

TOWN OF STOW

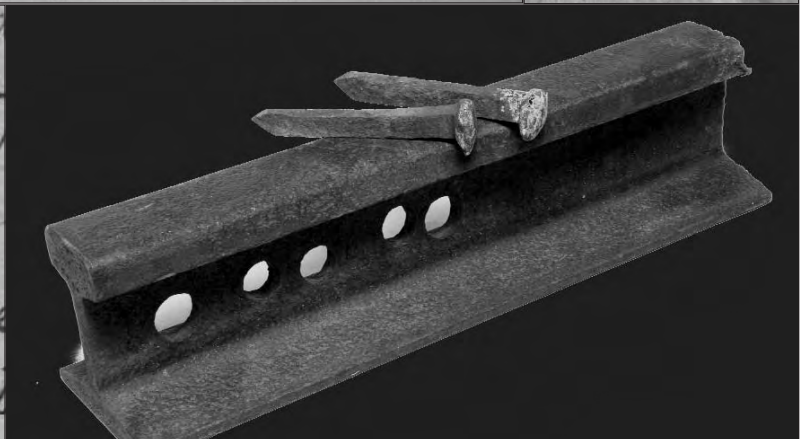
MASSACHUSETTS



Treasures of
Stow's "Attic"



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2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Stow's Historical Attic

Pop Quiz: What do the Stow Musket, Elijah Hale's walking stick, "The Stow Regicide's" coffin nails, the 1846 Stow Town Report and the painting of the Lower Common on display in Randall Library all have in common?

Answers:

1. They're all parts of Stow's history – artifacts, each in their own way, of people who lived here, its growth through 300-plus years and its way of life in times past, preserved by the Stow Historical Society, Ancient Documents Committee, Historical Commission and other groups.

- **The Stow Musket**, acquired last spring, reflects Stow's commitment to the American Revolution. Stow soldiers not only fought the British force that marched on Concord on April 19, 1775, they served at Bunker Hill, Saratoga and on other campaigns. The musket is believed to have been obtained by Ichabod Stow while on duty in Rhode Island.
- **Elijah Hale's walking stick** is a reminder of the prominent Stow businessman who helped launch the woolen mills that became Gleasondale, and whose gifts to the town included funds for Hale High School – still with us in name at Hale Middle School.
- **The nails are all that was left** of the Regicide's coffin, buried in 1688, when it was dug up in the 1930s. Along, of course, with the Regicide's headless skeleton.
- **The 1846 Town Report** was the first of Stow's official reports of government officers, activities, statistics, income and expenditures, produced each year ever since, including the one you're holding in your hands.
- **The Lower Common painting**, created by Louisa Hosmer Cheney, gives us an image of Stow's original grassy center as it appeared in the 1820s (prominently showing off, of course, the house and law office of her father, "Squire" Rufus Hosmer).

Continued on Inside Back Cover

On the Cover: Artifacts in Stow's historical collections include (clockwise from top) Louisa Hosmer Cheney's painting of the Lower Common; nails from the Regicide's coffin; the Stow Musket; Dr. Livermore's tooth extractor; a section of Stow trolley rail and spikes; an inset from the record of the Town Meeting of July 1, 1776, in which Stow voted for independence from Great Britain; a portrait of 19th-Century Stow benefactor Elijah Hale.

Annual Report



Town of Stow Massachusetts

for the year ending
December 31, 2009

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IN MEMORIAM

Donald B. Hyde, Jr.
1925 - 2009

Town Moderator 1970 - 1995
Zoning Board of Appeals 1968 - 2009
Charter Review Committee 1995 - 1997
Town Report Committee 1976 - 1980
Conservation Commission 1967 - 1979

George A. Scraggs
1929 - 2009

Building Inspector 1990 - 2000
Deputy Building Inspector 1987 - 1990
Cable License Advisory Committee 2003 - 2009
Town Hall Improvement Committee 1999 - 2002
Town Building Construction Clerk of Works 1988 - 1989

Edward E. Newman, Jr.
1944 - 2009

Town Moderator 1995 - 2009
Local Access Cable Committee 2005 - 2006
Public Education & Government Advisory Comm. 2002 - 2003
Ground Water Study/Advisory Committee 1985 - 2000
Finance Committee 1979 - 1983

IN MEMORIAM

Newell C. Dearborn

1928 - 2009

Council on Aging 2007 - 2009

Town Improvement Committee 1999 - 2002

Kimberly Doughty

Police Officer 1990 - 2007

Mary Ann Kinsley

1921 - 2009

Council on Aging Volunteer

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

Paul G. Kirk, Jr, Interim Senator

United States Representative, Fifth District

Niki Tsongas
11 Kearney Square, 3rd Floor
Lowell, MA 01852

Governor of the Commonwealth

Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Senator – Middlesex & Worcester

James Eldridge
State House, Room 213A
Boston, MA 02133

Representative -- Third Middlesex District

Kate Hogan
State House, Room 33
Boston, MA 02133

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

Listed alphabetically

Board of Assessors

John Paul Bolton (2012), Chair
Dominick Pugliese (2010)
John E. Smith (2011)

Field Drivers

Selectmen

Board of Health

Mary E. Cormier (2011)
Sylvia Daley (2010)
Marcia B. Rising (2012), Chair

Moderator

Edward E. Newman (2010)
Gary Horowitz, Deputy Moderator
Elizabeth Painter, Temporary Moderator and
Assistant Moderator

Nashoba Regional School District Committee

Brian P. Burke (2011)
Maureen Busch (2012)
Lynn Colletti (2010)

Planning Board

Ernest E. Dodd (2013), Chair

Planning Board, continued

Leonard H. Golder (2011)
Stephen C. Quinn (2012)
Lori Clark (2014)
Kathleen A. Willis (2010)

Randall Library Trustees

Robert A. Aldape (2010)
Alison M. Campbell (2010)
Harold B. Donahue, Jr. (2012)
Jane Sproule Epstein (2012)
Carolyn C. Howe (2011)
Peter B. Masters (2010), Chair
Timothy H. Reed (2011)

Board of Selectmen

Stephen M. Dungan (2011), Chair
Kathleen K. Farrell (2010)
Thomas H. Ruggiero (2012)
Laura Y. Spear (2012)
Ellen S. Sturgis (2010)

Stow Housing Authority

John J. Kendra (2011)
Robert W. Larkin (2014)
John C. Toole (2010), Chair

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN, INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS Listed alphabetically

Assabet River Rail Trail Committee Rep

Donald B. Rising

Constables

Lawrence E. Hartnett (2011)

Robert A. Kirchman (2010)

Emergency Management Officer

David B. Soar (January-February)

Michael McLaughlin (June-December)

Forest Fire Warden

Michael McLaughlin (June-December)

Inspectors

Building Inspectors

Craig D. Martin, Building Commissioner

Douglas Hyde, Local Inspector

Ray A. Renzoni, Local Inspector

Gas Inspectors

Ray A. Smith

Robert Smith, Deputy

Plumbing Inspector

Eric S. Sahlberg

Ray A. Smith, Deputy

Adam Sahlberg, Deputy

Wire Inspectors

Robert W. Norton

Charles A. Saari

Michael A. Norton, Deputy

Charles Weeks, Deputy

Metropolitan Area Planning Council Representative (MAPC)

Donna M. Jacobs (2011)

Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC)

Donna M. Jacobs (2011)

Sealer of Weights & Measures

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Selectmen's and Town Administrator's Assistant

Susan McLaughlin

Stow Advisory Member of the Hudson Light and Power Board

Edward A. Brown

Street Numbers

Catherine A. Desmond

Superintendent of Streets

Michael E. Clayton

Bruce E. Fletcher, Assistant Superintendent

Surveyor of Wood & Lumber

Vacant

Town Accountant

Julie Costello (2010)

Town Administrator

William J. Wrigley

Town Clerk

Linda E. Hathaway (2010)

Town Counsel

Jonathan D. Witten & Patricia Daley

Daley & Witten, LLC

Treasurer-Collector

Pamela M. Landry (2011)

Tree Warden

Bruce E. Fletcher

Veterans' Services Officer

Donald P. Hawkes

APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTMEN, COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS
Listed Alphabetically

Agricultural Commission

Julie Martin-Sullivan (2011)
Elizabeth C. Painter (2011)
Dwight P. Sipler (2012) Chair
Katherine C. Steege (2012)

Assabet River Trail Committee, Stow

Scott Arsenaault
Ralph Fuller
Edward R. Perry, Jr.
Donald B. Rising
Kirk Teska

Cable License Advisory Committee

Arnold R. Buckman (2010)
Lewis H. Halprin (2012) Chair
Robert C. Mong (2011)

Cemetery Trustees

Frederick J. Dodge, Jr. (2012)
Roy Dudley (2010) Chair
William Clayton (2011)
Robert Gledhill, Superintendent

Conservation Commission

David W. Coppes (2010)
Ingeborg Heggemann-Clark (2010)
Rebecca G. Mattison (2012)
Douglas E. Moffat (2010)
Kathleen V. Sferra (2011) Chair
Katherine Tarbi (2011)
Dennis Walsh (2010)

Council on Aging

Eleanor Beaudette
Paul Chaisson
Kate Hogan
Alice L. Olsen, Member Coordinator
James V. Sauta, Chair
Gus Stathis
Elizabeth Tobey, Chair
Newton Wesley, Vice Chair
Brian Burke, Associate
Nancy Chiasson, Associate
Ruth Delmonico, Associate
Kristen Donovan, Associate
Josephine Langley, Associate
Alyson Toole, Executive Director
Sharon Funkhouser, Outreach Coordinator
Suzanne Howley, Outreach Worker

Cultural Council

Ann Deluty (3/2012) Chair
Anne C. Draudt (8/2012)
Phyllis Fitzsimmons-Luce (12/2012)
Catherine J. Hammill (2/2010)
Donnalisa Johnson (12/2010)
Nancy Maldari (11/2011)
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen (12/2010)
Elizabeth B. Stepp (12/2009)
Robert M. Glorioso, Associate
Lynne Juster, Associate

Fence Viewers

Selectmen

Fire / Rescue – Full-time

David B. Soar, Chief (January-February)
Michael McLaughlin, Chief (June – December)
John Paul Benoit, Captain;
Barry Evers
Mark W. Guerin
Gregory A. Vogel

Fire / Rescue –On-call

Charlie Boyle
James Byrne
Christopher Camelio
Kristin Clayton
Christopher Devoe
David Doucette
Rene Doucette
Scott Dwinells
Jeremy Fiorvanti
Michael Gallagher
Tim Gray
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
George Taylor
Michael Trioli
Eddie Warren

Christopher Whitley
Shawn Whitney

Historical Commission

Wayne A. Fletcher (2011)
Ralph Fuller (2012)
Karen C. Gray (2009)
Susan McLaughlin (2010)
Joseph J. Mishley (2010)
Linda Stokes (2011) Chair
John Makey, Associate

Housing Partnership

Gregory D. Jones (2008)
Patricia L. Settles (2009)

Lake Boon Commission

Cindy J. Curley (2011)
Lee Heron (2010)
Conray Wharff, Hudson, Chair

Land Use Task Force disbanded 9/09

Richard Lent, Chair
Michael Kopczynski
Kathleen Sferra
Dorothy Spaulding
Kathleen Willis

Local Access Cable Advisory Committee

Stephen M. Dungan
Robert M. Glorioso
Leonard H. Golder
Lisa R. Lavina
James L. Parr
Anne VanTine, Coordinator

Master Plan Committee

Stephen Dungan - Selectmen
Karen Kelleher – At Large
Charles Kern – Finance
Rebecca G. Mattison – Conservation
Roy W. Miller – At Large
Marcia B. Rising – Bd. of Health; Chair
Kathleen Willis – Planning Board

Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

Michael Kopczynski (2011) Chair
Stephen Dungan
Donna Jacobs (2012)
Constantine Papanastassiou (2011)
Cynthia Perkins (2010)
Trish Settles (2010)

Open Space Committee

Vincent J. Antil, Chair
Eve K. Donahue

Jean H. Lynch
William H. Maxfield
Brian Mulcahy
Christopher B. Rodstrom
Kathleen V. Sferra
Robert T. Wilber

Police Officers –Full-time

Mark H. Trefry, Chief
William L. Bosworth, Sgt.
Ralph Marino, Sgt.
Timothy J. Lima, Sgt.
Steven B. Sturtevant, Detective
Sean M. Collins
David J. Goguen
Gary P. Murphy
Michael J. Sallese, Detective
Darren J. Thraen

Police Officers -- Special

Robert E. Blanton
Jonathan Butler
John Connors
John Fantasia
James F. Finneran
Lee Heron
Enrico F. Maldari
Sherry J. Morton-Pelley
Michael Smith

Police Officers -- Auxiliary

Darlene D. Trefry

Police Matrons/Prisoner Watch

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

Public Safety Dispatchers

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley, Supervisor
Jonathan Butler
John Fantasia
Darlene D. Trefry
Justine St. John – part-time

Recreation Commission

Michael Busch, Chair
Robert Braceland
James Henry
Ellen Piccioli
John A. Sangermano
Laura Greenough, Director

Registrars of Voters

John D. O'Connell (2010)
Edward R. Perry, Sr. (2009)
Pamela J. Weathers (2011)
Linda E. Hathaway, clerk ex-officio

