, ALTERATIONS, OR CHANGES TO OTHER THAN SINGLE OR TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS

Issue	Presumptively Allowable Changes, Alterations, or Extensions
If maximum floor area ratio requirements are exceeded and/or minimum open space requirements are not met.	The extension, alteration, or change does not: 1) increase the floor area ratio requirements; 2) decrease the existing floor area ratio and/or; 3) results in an increase of the open space requirements of Section 4.4.
If the structure or use exceeds current parking or loading area requirements.	The requirements of Section 7 of the Zoning Bylaw are met or if the Board of Appeals determines that the existing use and proposed expansion or site conditions do not warrant the number of parking spaces required by Section 7.3.3.
If the structure or use exceeds, or is in violation of, or violates any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw.	The extension, alteration, or change meets the guidelines specified in Section 3.9.6.2 above.

3.9.7 Alteration, Reconstruction, Extension or Structural Changes to Pre-Existing, Non-Conforming Single and Two-Family Residential Structures.

3.9.7.1 As provided for in G.L. c.40A, sec. 6, a non-conforming single or two-family dwelling or structure accessory thereto may be altered, reconstructed, extended or otherwise structurally changed provided that:

1. the proposed alteration, extension or structural change itself conforms to the requirements of the present Bylaw, and does not intensify any existing non-conformities or result in any additional non-conformities, in which event the

Building Inspector may issue a building permit and an application to the Board of Appeals need not be made; or

2. the proposed alteration, extension or structural change itself does not conform to the requirements of the present Bylaw, and does intensity existing non-conformities or results in additional non-conformities, in which event a Petition for Special Permit must be made to the Board of Appeals, and the Board of Appeals must find that:
 - a) there is no substantial increase in the non-conforming nature of said structure; and
 - b) such reconstruction, alteration or extension will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing non-conforming structure or use.

3.9.7.2 In determining the meaning of the phrases "increase the non-conforming nature of said structure" and "substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood", the following shall apply to the review of Special Permit Petitions subject to this provision, to alter, reconstruct, extend or structurally change a pre-existing non-conforming single- or two-family residential structure:

1. The Board of Appeals must make a determination as to the particular respect or respects in which the existing structure or lot does not conform to the requirements of the present Bylaw;
2. Should the Board of Appeals conclude that the proposed change would substantially increase the non-conforming nature of the structure or lot, the applicant will not be entitled to the issuance of a special permit;
3. If the Board of Appeals determines that the proposal will not substantially increase the non-conforming nature of the structure or the lot, the applicant will also be required to show that the change will not be substantially more detrimental than the existing non-conforming structure or use to the neighborhood;
4. If the Board of Appeals determines that the proposal will be more substantially detrimental to the neighborhood, the special permit sought will be denied unless the Board of Appeals determines that a special permit can be approved with conditions that would make the change substantially not more detrimental, in which case the Board of Appeals may approve a special permit with such conditions.
5. For the purposes of this Section, determination of "substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood" shall include consideration of and impacts to, the general and immediate neighborhood from the resulting height, building coverage, impervious coverage, and width of the altered, reconstructed, extended or structurally changed

structure. Additionally, a determination whether an altered, reconstructed, extended or structurally changed structure will be "substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood" shall include the resulting impacts to views and vistas from abutting properties and public and private ways, increase in traffic, noise, surface water runoff and related site planning issues.

ARTICLE 11. Special Town Election

On motion of Selectman Perry, it was voted unanimously that the meeting be adjourned until the special town election on Thursday, December 22, 2005 commencing at 7:00 a.m., then and there to act on Article 11 for such election of the Ballot Questions as listed in the warrant; and thereafter, at the close of the polls, to dissolve this meeting.

- Question 1: Purchase of two-classroom modular unit
- Question 2: Purchase of Minute Man property
- Question 3: Purchase of PreK-5 elementary school design
- Question 4: Improvements and construction of existing school sites
- Question 5: Purchase of Crescent Street property

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. to reconvene on December 22, 2005 at 7:00 a.m. for the Special Town Election at Center School Auditorium/Gymnasium.