SpringFest Organizing Committee

Pennie Cushing (2010)
Patricia A. Heron (2009)
Karen Kelleher (2011)
Ellen Sturgis (2010)

Trustees, Hale High School Fund

(Life Tenure)
Robert F. Derby
Wayne A. Fletcher
Ray S. Frost, Chair
Linda E. Hathaway
Jeffrey D. Smith

Trustees, Randall Relief Fund

Louise E. Peacock, (2012)
Jeffrey D. Smith (2011)
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen (2010)

Trustees, Randall Town Fund

Louise E. Peacock, (2012)
Jeffrey D. Smith (2011)
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen (2010)

Veterans' Graves Committee

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

John Clayton, Jr. (2013)
Donald E. Dwinnells (2012)
Arthur R. Lowden (2014)
Michele L. Shoemaker (2012).
Edmund C. Tarnuzzer (2013)
Charles A. Barney, Assoc. (2013)
William F. Byron, Jr., Assoc. (2010)
Andrew DeMore, Assoc. (2012)
Bruce Fletcher, Assoc. (2012)
Lee Heron, Assoc. (2014)
Ruth Kennedy Sudduth, Assoc. (2012)

APPOINTMENTS BY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**Listed alphabetically****Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee**

William H. Maxfield
Douglas E. Moffat

Kathleen V. Sferra
Dwight P. Sipler
Robert T. Wilbur

APPOINTMENTS BY BOARD OF HEALTH**Listed alphabetically****Animal Control Officer**

Susan G. Latham
Phyllis Tower, Assistant

Burial Agents

John Erb
Town Clerk

Health Agent

John P. Wallace

Inspector of Animals

Phyllis Tower
Susan Latham, Assistant

Medical Reserve Corp Executive Committee

Sharon Brownfield
Sharon Funkhouser
Rini Kester
Michael Matatia
Ross Perry, Chair
Sarah Robart
John Sangermano
John P. Wallace, Liaison

Public Health Nurse

Brooke James

School Health Committee

Sylvia Daley

APPOINTMENTS BY MODERATOR
Listed alphabetically

Ancient Documents Committee

Karen C. Gray (2013)
Lewis H. Halprin (2010)
Barbara P. Sipler (2013) Chair
Robert E. Walrath (2011)

David E. Walrath (2011) Vice Chair
Ann Deluty, Associate

Moderators

Gary L. Horowitz, Deputy
Elizabeth C. Painter, Assistant

Finance Committee

Gary Bernklow (2011)
Henry Hagopian, III (2010)
Charles Kern (2012) Chair
James H. Salvie (2010)
Christopher Sarno (2010)

Minuteman School District Rep.

Alice B. Deluca (2011)

APPOINTMENTS BY PLANNING BOARD
Listed alphabetically

Light Pollution Study Committee

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

Lower Village Subcommittee

Bruce E. Fletcher
Karen Kelleher
Lucille King, Business Owner
Donald G. McPherson, Chair
Barbara P. Sipler
Laura Spear
Warrington R. Willis

APPOINTMENT BY TOWN CLERK
Listed alphabetically

Assistant Town Clerk

Catherine A. Desmond

APPOINTMENT BY TREASURER COLLECTOR
Listed alphabetically

Assistant Treasurer-Collector

Donna Kunst

Deputy Collector & Special Constable

Frederick J. Kelley, Jr.

JOINT APPOINTMENTS
Listed alphabetically

Capital Planning Committee

David P. Arsenault (2012) – Moderator
Kathleen K. Farrell (2010) – Selectmen
Stephen F. Jelinek (2011) – Moderator
Jean H. Lynch (2010) – Moderator; Chair
Edward R. Perry, Jr. (2010) – Finance
Committee
James M. Medeiros, Assoc. (2009)

Margery R. Yvanovich, Assoc (2009)

Community Preservation Committee

John P. Bolton. – Assessors
Michael Busch – Recreation
Kate Hogan – Council on Aging
Kathleen V. Sferra – Conservation
Laura Y. Spear – Planning

Community Preservation Committee, cont

Linda Stokes – Historical
John C. Toole – Stow Housing Authority
David E. Walrath – Finance
Robert T. Wilber - Open Space, Chair

Elementary School Building Committee

(Joint appointment by Selectmen and Stow reps
of NRSD School Committee)

Gary M. Bernklow, Finance Committee
Lynn Colletti, Nashoba Regional School
Committee
Amy Finkle Hastings, At Large, Co-chair
Craig D. Martin, Building Commissioner
Stephen C. Quinn, At Large
Ellen S. Sturgis, Selectmen, Co-chair
Gregory Irvine, Pompo/Center Principal, Ex
Officio

Michael L. Wood, NRSD Superintendent, Ex
Officio

**Nashoba Regional School District Audit
Committee, Stow Representative**

(Joint appointment by Finance Committee. and
Board of Selectmen)

James M. Medeiros

Public Safety Planning Committee

David P. Arsenault, Capital Planning Committee
Robert Braceland, At Large
Michael E. Clayton, Superintendent of Streets
Thomas H. Ruggiero, Board of Selectmen
Charles Kern, Finance Committee
Michael McLaughlin, Fire Chief
Mark H. Trefry, Police Chief
William J. Wrigley, Town Administrator
John P. Wallace, Health Agent

ADMINISTRATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Members of the Board of Selectmen are collectively the chief executive officer of the town. As such, we are responsible for managing numerous administrative tasks and setting priorities. On the fiscal side, we work closely with the Town Administrator to ensure that our annual operating budget provides needed services in a cost-effective manner. Finally, we represent the Town's interests in various legislative and regulatory affairs. As noted below, 2009 was a very busy year in this regard.

Stow is blessed with many talented residents who step forward to volunteer for numerous boards and task forces that perform much of the town's work. The Selectmen appoint members to approximately 20 committees. Although many of the same people offer to serve repeatedly, there were many new "faces" on the scene during 2009. As we asked these folks why they applied, a common reply was "I wanted to give something back to the community." We now post all available volunteer opportunities on the town website, and we encourage residents to review it regularly to see how they might participate.

One major project that involved many volunteers is the Stow Community Park. Once Town Meeting approved the funding, the Selectmen appointed an Implementation Team to work with the contractor. This project is now essentially complete, and there will be a dedication ceremony in the spring of 2010.

At the Special Town Meeting in October, voters approved plans for a renovation and expansion of the Center School. The Elementary School Building Committee (ESBC)* appointed by the Selectmen following Annual Town Meeting in 2007 to manage this complex project, after many meetings and many hours of hard work, secured a commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority for funding that will cover about 50% of the project cost.

The school project will consolidate grades pre-K to 5 at Center, thus freeing up Pompositticut for other uses. The Selectmen are assembling a team of interested parties to look objectively at all options and prepare a recommendation for a future Town Meeting.

The Selectmen believe that Stow needs more affordable housing; e.g., supportive units, homes that qualify for our Subsidized Housing Inventory, and workforce housing. Fortunately Stow has all of the important groups in place to make significant progress in this area. We have the Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (SMAHT)* appointed by the Selectmen after a Town Meeting vote in 2008. We have a Community Preservation Committee* which funds affordable housing initiatives, and the Town is supporting the efforts of a non-profit entity called the Stow Community Housing Corporation (SCHC). The SCHC developed a proposal for a major expansion in the number of affordable units in the fall of 2009. These three groups are now working together to obtain grants and provide seed funding for land acquisition.

Several years ago, the Selectmen were informed that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was going to enforce setback requirements for certain businesses in Stow's Lower Village. The small lot sizes make it impossible to provide the necessary separation between wells and septic systems. The solution was to find a centralized source of water. At the time, the Selectmen asked our Town Administrator to set up a team to provide water to the Lower Village area. This task turned out to be far more complex and time-consuming, and to this day, the water problem remains unresolved. In addition to the negative impact on the existing businesses, the

lack of water is a major roadblock for future economic development. It may also affect the school building project and the plans for additional affordable housing. The Town Administrator has spent a great deal of time on this matter, and we are hopeful that there will be a satisfactory resolution early in 2010.

The Selectmen have been following the activities of the Master Plan Committee throughout the year. This team has members from several other committees and boards, including one Selectman. The final plan will be available during the first quarter of 2010, and the Town Administrator along with two Selectmen will coordinate implementation.

Anyone who has seen the Assabet River during the warmer months knows that weeds and algae are major problems. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has in fact concluded that the river does not meet the standards of the Clean Water Act. In order to determine what steps might be taken to bring the river into compliance, the DEP commissioned a feasibility study to look at point source reductions of phosphorus at the waste treatment facilities, sediment removal, and dam removal. The study was completed late in 2009, and the Selectmen submitted comments after consulting with interested citizens and representatives of other boards and committees. Meanwhile, the city of Marlborough filed a request with the DEP and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to allow it to increase the volume of treated wastewater it discharges by over 40%. Much to our surprise, DEP and EPA granted Marlborough's request even though their waste treatment plant does not meet current standards. The Selectmen then worked with our Town Counsel and others to prepare two formal appeals: one to the Massachusetts DEP and one to the EPA. The Selectmen regard the health of the Assabet River as a high priority, and we encourage residents to follow developments carefully during 2010.

Although we appoint a large number of committee members each year, we realized that in many cases we did not provide specific objectives to appointees. Furthermore, all too often, once we established a committee we did not always stay in touch to make sure there was progress and that the members had the resources they needed. As a result, the Selectmen developed and adopted a "Committee Management" procedure in 2009. We believe this new approach will make committees more effective and goal-oriented.

Late in the year the Selectmen identified priority goals. We intend to review the status of each priority at our first meeting every month. We want to be certain that as Selectmen, we are doing everything we can to ensure progress. The monthly review will also help identify areas where additional resources may be required. The list of priorities has been published in the *Stow Independent*. It also appears below:

- Obtain water for the Lower Village and Town Center
- Increase the Town's affordable housing stock
- Implement the elementary school building project
- Support the Minuteman Vocational Technical School building project
- Support economic development
- Determine the future use of the Pompositticut School Building
- Develop a plan for a senior/community center
- Protect the Assabet River

Note that we have not ranked the priorities because they are all important, and they can all be pursued simultaneously. The only exception is the first one: getting water for Lower Village. This is the Selectmen's most important priority.

We would like to conclude our report by offering our most sincere appreciation to all of the town employees for their professional and dedicated work. We also have utmost appreciation for all of the residents who contributed their time and effort during the year. The Selectmen and town employees could not do it without your help. Thanks to you, Stow is a great place to live.

*Each of these committees has submitted reports to this Annual Report. Please refer to them for further details of their work and accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Dungan, Chair
Kathleen Farrell
Thomas Ruggiero, Clerk
Laura Spear

Ellen Sturgis
Susan McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant
Phoebe Haberkorn, Office 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, functions 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 2009, functioning in these various administrative positions, the Town Administrator managed several significant matters.

At the Annual Town Meeting in May 2009, for the fourth consecutive year, the Town Administrator recommended a FY 2010 balanced budget that did not require general override above the limits of proposition two and one-half. Stow has not had an override since FY 06, when the operating budget needed \$350,000 in the form of a general override to be balanced. Before that, the FY 05 operating budget required a general override of \$250,000. In FY 04, the Town faced a one million dollar budget deficit and was required to utilize both an approval of a general override of \$414,500 together with budget cuts and the expenditure of stored assets to balance the operating budget.

The FY 2010 municipal budget is a level-services budget. It is also close to being level-funded, with total spending increasing only 1.2% to \$22,174,692 in comparison to FY 2009. It is important to note that total revenues in FY 2010 will exceed the total budget expenditures leaving the Town with some amount of unused levy capacity.

Within the total budget, spending for the general operating budget (excluding the schools) increased by 2.9% to \$5,094,088 in comparison to the FY 2009 budget. The Nashoba Regional School District assessment increased by 3.46% to \$13,043,439; and the Minuteman Vocational Technical District assessment decreased by 22% to \$750,000. The Town's non-bonded capital project budget increased by 28% in FY 2010 to \$446,000.

The Town's non-capital raise and appropriate special articles budget increased in FY 2010 by 1% to \$349,941 in comparison to FY 2009. Included in the FY 2010 non-capital raise and appropriate special articles budget are annually recurring items such as \$70,000 for the Reserve fund; \$30,000 for legal services and \$10,600 for audit services.

For FY 2010 the Town's annual debt payment decreased by 3.6% to \$1,275,591. The annual debt payment budget pays the principal and interest due on bond notes issued to fund the Town's larger capital improvement projects. This includes such projects as the Hale School renovations, Pompositticut and Center School improvements, the new police station and the Town Building construction. Also, the Town regularly borrows to purchase some of the more expensive pieces in the rolling stock fleet such as fire engines and ambulances. Finally, the town periodically borrows money to acquire property for conservation and recreational purposes.

Of special note in 2009, the voters approved funding for a \$38 million dollar school at a special town meeting in October. This significant capital project will have a substantial impact on the Town's annual debt payment during the next 25 years. The Town will benefit from approximately 50% state reimbursement on the total project costs thus reducing the principle amount bonded long-term by the amount reimbursed.

The FY 2010 budget appropriates and transfers \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund in a continuing effort to increase the amount of the Town's stored assets. Also, \$200,000 in Free Cash has been provided in FY 2010 to fund a number of non-bonded capital improvement projects. The Town's Free Cash account is currently certified at \$604,198 and our Stabilization Fund balance, including the \$50,000 that was transferred in May, is \$575,000. Combined, the current Free Cash and Stabilization Fund balance of \$1,179,198 is higher than it has been the last couple of years.

Looking forward to next year's FY 2011 budget, the Town is facing serious budget constraints that will require significant adjustments in order to avoid the need for another general override. In balancing the FY 2011 budget, it will be necessary to limit recommended total budget expenditures to approximately 4% above the current fiscal year, as that is the projected percentage increase in total recurring revenues. Driving this prediction is the fact that Stow possesses several structural revenue impediments that make it increasingly more difficult to balance annual operating budgets.

Most importantly, the Town's tax base represents approximately 90 percent of the Town's total annual recurring budget revenues. More problematic, this primary recurring revenue source is providing an increasingly larger percentage of the Town's total revenues each year. By comparison, Stow's annual municipal state aid revenue represents only 3 percent of the Town's total annual revenues with little expectation that this contributing percentage will increase in the foreseeable future. On the contrary, for FY 2010, Stow's municipal state aid has been decreased by 26% and we can expect no better than level funded municipal local aid in FY 2011.

The Town's annual local receipts revenues represent approximately 7% of the Town's total revenues. The Town's local receipts revenues tax revenues have declined each of the last two years and this decline in local revenues is expected to continue in FY 2011.

It is a distressing fact that a disproportionately high 90% of the Town's recurring revenues come from taxation. This distressing fact is exacerbated by the fact that the tax base is almost completely undiversified. Approximately 92% of the Town's tax base is residential. Ten years

ago, the residential tax base represented 89% of the total tax base; so the trend line is negative. Further, through various governmental programs, approximately 50 percent of the Town's total taxable property is either exempted from taxation or abated to a significantly reduced rate.

The combined effect of these factors is that the Town suffers from a limited revenue base consisting primarily of property tax revenues and this tax base is essentially undiversified. Stow residential taxpayers receive negligible revenue relief from the contributions generated by the commercial, industrial and personal property taxpayers. And there is no indication that there will be any meaningful future growth in commercial or industrial taxes.

Beyond performing functions as the Chief Fiscal Officer, the Town Administrator is directly responsible for managing and controlling the Town's legal budget. As it relates to litigation in 2009, only one lawsuit remains unresolved from the original number of cases generated from the first group of Town-approved cell tower site permits. However, a new cell tower-related lawsuit was filed over a year ago. I have been involved in managing more than ten separate cell tower litigation cases during the last several years.

Beyond the cell tower litigation cases that continued in 2009, the Town has been engaged in several other court cases during the last year. The Town prevailed in two significant lawsuits.

On appeal, Land Court sustained the lower court summary judgment dismissing all of the plaintiff's claims against the Town in the Kunelius case. This case involved Massachusetts General Law Chapter 61B. Ms. Kunelius had argued in court over matters of fact and law regarding the Town's assignment of its right of first refusal to the Trust For Public Land. Also, the Town won a summary judgment in Land Court in the so-called Parker case. Plaintiffs argued that land at Pine Bluffs sold to the Town by the Parker family contained a deed restriction preventing development by the Town for recreational purposes.

In August 2009, the Town was notified by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services that Stow had earned a rating upgrade to AA based on a financial stability credit analysis. The credit upgrade resulted from our discussions with Standard and Poor's analysts and the submission of financial documents and proof of financial management best practices. Given the troubling economic climate, this upgrade is significant and timely. With a \$38 million dollar school project in design, the interest savings resulting from the upgrade will be fiscally beneficial.

Also in 2009, the Town Administrator was successful in negotiating separately with representatives of the police, clerical and fire unions which will allow new labor contracts to be executed. For many years, the Town's four labor unions and Town management have successfully negotiated employee labor agreements without ever reaching an impasse or filing for arbitration. This cooperative track record is a tribute to both Stow's employee unions and its management.

Beyond serving the Town's interests and needs by attending to specific management issues such as the matters detailed above, the Town Administrator is generally engaged in regularly attending to matters associated with the day-to-day operations of the Town. In performing these duties, the Town Administrator is regularly in direct contact with most departmental staff and many Town board and committee members.

In addition, I am frequently working with local, state and federal agencies and officials, the public and various private groups and individuals. The Town Administrator strives to be diligent in the performance of these duties and responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

William Wrigley, Town Administrator

Susan McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant
Phoebe Haberkorn, Office 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 positively affect the impact to the community.

The Planning Department completes the Commonwealth Capital Application on an annual basis. The Commonwealth Capital Policy is a program for promoting better land use choices. Commonwealth Capital endorses planning and zoning measures that are consistent with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles and encourages municipalities to implement these measures by using state funding as an incentive. Scores from the Commonwealth Capital Application are part of the evaluation process for each grant or loan program.

The Planning Department also tracks building permits for affordable housing units and submits the necessary documents to the Department of Housing and Community Development for certification.

Organization

At the annual election, Lori Clark was elected to a 5-year term. Having been an active participant of planning board meetings for the last year as an Associate Member, we were happy that voters chose to elect her to a 5-year term as a voting member. Although we were disappointed that Laura Spear chose not to run for re-election and miss her valuable input in conducting planning board business, we are happy that she continues to serve the Town as a Selectman and as liaison to the Planning Board.

Following the election, the Board elected Kathleen Willis to serve as Chairman, Ernest Dodd as Vice Chairman, and Stephen Quinn as Clerk. Bruce Fletcher 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. Malcolm FitzPatrick, Victoria Fletcher and Donna Jacobs were appointed as non-voting Associate Members. Leonard

Golder and Karen Kelleher were designated to endorse ANR Plans (Subdivision Approval Not Required). The Board appointed representatives to various Committees:

Community Preservation Committee: Kathleen Willis
Master Plan Committee: Kathleen Willis
Elementary School Building Committee: Stephen Quinn
Liaison to Zoning Board of Appeals: Stephen Quinn
Liaison to the Conservation Commission: Lori Clark
Pedestrian Walkway Planning Committee: Lori Clark
Lower Village Sub-Committee: Lori Clark
Chapter 61 Study Evaluation Group: Karen Kelleher, Planning Coordinator

We were sad to hear of the Board's Administrative Assistant, Lois Costello's decision to retire after 9 years of service to the Town of Stow. Lois has been a tremendous asset to the Planning Department and will be sorely missed. We are pleased to report that Kristen Domurad accepted the position of Administrative Assistant to the Planning Board in August of 2009. In just a few months she has proven to be an integral part of the Planning Department. Her administrative skills and interest in municipal planning, as well as website and mapping skills are a tremendous help to the planning department, other town boards and departments and residents of Stow.

The Board had a very busy year. In order to keep up with our work plan, we continue to hold working meetings in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings so that we now meet on the first, second and third Tuesday evenings of the month.

Development Activity

The Board denied one (1) eighteen (18) lot Preliminary Planned Conservation Development (Highgrove Estates) on property off of West Acton Road.

The Board considered (1) proposed Special Permit for a carwash at 124 Great Road. The Petition was withdrawn.

The Board granted a two-year extension to the RidgeWood at Stow Active Adult Neighborhood Special Permit.

The Board approved a Modification to the Stow Community Recreational Facility Special Permit to allow an amendment to the landscape plan to address public safety concerns.

The Board approved 7 (seven) ANR Plans:

- Sylvan Drive, lot line adjustment
- Boxboro Road, lot line adjustments
- Wheeler Road, lot line adjustment
- Edgehill Road, lot line adjustment and easement
- Red Acre Road, lot line adjustment
- White Pond Road (two plans), lot line adjustments

With the assistance of the Board's Consulting Engineer, Susan C. Sullivan, P. E., the Board monitored plans and/or ongoing construction of eight (8) subdivisions and two (2) Special Permits:

- Hiley Meadows Estate (Cider Mill Road) – Subdivision Complete
- Linear Retail – Addition to Stow Shopping Center

- Wildlife Woods, a 67-lot subdivision, located off of Sudbury Road
- Derby Woods (Sylvan Drive and Dunster Drive extension), a 33-lot subdivision, located off of Harvard Road
- Butternut Farm Golf Course
- Arbor Glen Active Adult Neighborhood
- RidgeWood at Stow Active Adult Neighborhood
- Taylor Road Planned Conservation Development

The Board recommended Town Meeting acceptance of six (6) streets: Cider Mill Road, Kettell Plain Road, Ladyslipper Lane, Foxglove Lane, Woodland Way and Whispering Way.

Regulations And Zoning Bylaws Subdivision Rules and Regulations

The Board completed its efforts to update the Subdivision Rules and Regulations and adopted a comprehensive rewrite in keeping with the Department of Environmental Protection's Stormwater Handbook and Low Impact Development techniques.

Planning Board Handbook – The Board updated its handbook to include policies on performance guarantees and slopes.

Zoning Bylaw Amendments

Seven (7) Zoning Bylaw amendments were brought forth to Town Meeting for consideration:

Active Adult Neighborhood - This article was meant to clarify inconsistencies between the provisions of Section 8.9, Inclusion of Affordable Housing, and Section 5.4, Active Adult Neighborhood, by removing the existing language relative to affordable housing requirements and referencing Section 8.9, Inclusion of Affordable Housing. (ADOPTED at the May Annual Town Meeting)

Developable Site Area - This article was intended to clarify that "DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA" applies to individual lots and that driveways, roads and septic systems may be located outside the DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA. (ADOPTED at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting and approved by the Attorney General)

Zoning District Map -- This article was intended to update the Zoning Map reference to reflect amendments adopted through May 17, 2004 and as may be amended at future town meetings. (Planning Board moved no action at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting.)

Zoning District Map — This article was brought forth by the property owner to re-zone a portion of 215 Harvard Road land from recreation/conservation to residential. (Motion by the property owner did not carry at the October 2009 Special Town Meeting.)

Planned Conservation Development (PCD) Open Space - This article was meant to clarify that the allowed "recreation" use in a PCD is "passive" recreation. (Planning Board moved no action at the October 2009 Special Town Meeting.)

Wireless Service Facilities - This article was meant to remove the restriction that a waiver from the height limitation of Wireless Service Facility requires a Vote of Town Meeting. Such waiver requests shall be addressed by the Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with Chapter 40A, S. 10 (Variances). (ADOPTED at the October 2009 Special Town Meeting and approved by the Attorney General.)

Methods for Calculating Dimensional Requirements - This article is meant to require that at least 75% of the minimum required LOT area shall be land, which does not have a natural slope of twenty percent (20%) or more, and to define the term wetlands consistent with Article 9, Wetlands Protection, of the Town of Stow General Bylaw. Based on input from residents, the Planning Board agreed not to move forward with the requirement at least 75% of the minimum required LOT area shall be land which does not have a natural slope of twenty percent (20%) or more) to allow more time to allow the Board more time to consider concerns that were raised. (ADOPTED as amended at the October 2009 Special Town Meeting and approved by the Attorney General.)

Residential District Uses - This article was meant to acknowledge Massachusetts General Law 40A, Section 3, which states no zoning ordinance or bylaw shall unreasonably regulate agricultural uses, and to allow stables, raising or breeding animals for sale, and boarding animals within one hundred (100) feet of a LOT line in BUILDINGS that were in existence on or before November 13, 1968 and were historically used for such purpose. (ADOPTED at the October Special Town Meeting and approved by the Attorney General.)

Appeals

One (1) five (5) lot Subdivision Plan (River Hill Estates off of Barton Road), approved in 2007, is under appeal pending a decision from Appeals Court:

Enforcement Issues – The Board continued to work with property owners and developers on enforcement issues.

Fees Collected

Fees collected in 2009 in the amount of \$916.00 offset expenses incurred for processing applications and for miscellaneous copies. Plan review and inspections are paid for by the Applicant.

Fees in lieu of construction of affordable housing in the amount of \$78,827.66 were collected from developers and deposited in the Stow Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Work Plan

The Board's work plan continues to include efforts to maintain Stow's rural character, Lower Village and Gleasondale Village master planning, pathways/sidewalk planning, assessment of the Town's future land needs, updating Rules and Regulations and the Zoning Bylaw, light pollution, and affordable housing. The Board is participating in the Master Plan update as part of this work. The Board also continues to keep abreast of proposed changes to Massachusetts General Law such as the Green Communities Act and has provided comments on proposed changes to Chapter 40A (Land use Partnership Act and Community Planning Act-2).

Land Use Partnership Act (LUPA) and Community Planning Act (CPA-2) - The Board spent a significant amount of time reviewing bill #'s S 765 and H 3572, LUPA and CPA-2, both documents propose changes to Massachusetts zoning laws. The Board voiced concerns in writing to the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, Senator Eldridge and Representative Hogan. The Board also met with Senator Eldridge and Representative Hogan to discuss its grave concerns about both proposals, especially LUPA, as it diminishes home rule and creates two sets of legislature (Opt-in Communities and Opt-out Communities), and forces development whether or not a market demand exists. Furthermore, Stow is a community with

private water and septic; this lack of infrastructure and the cost of installing such, could prevent the Town of Stow from becoming an Opt-in Community. The Planning Board strongly urged that both of these proposals be opposed and encouraged state representatives to work with communities to address concerns raised before moving forward with either proposal.