Checkers: Janet Derby, Philip Detsch, Carol Dudley, Utahna Hallet, Nancy Harris, Elizabeth MacGilvra, Eila Makey, Betty Sauta, Judith Scraggs, Newton Wesley

Tellers in Auditorium & Gymnasium: Sue Allaire, Wendy Anderson, Robin Boylen, Jennifer d'Entremont, Kathleen Farrell, Allan Fierce, Victoria Fletcher, Wayne Fletcher, Edmund Green, Thomas Kostas, Jean Lynch, Margaret Lynch, Peter Masters, William Maxfield, Joanne Newman, Diane Parker, Richard Perkins, Edward Perry, Sr., Robin Riley, Donald Rising, Marcia Rising, Debra Seith, Kent Seith, Kathleen Sferra, Dwight Sipler, Ellen Sturgis, Karen Tompert, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Robert Walrath, Pamela Weathers, Robert Wilber, John Zettler

Timekeeper: Catherine Desmond

<u>Number of Voters Checked:</u>	Monday, December 12th	740
	Tuesday, December 13th	138

Note: The amendment to the General Bylaws adopted under Article 6 was approved by the Attorney General on April 4, 2006. Posted as a Town Bulletin on April 7, 2006.

The amendments to the Zoning Bylaws adopted under Articles 8, 9 and 10 were approved by the Attorney General on April 4, 2006. Posted as a Town Bulletin on April 7, 2006.

SPECIAL ELECTION DECEMBER 22, 2005

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of November 15, 2005, the special election was held in Center School Gymnasium/Auditorium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m. to act on five ballot questions on the town meeting warrant.

After examining the ballot box and finding it empty and in good order, the counter was set to zero. The ballot box was then locked and the keys delivered to the Warden who declared the polls open.

During polling hours forty absentee ballots were opened, recorded and cast into the ballot box. There were eleven spoiled ballots from voters and these voters were given a replacement ballot. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m., with 1,057 ballots cast. There were 4369 registered voters. At 8:30 p.m. December 22, 2005 the final results were announced as follows:

Question 1.

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to fund the engineering and architectural services for the design development, plans and specifications, purchase and construction of a two-classroom modular school unit and to fund any incidental expenses related thereto?

Question Passes. Yes - 730 No - 321 Blanks - 6

Question 2.

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, 114.3 acres, shown as parcel 22B-3 on map R-18 of the Assessors' Maps of Stow, located off Boxboro Road, known as the so-called Minute Man property, for one or more of the following purposes: siting a school; affordable housing; market rate housing; open space; active and passive recreation; or other municipal uses; and to fund any of the costs incidental to said acquisition?

Question Fails. Yes - 329 No - 713 Blanks - 15

Question 3.

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to fund engineering and architectural services for the design development, plans and specifications for the construction of a new preK-5 elementary school and to fund any incidental expenses related thereto?

Question Fails. Yes - 354 No - 689 Blanks - 14

Question 4.

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond(s) to be issued in order to finance

the re-modeling, construction, reconstruction, expansion or making of extraordinary repairs at the Center and/or Pompositticut Schools, together with any appurtenances and including any and all engineering, architectural, project management and legal and other related costs incidental thereto?

Question Fails. Yes - 507 No - 534 Blanks - 16

Question 5.

Shall the Town of Stow be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to fund the purchase of 0.25 acres, shown as parcel 2 on Map U-10 of the Assessors' Maps of Stow, located at 13 Crescent Street for the purpose of building a municipal parking lot and to fund any engineering plans and specifications, construction costs, or other incidental project costs related thereto?