Lower Village - The Board and its Lower Village Sub-Committee continue to feel 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 continued its discussions on implementation of the "Preferred Alternative" (modern roundabout) as outlined in the 2006 Lower Village Traffic Study report, prepared by Fay Spoffard and Thorndike. The first step toward implementation of the "Preferred Alternative" was taken last year with installation of temporary traffic islands which have proven to successfully serve their intended purpose to accommodate pedestrian traffic, slow vehicular traffic and reduce the number of traffic accidents. The Lower Village Sub-Committee is working on a final design for permanent traffic islands. The Board decided to seek assistance from a professional consultant on a Master Plan for the Lower Village, the first phase being preparation of a master plan outlining all of the issues in the Lower Village, including traffic calming and flow, drainage, and walkability and the second phase outlining solutions, which might include roundabout(s), curb cuts, drainage improvements, streetscape improvements, underground utilities, curbing, sidewalks, plantings and streetlights.

The Board is happy to report that we have made strides towards implementation of the standard streetscape, with the help of the Lower Village Sub-Committee, the Highway Department and the Cemetery Superintendent, granite post and wood rail fencing was installed on the town land between Pompositticut Street and Red Acre Road.

The standard streetscape (sidewalks and fencing) was installed along a portion of the Stow Shopping Center, as required by the Special Permit Modification for the Stow Shopping Center.

The Highway Department began installation of walkways along Pompositticut Street to the Maynard town line. This will foster pedestrian traffic to the Lower Village.

Walkways – In order to accomplish the Board's goal to enhance the town's sidewalk network in keeping with Stow's rural character, the Board appointed a Pedestrian Walkway Planning Sub-Committee, comprised of two (2) Planning Board Members, one (1) Member of the Board of Selectman and two (2) members-at-large. Committee's charge is to consult with the Superintendent of Streets, Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission and Board of Health and incorporate the Town's goals to create a pedestrian link between neighborhoods and the goal to create an "Emerald Necklace Trail" linking conservation areas with walking trails, where feasible. The Board is happy to report that the Pedestrian Walkway Planning Sub-Committee has enthusiastically embraced their charge with weekly committee meetings, as well as meetings with department heads, conducting inventory of existing walkways, identifying walkway priorities, and identifying additional funding sources. In addition, they plan to initiate construction of the highest priority walkways located along the 117 corridor.

Light Pollution - The Light Pollution Sub-Committee continued working with developers, property owners and the Planning Board and Building Commissioner to ensure compliance with the lighting bylaw adopted in 2007. The Sub-Committee continues to urge residents to confine

their lighting to their property by re-aiming or replacing fixtures to achieve better lighting that is not bothersome to others.

Housing – The Board met with the Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust and provided input on the Draft Housing Production Plan.

Master Plan – The Board provided input to the Master Plan Committee on draft sections of the Master Plan.

Banner Policy – The Board assisted the Board of Selectmen in development of a banner policy.

Disposition Opportunities for Open Space Parcels of Land Policy – The Board provided input to the Board of Selectmen on a policy on disposition opportunities for open space parcels of land.

Land Acquisition Proposal – The Board provided input to the Board of Selectmen concerning possible acquisition of South Acton Road property abutting the Highway Department.

Zoning and Land Use Considerations – The Board continues to investigate new zoning and land use regulations such as design guidelines, Form Based Zoning, Stretch Code, and Affordable Assisted Living Facilities.

The Board initiated discussions with the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission to ensure safe drinking water quality for the residents of Stow. The Boards hope to formulate a plan for groundwater and surface water monitoring to determine if there are any negative impacts to the water supply from the chemicals used by Golf Courses for turf management.

The Board provided input to Joint Boards on a Town Response to the Ben Smith Dam Removal Report.

The Board also continues to keep abreast of regional activities. Board members and staff frequently attend meetings of the Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and Minute Man Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC), a sub-group of MAPC, serving the communities of Acton, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow and Sudbury.

Thanks

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.

The Board extends a special thanks to the Highway Department for their cooperation in implementing our Lower Village Planning efforts.

The Board thanks the following Sub-Committee members for their ongoing efforts:

Lower Village Sub-Committee: Chair Don McPherson, Bruce Fletcher, Karen Kelleher, Lucille King, Barbara Sipler, Laura Spear, Russ Willis, Phil Moseley, Brian Martinson and Lori Clark.

Light Pollution Sub-Committee - Chair Russ Willis, Bill Chiarchiaro, Greg Troxel, Victoria Fletcher and Margaret Tucker.

Pedestrian Walkway Planning Committee – Chair Kristine Wile, Martha Monroe, Lori Clark, Victoria Fletcher and Tom Ruggiero.

Our very capable professional consultants: Susan Sullivan of Places Site Consultants, Inc. and Town Counsel, Jon Witten, 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 outstanding efforts of Karen Kelleher, Lois Costello and Kristen Domurad, who not only work diligently for the Board, but also for other Town Boards and Committees and the general public with whom they interact on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Willis, Chairman
Ernest E. Dodd, Vice Chair
Leonard H. Golder
Stephen Quinn, Clerk
Lori Clark
Bruce E. Fletcher, Voting Assoc Member

Malcolm FitzPatrick, Associate Member
Victoria Fletcher, Associate Member
Donna M. Jacobs, Associate Member
Karen Kelleher, Planning Coordinator
Kristen Domurad, Administrative 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 or 200 feet of ponds and streams except for Lake Boon must be conducted. The Commission also works to manage over 1,200 acres of conservation land throughout the community and to protect additional high priority lands. Trail maps and permit applications are available in the Conservation Commission office, which is located in the Town Building.

Currently, 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

Land Preservation: Pulte Homes of New England, LLC, transferred Title to Open Space Parcel B, a 20-acre parcel of land currently in agriculture located at Arbor Glen on Hudson Road, to the Town of Stow. The Conservation Commission will continue to manage the parcel as agriculture.

Educational Activities: Permits were issued for boy scout camp-outs, guided walks and educational activities at the Flagg Hill Conservation Area, Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland, Captain Sargent Land and Gardner Hill Conservation Area. The educational walks are sponsored

by the Stow Conservation Trust and serve to familiarize participants with the trails and natural resources unique to the area.

Land Maintenance: There were numerous instances of trees down across trails after high winds; the steward removed the obstructions and potential hazards from Marble Hill, Gardner Hill, Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland and Flagg Hill Conservation Area. Seasonally, trail entrances were mowed at Wheeler Road and Gates Lane for improved access to Spindle Hill; Orchard View trail connection; Lanes End; Heritage Lane; and from the rear of Pompositticut School for Marble Hill. The meadow located on the Woodhead parcel of Flagg Hill was mowed to control successional species and enhance habitat for Eastern Bluebirds.

Gardner Hill is over 300 acres in size and is our most heavily used conservation parcel. Over the past few years there were several reports of people becoming confused or perhaps lost as they explored the numerous woodland trails; there was a need for improvement. As a requisite for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Daniel Blanton undertook the project and clearly marked the trails, updated the trail maps and installed directional kiosks at trail intersections to assist visitors in finding their way. Thank you to Daniel and his crew for a job very well done.

Community Gardens: The Stow Community Gardens is located at the Captain Sargent Conservation Area just off Tuttle Lane on the eastern side of Stow. The year 2009 started with the plowing of a new section of the field to provide eighteen new plots increasing the total to fifty-four. Fifty-three plots were rented and the vacant plot was planted for the Stow Food Pantry. We had gardeners of many ages from young families to senior citizens and first time gardeners to the very experienced.

At the request of some gardeners wanting to have a place to grow perennial vegetables, flowers, herbs and long season crops as well as annual plants a portion of the abutting field was plowed for perennial gardening only. At least ten of these plots are rented and paid for by returning gardeners and nine of them are in addition to their original plots.

Public Hearings

Hearings for residential construction, wetland delineations/resources and restoration projects as a result of enforcement action continued at a brisk pace, including Assabet Water Company expansion, Butternut Farm Golf Club, Lake Boon Drawdown and continued review of the Minute Man Airfield for their Vegetative Management Plan, Arbor Glen Active Adult Community, Villages at Stow, Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy, and several small applications for home improvements and septic repair. Commission members continued their participation in several town-wide planning projects, including updating of the Master Plan, Center/Hale School expansion, Assabet River Sediment & Dam Removal Study, Land Use Task Force, Open Space Committee and Community Preservation Committee.

The Commission held 50 public hearings for projects during the year. A total of \$5,023 was generated for the Town by these hearings and applications. License Agreements, Community Garden fees, Regulations for Wetland Protection Bylaw, Trail Guides, copy fees and donations also generated \$1,750.

Cooperative Efforts and Long Range Planning

Work plan priorities for the coming year include but are not limited to revisions to the Wetland Protection Regulations, baseline monitoring for conservation restrictions, vernal pool education and invasive species identification. The commission also works collaboratively with local

conservation organizations including the Stow Conservation Trust, and Sudbury Valley Trustees on both land protection and land management issues.

The Conservation Commission has assisted the Stow Conservation Trust in drafting a conservation restriction for the open space parcel of the Derby Woods subdivision off Harvard Road. Once approved and accepted by the Board of Selectmen and the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, the Conservation Commission will accept title of the open space.

In 2009, the Commission joined the SuAsCo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA), a group of like-minded conservation professionals and volunteers to be part of collaboration in the management of invasive species control issues. By joining this cooperative effort, Stow will have access to a network of expertise and labor as well as funding that is obtained by CISMA for regional invasive species control efforts.

Administration

Becky Mattison is the liaison to the Master Plan Committee and Kathy Sferra is the Commission's liaison to the Community Preservation Committee, Land Use Task Force and Open Space Committee.

The Selectmen appointed Ingeborg Hegemann Clark and Rebecca Mattison as Stow's representatives on the Study Coordination Team for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Assabet River Sediment and Dam Removal Feasibility Study, and assisted in submitting comments to the Army Corps on behalf of the Town. They have also been working closely with the Board of Selectmen and the Organization for the Assabet River in reviewing Marlborough's Permit Modification to increase the effluent discharged from the wastewater treatment plant to the Assabet River. Ingeborg was also instrumental in reviewing the EIR's for Marlborough, Shrewsbury, and Northborough.

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 the town's conservation lands and does an outstanding job for the Commission.

Joyce Bunce is the Steward for the community gardens at the Captain Sargent Conservation Area on Tuttle Lane. She is also a member of the Stow Garden Club. Joyce has done a wonderful job coordinating participants, laying out plots, educating the gardeners on organic farming and providing fresh vegetables to the Stow Food Pantry.

Pat Perry's consistent management of daily operations is outstanding. 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,

Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
David Coppes, Chair
Kathy Sferra
Doug Moffat
Rebecca Mattison, Vice-Chair
Dennis Walsh
Kathy Tarbi
Bruce Trefry, Associate

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

Patricia Perry, Coordinator
Maureen Trunfio, Office Assistant

BOARD OF HEALTH

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

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

During 2009 we continued our work with the Medical Reserve Corps and Fire and Police Chiefs, on the Town's Emergency Planning Program. Money from Emergency Preparedness grants distributed by the Department of Homeland Security come to the Town through the MRC to allow planning, purchase, and storage of materials necessary in case of a natural or manmade disaster. This year we also received Federal grant money to support our H1N1 "swine flu" clinics.

In October we offered our regular seasonal flu clinic. With the appearance of the H1N1 "swine flu" in the fall of 2009, and after getting off to a slow start in obtaining the H1N1 vaccine, we held our first clinic in December. We served a mandated specific group of residents and had an attendance of 287 people. Then in January 2010 we offered a second H1N1 clinic, open to anyone interested in receiving the vaccine, and we had 790 people attend.

The Board of Health would like to thank all of the MRC volunteers who stepped forward to help us run these clinics. We couldn't have done it without them and their willingness to donate their time and effort in making this program a success is much appreciated.

Public Health Nurse

In 2009 our public health nurse, Brooke James, was available for town residents every Wednesday from 9 AM to 12 PM. She provided many home visits, followed up with communicable disease reporting, helped with the clinics that the Board ran, interfaced with the Council on Aging and offered immunizations to town employees as needed. On the third Wednesday of every month she led a discussion in the Council of Aging meeting room on a variety of health related topics. The Board sponsored a presentation on Lyme Disease and Dr. Martin J. Kafina of Harvard University was the keynote speaker. The program was extremely well received and attended. Brooke assisted the Board in the promotion and delivery of this program. A walking program was also offered to the Stow seniors and town building employees.

The objective of the program was to encourage walking as an excellent way to achieve fitness. Pedometers were distributed to participants and Brooke kept a weekly log of everyone's progress (number of steps walked). The "Watch Your Steps" program ran for approximately twelve weeks. The Board runs a blood pressure clinic on the first Wednesday of every month. On average about twenty seniors attend and are seen by one to two volunteer nurses from the community. Brooke attends the monthly clinic to assist with the blood pressures if necessary and also to answer questions and offer the occasional immunization. In addition she is available other Wednesday mornings for drop-in blood pressure checks and immunizations. The following clinics were offered: Pneumonia, H1N1 for EMTs, Fire, and Police, Seasonal Flu for nine years of age & older, H1N1 for six months to 18 years of age & high risk individuals, H1N1 for Steppingstones Preschool. There were also close to 100 walk-ins for Seasonal Flu, Pneumonia, & H1N1 inoculations. Brooke provides a valuable and much-needed service to the Town and the Board appreciates the support it has received for this program. We have asked for and received support for this service in 2010.

Hazardous Waste and Recycling

The Board collaborated with the Stow Boy Scouts Troop 1 in the spring of 2009 to advertise the electronics collections that they were organizing. We encouraged the Town Municipal Offices to recycle many old computers and parts out of the Town Building where they had been stored, and donated money from the hazardous waste fund to the Boy Scouts for taking all of this old equipment. This worked well for us, as the intent of the program is to safely dispose of this material. We continue to offer battery and mercury thermometer collections during our daily office hours.

Mosquito Control

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

Animal Control

The Animal Control Officer and the Animal Inspector continue to provide excellent coverage throughout the Town with the ability to respond quickly to any situation. The following is a report of activity for the year 2009:

Dog Complaints – 131	Cat Complaints – 1	Wildlife Calls - 49
Injured Animals – 1	Found Dogs – 46	Cruelty/Neglect - 9
Lost Dogs – 46	Lost Cats – 16	Found Cats – 9
Dead Animals on Roads - 42	Dogs Impounded - 19	Other – 92
Dogs Returned to Owners – 18	Dogs Put in New Homes - 1	Livestock Complaints - 12

Citations Issued:		
Written Warnings - 6		
\$25.00 Fines – 6	\$50.00 Fines – 3	\$150.00 Fines - 1

The following is the annual livestock count:

Cattle - 57	Goats - 44	Sheep - 34
Swine - 2	Llamas/Alpacas – 18	Rabbits – 20
Equine (including horses, ponies, & donkeys) - 118		
Poultry (including chickens, waterfowl, turkeys, & gamebirds) – 374		
Other - Bees		

Quarantines are as follows:

10 day	45 day
6 - dog to person	1 - dog wound of unknown origin
4 - dog-to-dog	2 - dog vs. woodchuck
2 - cat-to-cat	10 - cat wound of unknown origin
6 month:	
4 - cat wound of unknown origin	

Permitting & Revenues

Revenue of \$26,266.85 was remitted to the Town.

The following is a list of permits issued:

Bed & Breakfast – 4	Ice – 3	Pools - 2
Pet Shop – 1	Septage Haulers – 15	Title 5 Inspections - 68
Installers – 35	Camps – 4	Wells - 23
Food Service – 64	Rubbish Haulers – 4	Tobacco - 7
Cider Mills – 4	Stables – 22	Dumpsters – 13
Disposal Works Construction Permits – 40		

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia B. Rising, Chair
Betty Cormier
Sylvia Daley

Theora S. Cole, Administrative Assistant

Cynthia Colosi, Administrative Assistant
Lynn Fishman, Clerk
Jack Wallace, Health Agent
Susan Latham, Animal Control Officer
Phyllis Tower, Animal Inspector

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In the year 2009, 13 applications for public hearing were received by the Board of Appeals. Of those, six were for variance from the Zoning Bylaws of the Town; five were granted and one was denied. There were six applications for special permit, and all were granted with specific conditions.

The Board heard an appeal from the action of the Building Commissioner in denying the issuance of a building permit. The Board supported the Building Commissioner's action in his denial. The applicant has appealed the Board's decision in Land Court.

There were significant changes in the membership of the Board. Donald Hyde, a member for over 40 years, passed away. He had also served the Town as Moderator for 25 years. Richard Martin, a 48-year member, resigned. Also resigning was Donald "Gene" Dwinells, a 38-year member. Gene served the town in many other capacities, retiring as Police Chief after almost 30 years with the Department. All served the Town and its citizens very well and are missed.

The Board welcomed two new members, Ruth Sudduth and Andrew DeMore, to fill the unexpired Associate terms. At this writing, there is a vacancy with term to expire in 2012.

The Board of Appeals meets on the first Monday of each month, as needed, in the Town Building. Applications may be obtained at the Town Clerk's office. Information regarding procedure and application for hearing may be obtained by contacting Catherine Desmond, Secretary to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur R. Lowden
John Clayton, Jr., Clerk
Edmund C. Tarnuzzer, Jr.
Michele L. Shoemaker

Catherine A. Desmond, Secretary

Charles A. Barney, Associate
Lee Heron, Associate
William F. Byron, Jr.
Bruce E. Fletcher, Associate
Ruth K. Sudduth, Associate
Andrew J. DeMore, Associate

TOWN SERVICES

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

This winter season of 2008-2009 gave the Highway Department 64 inches of snow (unofficially) to contend with on the Town's roads. December 2008 alone saw 29.5 inches of snowfall upon the town in 5 different plowable snow events. When winter was over, this department had dealt with 11 different plowable snow events and dispatched our sanders 65 different times to treat slippery roads.

This year's construction projects mainly consisted of reconstruction work on Sudbury Road. In the spring we had full depth pavement reclamation performed on Sudbury Road between Gleasondale Road and Boon Road. We also installed new bituminous concrete berm on areas of the road that could have a potential for shoulder erosion. A final course of new bituminous concrete was added to the road surface for the finished product.

The bridge on Sudbury Road over the Assabet River was also given a much-needed face-lift this summer. This department completed the removal and replacement of the wooden deck boards on the bridge surface, re-poured new concrete expansion joints, and new concrete side retaining walls. The underside of the bridge was sealed with a spray-on gunite. The new deck surface was then sealed with a stone/epoxy chip seal.

Here are some other projects that this department worked on throughout the 2009 construction season.

- Installed 300 feet of sidewalk on Pompositticut Street. This is part of a project that will see a sidewalk constructed all the way to the Maynard Town Line on this street.
- Reconstructed the culverts on West Acton Road at the Heath Hen Meadow Brook. This project was done by a private contractor using State Aid money and Highway Department assistance
- Tree work. Took down 24 dead or hazardous trees around town, and spent a total of 8 weeks cutting roadside brush and low limbs.
- Assisted Cemetery Department with the installation of a post and rail fence at the Brookside Cemetery.

In closing, I'd like to thank the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Police Department and Fire Department for their support throughout the year. Thank you also to the employees who work at this department. Your hard work and dedication make this department like no other Highway Department around. Thanks guys!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael E. Clayton, Superintendent of
Streets

Scott Morse, Foreman
Rachael Belanger, Secretary
Brian Hatch
Joe Landry

Bill Tuttle
Albeo Duguay
Steve Landry
Jim Ruggiero
Scott Landry
Tim Gray
Scott Morse, Jr.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department issued a total of 254 Building Permits in 2009. We inspected the construction of commercial expansion, new homes, kitchen & bath remodeling, home additions and wood & pellet stoves. Construction at Arbor Glen and Villages at Stow continued at a steady pace and the expansion of the Shaw's supermarket is 90% complete. As of January 1, 2009 we started issuing trench permits for excavation work. A total of 30 trench permits were issued during the year. In addition we attended seminars for building code, energy code & fire safety as required under the continuing education requirements set forth by the Department of Public Safety. In addition to the duties as Building Inspector, we are also in charge of the following municipal properties: Town Building, Town Hall, West School, and the Crescent Street Garage.

We have maintained the existing Town Buildings as follows:

Town Hall

Regular maintenance was performed. In addition, gas service to the building was discontinued.

Town Building

Regular maintenance items included changing air filters, grease for the air handling units and the hot water circulating pumps. Sanding & painting of the front entryway was completed in June. An office space at the lower level was built out for the Council on Aging in October and construction of the 3rd floor meeting room was completed in December. Also in December we started the preparation of the design drawings and specifications for the emergency generator connection contract to be bid in 2010. Last but not least we built a counter for the Building Department.

West School & Crescent Street Garage Building

These buildings were checked periodically for security. Due to roof leaks at the West School the old wood roof was removed, the roof deck was repaired and a new cedar shake roof was installed in October. On the interior, removal of mold & mildew was completed and the interior was painted.

Randall Memorial Library

We provided assistance to the Library Trustees in the determination of future interior & exterior work required at the library. In November we identified roof repair that was needed and retained a roofing contractor.

In summary, I want to thank all the Town Building staff and the Town Departments for their support. In particular, many thanks to Judie Scraggs and Sheila Deleo for their dedicated assistance in the Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig D. Martin, P.E., Building
Commissioner

Judith Scraggs, Administrative Assistant
Sheila Deleo, Clerk

Douglas Hyde, Local Inspector
Ray Renzoni, Local Inspector
Robert Norton, Wire Inspector

Charles Weeks, Deputy Wire Inspector
Michael Norton, Deputy Wire Inspector
Eric Sahlberg, Plumbing Inspector
Ray Smith, Deputy Plumbing Inspector
Adam Sahlberg, Deputy Plumbing Inspector
Raymond Smith, Gas Inspector
Adam Sahlberg, Deputy Gas Inspector
Robert Smith, Deputy Gas Inspector

TOTAL BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN 2009

Number of Permits	Type of Construction	Construction Value
50	Single Family Dwelling	\$15,125,654.00
72	Remodeling and Additions	\$1,981,254.00
73	Strip and Re-roof, Re-siding & Windows	\$764,056.00
5	Swimming Pools	\$71,455.00
4	Commercial	\$1,670,689.00
4	Town Buildings/Schools	\$163,000.00
11	Outbuildings	\$250,400.00
18	Temporary Tents	N/A
10	Wood/Pellet Stoves	\$30,971.00
1	Solar	\$15,000.00
<u>6</u>	<u>Demolition Permits</u>	<u>\$143,660.00</u>
254		\$20,216,139.00

TOTAL PERMITS/CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN 2009

Number of Permits/Certificates	Fees Collected
254 Building Permits	\$96,191.00
197 Electrical Permits	\$19,025.00
129 Plumbing Permits	\$13,160.00
93 Gas Permits	\$4,122.00
35 Sign/Banner Permits	\$1,160.86
8 Annual Certificates	\$320.00
30 Trench Permits	\$900.00
746 Total Permits	\$134,878.86

RECREATION COMMISSION

This past year has been exciting and eventful for the Recreation Commission. The Commission is very excited that construction of Stow Community Park is nearly complete and we hope to have it open to the community in the spring of 2010. The new recreational facility is a great addition to Stow and we look forward to families enjoying it for many years to come. Town-wide brochures are distributed throughout the year highlighting the many new programs that have been established as well as the existing programs.

The third annual Stow Gobbler Road Race was even more successful than last year, with just under 800 participants walking or running the race on Thanksgiving Day. Thanks to the Papanastassiou family, volunteers, and sponsors for making this race such a success.

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 welcome your input. Thanks to all the workers and volunteers who helped with the programs throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Busch, Chair
Robert Braceland
John Sangermano
Ellen Piccioli

Jim Henry
Laura Greenough, Recreation Director

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Stow Council On Aging (COA) is a department of the municipal government established for the purpose of providing support to those age 60 +, by being a resource of information on elder affairs, providing outreach services, transportation, social activities, and helping people remain in their homes as long as safely possible. The COA Board meets in the Friendship Room in the lower level of the Town Building on the second Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. All meetings are open to the public. This is a volunteer Board that is appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Each year the senior population continues to grow in Stow. In 2000, Stow had 752 seniors, and in 2009 Stow had approximately 1,350 seniors. Due to this dramatic increase, our existing space in the basement of the Town Building is inadequate to provide what is needed to meet the needs of our seniors. Our offerings are limited in the number and type of events that we can schedule, and provide. We are constantly using offsite locations such as the three churches in town to accommodate the needs of our seniors. The COA Board New Senior Center Subcommittee has been meeting regularly to investigate all possibilities (land, building, expansion) for a larger space for the COA. The COA has not only experienced an increase in the number of seniors participating, but their needs have increased due to the trend to provide care in the home rather than a facility. Since the town isn't large enough to have a Social Services Department, the COA tends to be the catchall for assisting people of all ages, abilities and income levels. Services that the Council on Aging provides are listed in detail below.

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, health and educational events are held here. It is also available as a warming/cooling center for people to socialize, obtain informational materials and/or enjoy a variety of beverages and snacks.

Advocacy, Outreach and Referrals is 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 and Volunteer Coordinator and her team of volunteers will visit, shop or assist in any way to inform and refer our elders to services that are available to them through the COA and from outside agencies. Suzanne Howley, our Outreach Worker, does the weekly

crafts class, does home visits, plans most of the day trips, assists with the newsletter, and is the primary intake worker for both fuel assistance and food stamps.

Transportation is provided to all seniors, disabled and/or handicapped persons of Stow. This vital service continues to grow each year, and remains the number one service provided to seniors by the COA. Our vans provide transportation for food shopping, errands, doctor and hospital appointments, exercise programs, hair appointments, club meetings, wellness clinics, congregate meals, Town Meeting and Town Elections, Drop-In Center activities, special events and meetings.