Question Fails. Yes - 181 No - 849 Blanks - 27

BALLOTS CAST - 1057

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS - 4369

ELECTION WORKERS

Warden

Philip J. Detsch

Dep. Warden

Newton P. Wesley

Ballot Box Officers

Elizabeth A. Lindberg

Elizabeth W. Tolbert

Checkers

Janet Derby

Carol J. Dudley

AnneC. Draudt

Betty Holly

Elizabeth D. MacGilvra

Eila J. Makey

Betty M. Sauta

Judith A. Scraggs –Deputy Clerk

Ballot Counters

Patricia L. Beland

Utahna G. Hallet

A true copy. Attest: Linda E. Hathaway, Town Clerk of Stow

TOWN OF STOW

***County of Middlesex
Commonwealth of Massachusetts***



Established as the Plantation of Pompositticut, 1669

Incorporated as a Town, May 16, 1683

Land area given to seven surrounding towns



Area today 17.94 Square Miles

11,311.4 Acres Land; 167 Acres Water

11,478.4 Acres Total



Longitude: 71⁰ Latitude: 42⁰ 26'

Altitude (above sea level) at Town Hall: 231 feet



Population per 2000 Federal Census: 5902

Population per 2005 Stow Census: 6,283

TOWN CALENDAR

Meetings held at Town Building unless otherwise noted.

SELECTMEN:	Second & fourth Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
CEMETERY COMMITTEE:	Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:	Second & fourth Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
CONSERVATION COMMISSION:	First & third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
COUNCIL ON AGING:	Second Thursday, 9:00 a.m.
FINANCE COMMITTEE:	Second & fourth Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
GENERAL BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE:	Second & fourth Thursdays, 7 p.m.
HISTORICAL COMMISSION:	Second Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall
HOUSING PARTNERSHIP:	First & third Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOC-TECH SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE:	Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Minuteman Regional, 758 Marrett Road, Lexington
NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE (Full committee):	Second & fourth Thursdays, 6 p.m., Emerson Building, 50 Mechanic Street, Bolton
PLANNING BOARD:	Second & fourth Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
RANDALL LIBRARY TRUSTEES:	Third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Library
SCHOOL BUILDING TASK FORCE:	Mondays, 7:30 p.m.
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:	First Monday, 8:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

The following boards meet monthly, but meeting dates vary.

Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Lake Boon Commission, Local Access Channel Advisory Committee, Master Plan Committee, Municipal Land Use Committee, and Recreation Commission.

AS NEEDED MEETINGS:

The following boards meet on an 'as needed' basis:

Cable License Advisory Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Cultural Council, Housing Authority, Open Space Committee.

DISCLAIMER: This calendar is a reference guide only.

It is not an official meeting notice posting. Meeting dates are subject to change. To confirm, contact a board member, check the meeting notices on the town bulletin board at Town Building or in the Town Clerk's office. Official meeting notices are posted a minimum of 48 hours prior to the meeting per Open Meeting Law requirements.

TOWN DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE DEPARTMENT .....	.....EMERGENCY.....	911
	Other calls....	978-897-4545
FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT .....	.....EMERGENCY.....	911
	Other calls....	978-897-4537
AMBULANCE .....	.....EMERGENCY.....	911
Animal Control Officer .....	.....	978-897-2784
Assessors.....	.....	978-897-4597
Building Department .....	.....	978-897-2193
Building Inspector, Gas Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, and Wire Inspector		
Cemetery Committee.....	.....	978-461-1403
Conservation Commission.....	.....	978-897-8615
Council on Aging .....	.....	978-897-1880
Health, Board of.....	.....	978-897-4592
Highway Department.....	.....	978-897-8071
Hudson Light & Power Department ...	.....	978-568-8736
NSTAR (gas company) .....	.....	800-572-9300
Planning Board .....	.....	978-897-5098
Randall Library .....	.....	978-897-8572
Recreation Commission .....	.....	978-461-1411
Schools:		
Nashoba Regional School District .....	.....	978-779-0539
Center School .....	.....	978-897-0290
Hale Middle School.....	.....	978-897-4788
Pompositticut School.....	.....	978-897-5774
Nashoba Regional High School....	.....	978-779-2257
Minuteman Regional High School	.....	781-861-6500
Selectmen .....	.....	978-897-4515
Stow TV Office.....	.....	978-897-7732
Town Accountant .....	.....	978-897-5012
Town Administrator .....	.....	978-897-2927
Town Clerk.....	.....	978-897-4514 x1
Treasurer-Collector.....	.....	978-897-2834
Tree Warden.....	.....	978-897-8071
Veterans' Services Officer.....	.....	978-562-6630 (H)