The COA transported over 700 riders during this past year totaling over 7,000 trips covering over 28,700 miles. The vans operate regularly Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The vans not only provide transportation service throughout the Town of Stow, but many surrounding towns as well, such as: Acton, Concord, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, Lincoln, Lancaster, and Sudbury. There is a minimal fee for this service. The total fare income received this past year totaled over \$4,000. The Town of Stow is a member of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority and is able to borrow larger vans whenever needed. The COA is also allowed to bill MART for the cost of transportation services provided to the citizens of Stow. The total amount reimbursed by MART was over \$35,000 for FY09, which was turned back to the Town's General Fund Account. The COA also arranges for volunteer drivers for special doctor or hospital appointments that are out of the area not covered by our van. We also wish to extend our gratitude to the Stow Highway Department for keeping our vans serviced and safe for the roads and their continuous assistance whenever needed.

Nutritional Programs Offered:

- **Congregate Meals** are served in the Fellowship Hall at the First Parish Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The average number of people attending the meal site is 25. A \$2.00 donation is requested. The meal site not only provides nutritional meals but also provides social interaction. The COA Van Service transports many of the people who attend the meal site. We thank First Parish Church for their generosity in letting us use their hall for the town meal site.
- **Meals On Wheels** is an important and integral part of the Nutritional program. Meals are provided to people who are homebound and unable to prepare meals for themselves due to a recent hospital stay, an illness, or frailty. Volunteers contribute many hours working at the Meal Site or delivering Meals On Wheels. Without the help of these volunteers, many Stow seniors would not enjoy the quality of life good nutrition brings. Approximately 21 seniors benefited from this service this past year.
- **Monthly Breakfast:** the third Friday of the month, the COA provides a substantial breakfast to all who wish to attend. Approximately 40 people attend this popular event each month.
- **Soups On Program:** hot soup is served at the COA on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the winter months.

Classes/Presentations: Weekly Art, Craft, Sewing and Quilting Classes are offered at the COA Friendship Room and are funded by private donors, the participants and the Stow Friends of the COA. Other Health and Educational presentations are offered monthly on a variety of topics including Veterans Benefits, Safe Driving, Downsizing, etc.

Exercise Programs offered include: Aerobic, Arthritis, Yoga, Zumba Classes, and a Walking Group. This wellness activity is primarily funded by the Stow Friends of the COA, and donations

from participants. We thank both St. Isidore's Church and the Union Church for their generosity in letting us use their hall for these classes.

Health Clinics are held monthly throughout the year. Approximately 18 participants attend the Podiatry Clinic each month. The Blood Pressure Clinic sponsored by the Board of Health is held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Union Church from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Day Trips: Cultural, Educational and Recreational Outings are offered throughout the year such as visits to museums, aquarium, casinos, etc. By popular demand, certain day trips are offered every year including the Shriners' Circus, Bourne/Hampton Seafood Festivals, Flower Show, and Minor League Baseball Games. Luncheon outings are offered monthly to a correctional facility, and a nice restaurant. These trips and events are beneficial to the social and emotional well being of our seniors. Activities are planned with the hope that they will meet the varied interest of the people of Stow.

Durable Medical Equipment is loaned to any Stow citizens in need, free of charge, including: wheelchairs, tub bench/chairs, commodes, walkers, canes, and other miscellaneous items. COA has loaned out over 100 items this past year.

Intergenerational Programs: During the past year, the COA has partnered with the Stow Schools and Stow Girl and Boy Scouts providing a variety of programs and events such as: Scrabble, a Rod Serling Play, and 2nd graders interviewed and wrote biographies of Stow seniors. They also provided assistance with serving meals at special events, holiday decorations and cards. Other programs included sand for seniors and pen pals.

Newsletter: A 12-page newsletter is mailed to over 900 senior households in Stow each month. This is our most important vehicle in getting information to the Stow senior population. The Patrons who advertise, the Stow Friends of the COA, and a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs make the printing and mailing of the newsletter possible.

R.U.O.K. Program: The COA and the Stow Police partner with this telephone reassurance program. A well-being check is made by the Stow Police by telephoning the senior at the same time each day.

S.H.I.N.E. Health Benefits Counseling: Serving Health Information Needs of the Elderly is a volunteer program sponsored by Minuteman Senior Services. Twice a month, a trained counselor provides seniors with free, confidential counseling and accurate, unbiased information regarding health insurance and prescription drug options. There is no fee for this service. Over 71 seniors benefited by this program this past year with a cost value of \$2,269.

S.M.O.C.: Fuel assistance applications are accepted by all office staff member of the COA from November through April. Assistance is available to low-income eligible persons of Stow. All information is kept in strictest confidentiality. This past year, due to the high cost of fuel, there has been an increase in the number of applications for both seniors and non-seniors.

Tax Preparation Assistance is a free service sponsored by A.A.R.P. An A.A.R.P. volunteer will schedule appointments with seniors of Stow from February thru April for tax preparation and to apply for "Circuit Breaker". Approximately 76 seniors have taken advantage of this service this past year.

State Representative Kate Hogan 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 once a month at the First Parish Church during the meal site. All seniors are encouraged to attend and discuss their concerns with Rep. Hogan.

Senior Tax Work-Off Program is offered jointly by the COA and Board of Assessors for seniors 60+ who have lived in Stow for at least six months, are a home owner, and meet the income requirements. An eligible senior may work 93.75 hours at minimum wage (\$8.00), which equals, \$750 worth of rebate on their real estate taxes. Positions are filled within participating town departments. This is a double benefit to both the client and the town. We had 19 applicants participate this past year.

Senior Computers is a program that allows us to give seniors used and upgraded computers free of charge. Thanks to Stow resident Ron Hill for his countless volunteer hours upgrading donated computers. He delivers and sets them up and assists seniors with computer problems. The COA is always accepting donations of newer computers and printers to pass onto our seniors.

Special Events: This past year, the COA recognized, celebrated or participated in a variety of events including but not limited to: Happy “Noon” Year party, Chinese New Year, Valentine’s Tea, St. Patrick’s Day party, Red Sox Opening Day, May Day Baskets – Stow Garden Club, “Mad Hatter’s” Tea, Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Strawberry Festival, Summertime Picnic, Autumn Tea, Halloween Party, Veteran’s Appreciation Breakfast and our annual Holiday Luncheon. Thanks to the Stow Friends of the Council on Aging for providing the financial support for many of these events.

Volunteer Program: Approximately 80 volunteers provided over 4,380 hours of service to the COA. Volunteers are assigned to a variety of duties within the department such as: receptionist, data entry, bookkeeping, general office work, bakers, friendly visitors, handyman, transportation and a variety of tasks too numerous to list here. The COA can’t thank our volunteers enough for all they do.

Stow Friends of the Council on Aging Board (SFCOA) is a private non-profit 501C(3) organization composed of volunteer members of Stow, and the Council on Aging Director (non-voting member.) The goal of the SFCOA is to raise funds to supplement the programs and activities of the COA. They also raise funds for a New Senior Center, Vans and special projects of the COA. This past year the SFCOA held several fundraiser events, which included: Springfest Pancake Breakfast, a table at the Lions Club Flea Market, Fall Yard Sale and the Holiday Craft Fair. The SFCOA also has a gift shop, located at the COA office, which offers a variety of Stow souvenirs and hand-knit crafts made by Stow seniors. This past year, the SFCOA purchased a state of the art tracking system with Touch Screen Key Tag Scanner. This technology provides record keeping for our activities and participants.

Minuteman Senior Services (MSS) provided \$176,735 worth of services to 270 Stow seniors this past year in return for our contribution of \$1,037. MSS is funded by state and federal grants.

Other Funding Sources: This past year the COA received grants from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs (Formula Grant), Stow Community Chest, Stow Cultural Council, and the Stow Womens Club.

Thank you to all the individuals who assisted the COA this past year; it was greatly appreciated. We specially want to thank Jim Sauta for his many years of loyal dedicated service as the Chairman of our Board who resigned during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Tobey, Chair
Newton Wesley, Vice Chair
Betty French, Secretary
Paul Chaisson
Ruth Delmonico
Alice Olsen
Gus Stathis
Josephine Langley, Associate
Eleanor Beaudette, Associate
Brian Burke, Associate

William Byron, Associate
Nancy Chaisson, Associate
Kristen Donovan, Associate
Rep. Kate Hogan, Associate

Alyson Toole, Executive Director
Sharon Funkhouser, Outreach & Volunteer
Coordinator
Suzanne Howley, Outreach Worker
Lisa Scesny, Principal Driver

RANDALL LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Circulation remained strong in 2009. The library circulated 110,396 items during the year. Due to our popular children's programming, wide range of DVDs and the breadth of the Minuteman Library Network, the library is a very busy place.

A total of 505 children participated in the Summer Reading and Listening Clubs, of whom over 90% were Stow residents. Sponsored by the Stow Community Chest, The Randall Library Friends' Association, and the Stow Cultural Council, the summer started off with our annual "moonwalk on the common" on the last day of school. The fun continued with our annual Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Randall Library Friends., a magic show, puppet show, Dads' Night at the Library (Go for the Stars), DJ Stars, and a sky night program from the Boston Museum of Science.

The Alice Eaton Fund, dedicated to the health and well-being of Stow children, sponsored a series of yoga programs for Stow children under 12 years old. Stow resident and yoga instructor Maureen Trunfio taught the classes which were offered at different times of the day and evening to fit as many people's schedules as possible.

During 2009, the library was used by many community groups including: Stow Soccer, Stow Basketball, Stow Democratic Committee, the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the Editorial Freelancers' Association, Juniper Hill Water Company, Stow Republicans, Organization for the Assabet, Knitting Club, Stow Boy Scouts, First Connections, Stow Community Chest, Stow Girl Scouts, Stow Recreation, Stow Area Parents' Network, Lake Boon Association, Stow Garden Club, Nashoba Wrestling, Nashoba Lacrosse, Destination Imagination, Stow Minutemen, Stow Photography group, and the Stow Food Pantry.

The Randall Library trustees wish to thank the following groups without whose support we would not be able to achieve this level of service: Hale High School Trustees, Second Century Fund, Randall Library Friends' Association, Merwin Memorial trustees, Stow Community Chest, and the Stow Cultural Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Masters, Chairman
Robert Aldape, Treasurer
Jane Sproule Epstein, Secretary
Alison Campbell
Harry Donahue,
Carolyn Howe,
Timothy Reed

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

RANDALL LIBRARY PURCHASES

Books	12,029.11
Audios	3,233.20
DVDs	3,348.99
Periodicals	3,502.48
Reference	5,313.83
Children's Programming	3,110.15
Copier Lease	1,579.02
Software	263.96
Supplies	402.99
Total	32,783.73

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 to manage and administer low-rent housing programs, 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 Housing 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 whom are locally elected with the fifth member appointed by the Commonwealth. The Board of Commissioners meets as necessary at the Town Building. The Stow Housing Authority has contracted with the Hudson Housing Authority to administer the rental assistance programs.

The mission of the Stow Housing Authority is to provide decent and safe housing to needy persons. Currently, the Stow Housing Authority administers state vouchers, which are assigned to the Pilot Grove Development.

The Hudson Housing Authority staff conducts the day-to-day program administration.

The Stow Housing Authority continues as the monitoring agent for the affordable housing units built at the Villages at Stow as well as the LIP (local initiative program) located at Elm Ridge.

Respectfully submitted,

John Toole, Chairman
Robert Larkin
W. Robert Dilling, Jr.

Jack Kendra
Robert Barrell, Administrator

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee, which reports to the Board of Selectmen, is composed of three members, each serving a 3-year term. The Committee is responsible for the management of the town's three cemeteries: Hillside Cemetery on Crescent Street, the Lower Village Cemetery at Great Road and Pompositticut Street, and Brookside Cemetery on Gleasondale Road. The Superintendent reports to the Cemetery Committee, and is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the 3 cemeteries, which consist of approximately 15 acres. The Superintendent also manages the sale of lots and all burial operations.

This past year we finished the Extension II well project, connecting both water systems to provide Brookside Cemetery with enough water for existing needs and for future expansions. Another project completed this past year was the crack sealing of all our cemetery roads.

We want to acknowledge the work completed this past year by part-time workers. These people help the Superintendent with many duties, freeing up some of his time to work on the many projects he has on his plate. This Committee is always willing to talk to anyone who might be interested in part time work.

The Committee wants to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work that our Superintendent does throughout the year. Robb ("GH") Gledhill maintains all three cemeteries most of the time by himself and we are pleased to note that very few complaints are heard.

The Committee also wants to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and all the town departments that supported us through the year, with a special thanks to the Highway Department for all they did for us this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Dodge, Chair
Roy A. Dudley

William E. Clayton, Associate
Robb "G.H." Gledhill, Superintendent

CULTURAL COUNCIL

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

The Stow Cultural Council completed a successful year, receiving a total of \$7,000 in grants from the following sources: \$4,000 from the State Legislature through the Massachusetts Cultural Council; \$2,500 from the Fieldstone Foundation; and \$500 from Town Meeting.

The council voted to grant funds to the following projects for 2009:

- Stow West School Open Houses: \$480 (Karen Gray, Stow Historical Commission)
- Arts Buffet Festival: \$425 (Stacey Almy, Stow Parent Teacher Organization)

- Summer Reading Program: \$1,000 (Denise Flynn, Randall Library)
- Children's Garden Interactive Sing Along: \$400 (Ed Morgan, "The Music Man")
- Sounds of Stow: \$1,100 (Rick Gentilman, Sounds of Stow)
- Hale Middle School Play (artistic director): \$725 (Rachel Ganimian, Hale Middle School Play)
- Stow Story Slam: \$400 (Skye Gibson, Stow Story Slam)
- Great Lives in Music: \$125 (Dorothy MacKeen, Symphony Pro Musica)
- 75th Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft: \$100 (Peter Timms, Fitchburg Art Museum)
- Edible Wild Plants of the Northeast: \$325 (John Root)
- Richard Hughes Silent Entertainment: \$500 (Lewis Halprin)
- Decorated Traffic Controller: \$500 (Lewis Halprin)
- SMART(Science-Math-Art): \$100 (Neil Gordon, The Discovery Museum)
- Creative Opportunities for Audiences and Participants: \$200 (Jan Patterson, Hudson Area Arts Alliance)
- 2010 Opening Concert: \$150 (Pat White, Concerts at the Common, Harvard, MA)
- Winter and Spring Concert Season: \$150 (Helen Probst, Acton Community Chorus)
- 2010 Concert Series: \$125 (Joseph Gaffney, Harvard Pro Musica)
- Lighting for Pavilion, Snow Athletic Field: \$1,533.98 (Stow Recreation Commission)

The Stow Cultural Council encourages any Stow resident to apply for a grant for a project of his or her own imagination, or to sponsor an event by an area artist or performer, that will benefit the Stow Community. Grant applications may be received at any time, but must be received no later than October 15, 2010 for the next granting cycle. For more information see the Cultural Council page on the town website, www.stow-ma.gov.

Membership currently stands at six, which meets the Mass Cultural Council's minimum requirement of five members. Members are Anne Draudt (publicist), Catherine Hammill (treasurer), Donnalisa Johnson (secretary), Phyllis Fitzsimmons-Luce, Nancy Maldari, Dorothy Sonnichsen and Ann L. Deluty (chair). Bob Glorioso and Betsy Stepp are members emeritus.

New members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve a three-year term. Members can be reappointed for an additional term with a total term limit of six years. As several members' terms are due to expire in the near future, the Cultural Council actively seeks residents who are interested in joining as Associate members, with the intent of transitioning to full Member status in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann L Deluty, Chair
Anne Draudt
Donnalisa Johnson
Dorothy Sonnichsen
Nancy Maldari
Catherine Hammill

Phyllis Fitzsimmons-Luce
Betsy Stepp
Robert Glorioso

Isabel Prokopovich, Assistant

VETERAN'S SERVICES

Every city and town in the Commonwealth is required by G.L. c. 115 to appoint a Veterans' Services Officer ("VSO") whose duties include locating veterans, advising them of their rights and benefits, and helping them apply for and receive state and federal benefits. See G.L. c. 115, §§ 3, 10; 108 CMR 12.01 *et seq.* All cities and towns with populations over 12,000 must employ a full-time VSO as an advocate for the veterans of that municipality. Towns such as Stow with populations under 12,000 may employ a VSO on a part-time basis.

Regardless of full or part time status, the VSO is the primary contact for veterans and their families with questions about benefits. Until a change in state regulations in 2005, this position was known as "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 state-mandated services and/or benefits are separate and distinct from those administered by the federal Veterans' Administration. In the case of direct financial assistance, benefits are determined based on need in accordance with state guidelines. Once paid by the town "up front," Stow receives 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 in recent years have been varied. Financial aid was provided (anonymously) to eligible Stow veterans and/or their surviving spouses in accordance with state regulations governing income eligibility requirements and level of support. Assistance has been provided in applying to a federal program which provides grave markers for deceased Stow resident veterans. The VSO also serves as a liaison to other federal veterans' programs.

During the past several years, I have worked cooperatively with full-time counterparts from both Hudson and Marlboro on issues with which they deal frequently due to their much larger "client" base. As a part-time official in an increasingly bureaucratic state system, I am especially indebted to the town of Hudson's professional full-time VSO, Brian Stearns. His freely offered expertise is an example of informal regionalization of the highest order

This is my final annual report as Stow's VSO, since for personal reasons I have submitted my resignation as of March 1, 2010. I appreciate the opportunity to have served the town in this capacity for the past several years. The assistance provided to me by Town Administrator William Wrigley and Susan McLaughlin of the Selectmen's office has been especially valuable.

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. The goal of the Community Preservation Act is to provide communities with the means to expand their ability to pursue and implement projects that preserve or enhance their quality of life. Under this legislation, municipalities may 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 open space, the creation and support of affordable housing, and the acquisition and preservation of historic buildings, landscapes and documents.

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, 2009 was the eighth year of collections and state matching grants. In October 2009 Stow was awarded \$219,912 – a 51.6 percent match – greatly increasing our community's ability to take action in the three specified areas. State matching funds have been awarded each year in which Stow has participated (over \$2.4 million in state matching funds awarded to date). Community Preservation funds are deposited in a locally controlled, interest-bearing account. Additionally, Stow has earned over \$585,000 in interest on CPA funds since adoption in 2001.

Pursuant to the adoption of the CPA in May 2001, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) was formed to develop a Community Preservation Plan and to oversee implementation of the CPA in Stow. The CPC's role is to study the existing resources of the town, identify critical needs, evaluate various options for addressing those needs, and recommend specific projects for Town Meeting consideration. All projects recommended by the CPC also must be approved by a majority vote at Town Meeting before expenditures can be made from Stow's Community Preservation Fund.

Highlights of 2009

In May of 2009, Town Meeting voters approved Community Preservation warrant articles for appropriating funds for administrative purposes (\$28,000) and for making the annual reserves required under the Community Preservation Act: Acquisition and Preservation of Historic Buildings and Landscapes (\$60,000), Acquisition and Preservation of Open Space and Recreation Land (\$60,000), and Acquisition and Support of Affordable Housing (\$60,000).

At the same Annual Town Meeting in May of 2009, Town Meeting attendees voted to appropriate \$50,000 of CPA Historic Reserve Funds for purpose of creating a town-wide historic properties inventory. Maintaining Stow's Historic Property Inventory is one of the main responsibilities for the Historical Commission. The last inventory was done approximately 25 years ago and this new Inventory will bring Stow's Inventory up-to-date and make it more accessible. At the time this report was written the Historical Commission was in the Request for Proposals (RFP) stage of hiring a consultant.

In 2008, Stow acquired an easement, using CPA funds, for approximately 9,900 feet in length along a former railroad roadbed. The easement allows the possible future construction of a portion of the Assabet River Rail Trail and allows public access to the existing trail. The Town of Stow was awarded \$40,000 of Federal Grant Funds to reimburse the CPA account. The CPC is most appreciative to Michelle Ciccolo, Don Rising, and other Hudson Town Officials for their efforts to secure this Grant for Stow.

At a Special Town Meeting in October 2009, Town Meeting attendees voted to appropriate \$1,750,000 in CPA funds for a combined Affordable Housing project at 2 properties adjacent to Plantation and Pilot Grove Apartments. Plantation II will provide 37 units of supportive housing for low-income elderly residents and Pilot Grove II will provide 30 units of affordable family housing. The article passed Town Meeting by more than the 2/3 vote required. This action of Town Meeting voters reinforces what we believe to be true; that Stow residents recognize the current affordable housing needs of our community and support the development of these two projects.

In addition to the warrant articles presented to residents at Town Meetings this past year, the CPC continues to work with the Recreation and Agricultural Commissions on the Stow Community Park and agricultural land formally known as the Snow Property. The project is well underway, and playing fields are expected to be open for full use in fall 2010. The agricultural portion is already under lease to a local farmer.

The CPC looks forward to working with others to implement additional Community Preservation projects selected by Town Meeting voters. In addition, the Committee looks forward to evaluating proposals currently in the developmental phase including a Historic Documents Preservation project, a fire suppression system to preserve the historic Town Hall, and a town-wide Archaeological Reconnaissance Project. The prospect of receiving significant state matching funds appears promising for 2010.

Stow voters are to be commended for deciding eight years ago to be one of first of the 142 communities in Massachusetts (representing more than one third of the Commonwealth) that are accruing the many and varied benefits of local adoption of the Community Preservation Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Wilber, Open Space, Chairman
David Walrath, Finance, Vice Chairman
John Bolton, Assessors Office
Mike Busch, Recreation Commission
William Byron, Council on Aging
Kathy Sferra, Conservation Commission

Kathleen Willis, Planning Board
Linda Stokes, Historical Commission
Robert Larkin, Housing Authority

Deb Seith, Administrative Assistant

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE PROJECT STATUS REPORT

	Orig Project Cost	Proj on Hold	Rescinded Projects Money Not Used	Final Proj Cost	TL Amt Appropri.
					\$ 4,938,862.36
Totals for Open Space/Recreation	\$ 3,241,500.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 847,500.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 2,394,000.00
Spring Hill on Walcott - Open Space	\$ 500,000.00		\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	
Spring Hill on Walcott - Recreation	\$ 347,500.00		\$ 347,500.00	\$ -	
Red Acre Road- Conservation Land	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00			
Conservation Comm Acquisition of Open Space	\$ 50,000.00				
Acq Open Space Tyler APR \$21,500					
Hale Woodlands	\$ 35,000.00			\$ 35,000.00	
Transfer Parcels to Conservation Commission	\$ 21,000.00				
Lake Boon Preservation Project	\$ 77,000.00				
Albright Easement	\$ 227,000.00				
Maple Street	\$ 11,000.00				
Snow Property Land	\$ 673,000.00				
Snow Property Recreation	\$ 1,000,000.00				
Totals for Historical	\$ 100,419.00	\$ -	\$ 5,556.64	\$ 24,862.36	\$ 94,862.36
Exp-West School Parking/Access	\$ 20,000.00				
Blacksmith School	\$ 929.00		\$ 184.00	\$ 745.00	
Stone Wall Repairs	\$ 9,990.00		\$ 71.72	\$ 9,918.28	
Stone Wall Repairs Project #2	\$ 19,500.00		\$ 5,300.92	\$ 14,199.08	
Historic Property Inventory	\$ 50,000.00				
Totals for Affordable Housing	\$ 2,702,500.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 252,500.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 2,450,000.00
Exp - Spring Hill on Walcott	\$ 252,500.00		\$ 252,500.00		
Exp-Red Acre Road Perp Deed Restriction	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00			
Pilot Grove	\$ 350,000.00			\$ 350,000.00	
Exp-Purchase Perp Deed Restriction	\$ 250,000.00				
Pilot Grove II & Plantation II	\$ 1,750,000.00				

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

The Agricultural Commission, along with the Board of Health, responded to four agriculture-neighbor disputes this year, all of which were resolved amicably. We were lightly involved in Springfest, with several agricultural displays in the parade, and a table with agricultural information.

At the May 12, 2009 Town Meeting, we argued for the elimination of excise taxes on farm animals and agricultural equipment. The article passed, reducing the load on the Assessors' office, without a significant decrease in income to the Town.

The Agricultural Commission attended presentations on the proposed removal of the Ben Smith dam. The Assabet River is used by farms along the river for irrigation purposes and the dam removal would have a significant impact on them. Since the driver for the proposal is the phosphorus level in the river, we will be involved in discussions of the phosphorus loading from Stow sources.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Sipler, Chairman
Liz Painter, Clerk
Julie Martin Sullivan

Kathy Steege
Jean Lynch, Associate

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Following the completion of the Town's Open Space and Recreation (OS&R) Plan in 2008, the focus of the Open Space Committee (OSC) turned to disseminating and publicizing the document. The OSC worked with the Town Clerk's Office to get the plan on the Town web site, and provided separate high-resolution graphics files for the plan's maps. A shorter brochure-style summary of the plan is currently being worked on. In December 2009, the OSC and Master Plan committees met jointly to ensure that the steps outlined in the OS&R Plan are incorporated into the Town's Master Plan being drafted.

In September 2009, an OSC member met with the Conservation Commission to discuss OS&R Plan's goal of providing some level of universal access at one of our town's open space properties. A site visit to the Town Forest's Bradley Lane entrance is planned for the Spring. In December 2009, the OSC nominated one of its members to be part of the Town's Chapter-61 Quick Response Team, which is responsible for gathering information on Chapter-61 properties when they become available for possible acquisition or protection. The OSC also began reviewing the priority list of Chapter-61 properties in town.

Respectfully submitted,

Vin Antil, Chair
Eve Donahue
Jean Lynch
Bill Maxfield

Chris Rodstrom
Kathy Sferra
Bob Wilber
Brian J. Mulcahy

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 (Chair). 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.

Lake Boon is under attack from non-native invasive weeds and increased nutrient loading. The primary way to combat these attacks is a comprehensive lake management program that includes nutrient management and aquatic vegetation management. Aquatic vegetation management is done with state-approved herbicides applied under state permits and Orders of Conditions from the Conservation Commissions of Stow and Hudson. Nutrient management is accomplished by intercepting nutrients in catch basins before they get to the lake, and by Lake Drawdown, which removes the nutrients.

Many catch basins have been installed around the lake to reduce nutrient flow into the lake. They were done under a state 319 grant as part of our total lake management program.