Mail: 380 Great Rd., Stow, MA 01775-2127, FAX: 978- 897-4534, website: www.stow-ma.gov

Excerpts from Frannie Warren's Book "Recollections of Stow"

Dairy Farming

1900 U. S. Census for Stow: 1002 people

1902 Number of Cows Taxed in Stow: 1026

Dairy farming was always the mainstay of farming in this area, and Stow was no exception. The market for the raw milk was mostly Boston. "I can remember when milk from Stow was hauled to West Acton by horses and put in refrigerator cars with a lot of ice.... For more than a 100 years the cows were driven over the road in May for summer pasture in Princeton on land purchased in 1820 by Abijah Warren, a trip of 20 miles, and then back to Stow in October."

Orchards

"Apples were grown on nearly every farm in Stow. Ralph Stiles, Will Peck, the three Stephenson brothers, John Wetherbee, Charles Wetherbee, the Clemens brothers and Otto Geers were some of the growers. In the past almost all apples produced in Stow were taken to the Boston market. Before the advent of trucks, produce was hauled to Boston by horses, a two-day trip, with the owner or his driver selling the load in the early morning hours. Many days, often on Sundays, caravans headed for Boston from this area. Great friendships were made, in spite of the often bitter competition for a good location on North Market Street."

Haying

"Hay was also an important cash crop, and Haymarket Square in Boston was really the square where hay was marketed." In the early 1800's the scythe was used to cut hay on the farms, and then gear-driven mowers pulled by horses appeared on the scene. "When I thought I was big enough to run the mower, I begged my father to let me mow, so one day he sent me up to the orchard on the hill to mow between the rows of trees. There were a lot of large rocks which had to be avoided and made it necessary to back the horses up and lift the heavy cutter bar. When I came down to dinner I was ready to bawl; the hired men were not sympathetic. 'Well the Old Man is getting you initiated. That is the place to learn.'"

Market Gardening

Herbert Underwood (corner of Sudbury Rd. and Whitman St.) was the principal vegetable grower because of his greenhouses. The "Underwood Cucumber" was considered for many years to be the best market variety. Other farmers tried different crops. C.D. Fletcher had more than 15 acres of asparagus. For a number of years, farmers raised Blue Hubbard squash, and, at various time, strawberries and of course, tomatoes.

Poultry Farming

The largest producer in Stow was Henry Eriksen, who had large hen houses on Great Road at the Maynard line and more on Boxboro Road. Ralph Crowell, at what is now Stow Shopping Center; Arthur Trefry at 347 Boxboro Road; Will Peck at 567 Great Road; Jack Derby at 438 Great Road; and Fred Sibley at 149 Sudbury Road, had large flocks. Charlie Carvill at 107 Harvard Road; Otto Stein at the Stein Farm (now Harvard Acres) and others also had flocks. Farmers with large turkey flocks were Gerry Lawrence at 389 Taylor Road who raised as many as 10,000 turkeys at a time, while Ralph Crowell as late as the 1960's raised as many as 3,500 turkeys a year.

Horses

"Perhaps things look rosier to me now that I am older but there is a certain feeling about the animals we worked with on the farm, especially the horses. Generally, men of that time were as proud of their horses as many are of their cars today. If one had to travel much, a good driving horse was almost a necessity. If possible, young men invested their wages in a good horse and rig, to impress the girls...."