Lake Drawdown is complicated but best thought of as emptying a bathtub. Drain some of the water away and the nutrients leave the lake. It is free but may affect shallow wells around the lake. The Lake Boon Commission is working with the Stow boards, and many interested parties, to accomplish Lake Draw down in the future.

Lake Boon is under a total lake management program designed to improve water quality and manage invasive weeds in the lake. The Conservation Commissions of both Stow and Hudson and the Board of Heath in Stow are working with the Lake Boon Commission to improve water quality and manage the weeds.

We have an ongoing aquatic vegetation management program in place that includes treatment of the weeds in accordance with the Orders of Conditions, DEP File #190-362. The lake was treated on June 15, 2009 according to state regulations and the Orders of Conditions in place. The treatment was successful and did not have to be repeated in 2009.

Lee Heron is one of Lake Boon's patrol officers. As a member of the LBC he manages the patrolling of Lake Boon for both the LBC patrol boat and the Stow Police patrol boat. The Stow Police boat is also manned by Stow police officers. The goal is to ensure safety and enforce regulations on the lake.

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 resulting in tickets and fines. We have a zero tolerance policy for safety violations; if a boat is stopped for safety violations it will be ticketed.

The rules are posted at the launch site or available online from the Stow Web site. State rules are online as well at Mass.gov. If you send Conray Wharff an e-mail at the address below, he will send you a copy of the rules.

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, Chair
Cindy Curley, Stow

Lee Heron, Stow

LOCAL ACCESS CHANNEL 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 Selectmen on August 9, 2005, the name of the committee was changed to the Local Access Channel Advisory Committee (LACAC). The cable station is referred to as “Stow TV” and is available on Comcast Channel 9 and Verizon Channels 32 and 33. Funding for operations is provided through license agreements negotiated by the Stow Cable License Advisory Committee with Comcast and Verizon,

Coordinator Anne VanTine managed overall operations of the station. Assistant Coordinator Mary O’Loughlin implemented program schedules and bulletin board notices. She also contributed in other ways, including digitizing and categorizing shows and securing a variety of music to accompany the bulletin board. Mary will be leaving Stow TV in early 2010. Michele Crosby and Kathy O’Keefe came on board in November to share the Assistant Coordinator job. As Technical Assistant, Lew Halprin made improvements to recording setups and devised innovative and practical solutions for various recording situations.

Stow TV recorded and cablecast two nights of Town Meetings as well as educational videos on voting and town meeting processes. It also encouraged voter registration on the bulletin board with guidelines and election dates. In addition, Stow TV produced and cablecast about 50 Selectmen and other town board hearings and public information sessions. Half of these were Selectmen and Joint Board meetings. Other shows included information on a wide variety of topics, many of which were controversial topics in Stow. These included:

- Lake Boon Drawdown proposal meetings
- Allowing dogs in Conservation Land meetings
- Harvard Acre and Assabet Water Company hearings
- Finance Committee hearings
- Lyme Disease Information
- Stow School Building Committee meetings and reports
- Affordable Housing Proposal hearings, workshops and reports
- Climate Change Forum by Stow Energy Working Group
- Assabet River Dam Removal and Sediment discussions

Local video producers submitted 85 new programs of local events during 2009, These included many local and school concerts, Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies, “SpringFest” festivities, the Lake Boon water carnival, library programs for children, school graduations, fire department events, Council on Aging presentations, talks at First Parish Church, Collings

Foundation events, summer bible school children's projects, state politics, Stow history, forums on education and senior issues, locally written theater projects, shows by local artists, presentations on local environment and nature topics, fairs and charity events, and more.

About 15 additional programs of local interest were produced in neighboring towns and/or submitted by a resident or town or state department. Public health and safety topics included fire safety, hospital services and several shows about the various strains of flu. Residents submitted videos about help for unemployed residents, background on Massachusetts bills and regulations, performances by area musicians, books, and local wildlife and environment.

Stow TV implemented hundreds of colorful, eye-catching announcements on the "bulletin board" in 2009. A wide variety of local event announcements were continuously shown and updated regularly based on requests from community organizations. Many announcements provided public health and safety information and promoted local charities.

Many "photo shows" were featured on the bulletin board. These included pictures of library programs, Council on Aging events, school plays and concerts, town festivals, local concerts, local scenes, and many other topics. Many local photographers contributed including Jonathan Daisy, Paul Trunfio, Greg Troxel, Lew Halprin, Ann DeCristofaro, Dick Luxner, Valerie Pederson, Dwight Sipler, Jay Solomon, and others.

Stow TV program schedules were made available to the public on the town web site, through publicity to local newspapers and newsletters, in email distribution lists, in posters in several public locations, and on the Stow TV bulletin board.

Many people contributed time, expertise, and creative assistance. Lew Halprin, Linda Stokes, Mike Jordan, and Marika Barnett produced, recorded, and edited shows seen on Stow TV. Lew Halprin recorded or helped with video production of nearly every event in town. Shows produced by Lew formed the backbone of every Stow TV schedule. Linda Stokes recorded the Selectmen meetings. Ralph DeFlorio helped record events at First Parish Church. Mary O'Loughlin wrote and planned an original play to be produced in early 2010.

Bob Mong kept the computers running. Robert Evans assisted with technical issues. Gerry Horne managed Town Meeting sound. Scott Glorioso assisted with some concert recordings. The video producers specified video equipment needs with LACAC member Bob Glorioso advising, leading to acquisitions that made recording easier, more reliable, and better quality. LACAC members contributed time and advice for spending and policy decisions.

Stow TV is intended to operate with volunteers and provide video access to town residents. If you are interested in volunteering or contributing video or photos, please contact the Coordinator at 978-897-7732 or by email stowtv@stow-ma.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Dungan
Chris Funkhouser
Robert Glorioso
Len Golder

Lisa Lavina

Anne VanTine, Stow TV Coordinator

CABLE LICENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Cable License Advisory Committee assists the Stow Board of Selectmen with awarding the license a cable company requires from the town in order to provide cable television service to its residents. It also works to assure that the terms of the license are being followed.

Stow's first cable license was awarded to Adams Russell way back in 1986 and was last renewed in 2002 for ten years. Adams Russell provided Stow video cable service under this license for many years, and then sold its license to Cablevision, which sold it to AT&T. Today, the license is held by Comcast.

In October 2007, Verizon submitted a request for a video cable license to offer cable service to Stow. Negotiations for the terms of this license took place and culminated with the Selectmen signing a 15-year cable license with Verizon on June 24, 2008. Verizon has provided fiber optic cable to most parts of the Town and currently offers full video cable service, along with high-speed Internet service and digital telephone service to those parts of town serviced by overhead wiring. Providing service to those needing underground wiring will begin after the ground thaws this spring. The number of Verizon cable customers is slowly growing, some with new service, some switching from Comcast, and others switching from satellite.

Both Comcast and Verizon offer many options within their video service packages, and both provide Stow's local access channel (Stow-TV) on Comcast channel 9 and on Verizon channel 32. In addition, Verizon provides Stow with a second local access channel (channel 33), which is used currently to carry the Stow bulletin board 24 hours a day. Negotiations are being made with Comcast to provide channel 10 as a second Stow local access Comcast channel so that Comcast can also carry the bulletin board full-time.

Both licenses provide for a percentage of Comcast's and Verizon's income from Stow subscribers to be returned to the Town in order to support its Stow-TV local access channels. The Cable Committee is monitoring both Comcast's and Verizon's system to make sure all the terms of the license are being met and that all license payments are being made at the time specified by the license.

The broadband Internet service and the digital telephone service provided by both Comcast and Verizon are carried by the same fiber optic cable each uses to provide Stow residents with video service. But only the video service requires a Stow license (and provides Stow with operational funds) since the Internet and telephone services are considered a 'data' service and are regulated by the State, not by Stow.

The Comcast video cable service license will need to be renewed in 2012, only 2 years from now, and the Cable Committee is starting to review that license to determine what changes should be requested during license renewal negotiations.

The Cable Committee has no jurisdiction over the cost of cable services, nor the content of the programs offered on this service. Complaints in these areas should be directed first to Comcast or Verizon customer service. If your service provider cannot resolve the service problems, then contact the Cable Committee. They might be able to contact other departments at your provider for problem resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Halprin, Chair
Army Buckman

Robert Mong

FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Introduction to the Finance Committee

Every town in Massachusetts with a property valuation of over \$1 million is required by state law, MGL Ch. 19, Sect. 16, to have a Finance Committee that shall “consider any or all municipal questions for the purpose of making reports or recommendations to the town.” The Finance Committee’s primary responsibility in Stow is advisory. It examines the budget and all other warrant articles and makes recommendations to the voters on each article. It also administers the reserve fund to provide for urgent or unforeseen expenditures that might arise between town meetings. Further, the Finance Committee Annual Report should give the people of the town a clear picture of the town’s financial condition.

In Stow, the Moderator appoints five voting and up to five associate members to the Finance Committee. Any voter registered in Stow is eligible to join. As of February 2, 2010 there were five voting members and one associate member on the committee. Four associate positions remain open, and we invite interested citizens to inquire and apply.

Overview of Town Finances and the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

The Town balanced the budget for the fiscal year 2010, covering the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, (“FY10”) without an override. Though no overrides have been required in the past four budgets, the town voted this past October to approve, by an overwhelming margin, the Center School addition and renovation, which will increase expenditures by an estimated 7% to 10% by 2013, depending on the prevailing interest rates when the bulk of the expenses are bonded.

Regardless of the Center School renovation, the Finance Committee remains concerned about long term trends, as well as more recent cyclical conditions. New construction, which increases our tax base, has slowed to a trickle. Local receipt growth, which is heavily dependent on the motor vehicle excise tax, was flat and has the potential to see noticeable decreases in the coming years. State aid, which is tied very closely to highly variable and cyclical state tax revenue, saw a large decrease in the 2010 budget. This decrease in state aid is only expected to get larger in 2011 and it may take several years to recover to fiscal year 2009 (“FY09”) levels. The long-term constraints on our finances remain unchanged from prior years. Stow has an undiversified tax base, forcing the town to rely heavily on residential taxation. Beyond that, Stow has large amounts of land exempted or abated from taxes and relatively low amounts of state aid. In fact, Stow has one of the lowest amounts of state aid per capita in Massachusetts. Fortunately, these

long-term constraints will soften the effect of the more cyclical problems the town faces in the current economic downturn. The town's property tax revenue is more stable than income and sales tax revenue, which are the largest determinants of state aid, and residential property taxes are more stable than commercial and industrial real and personal property taxes.

In a bit of welcome and timely news, Stow received a bond rating upgrade during 2009. Bond ratings, which function as the town's credit rating and are the fundamental basis of our borrowing costs, are determined based on a number of factors; including the overall economy of the town and its residents, the ability of the town to balance budgets and control spending, the debt structure of the town, the balance of the town's reserve funds and the overall strength and performance of town management, among others. The factors that most likely played a predominant role in this recent upgrade were no doubt the town's ability to balance the budget over the last four years without an override, as well as the solid management of the town by the Town Administrator and various town departments. It cannot be emphasized enough how important the bond rating is to a town, as an upgrade has the potential to save the town millions of dollars in future debt service costs, especially during periods of economic uncertainty when there is a greater value placed on higher quality bonds.

The looming costs associated with the Center School project, which have yet to have a substantial impact on the budget, may greatly hamper the tax base's ability to absorb additional spending increases in the coming years. At the same time, if the long-term capital spending patterns and short-term revenue patterns continue, producing a divergence, the budget will require additional overrides. Aligning expenditures with potentially declining as well as somewhat unstable and uncertain revenue streams could be challenging for the town over the next several years.

Town Meetings

Stow held two Town Meetings in 2009, the Annual Town Meeting in May and a Special Town Meeting in October.

The Annual Town Meeting approved the annual budget and various capital items, including \$200,000 to replace an ambulance and several repairs and upgrades to the Center School, Hale School and the Town Building.

The Special Town Meeting and subsequent ballot approval this past October approved the Center School renovation and addition, estimated to cost approximately \$38 million, of which approximately \$19 million will be paid for by the town, with the remainder reimbursed by the state. The bulk of the debt service costs to the town for the Center School project will not take full effect until probably 2013, with smaller amounts in the intervening years as the project progresses. As indicated previously, these costs will have a significant effect on expenditures and therefore property taxes, resulting in an additional 7% to 10% when compared to current tax levels.

Town Revenues

Town Revenue increased 2.6% in FY10. Table 3 shows a comparison of revenue sources for FY09 and FY10.

Table 3: Revenue Sources

	FY09	FY09 % of Total	FY10	FY10 % of Total	\$ Change FY09- FY10	% Chng FY09-FY10
Property Tax	\$18,473,557	84.5%	\$19,357,731	86.2%	\$884,174	4.8%
State Aid	1,040,358	4.8%	937,640	4.2%	(102,718)	(9.9%)
Local Receipts	1,527,300	7.0%	1,523,500	6.8%	(3,800)	(0.2%)
Savings and Other Funds	352,335	1.6%	388,701	1.7%	36,366	10.3%
Override						
Other (CPF)	471,500	2.1%	236,750	1.1%	(234,750)	(49.8%)
Total	\$21,865,050		\$22,444,322		\$579,272	2.6%

Source: Town Administrator, Budget Report, Annual Town Meeting

The largest source of town revenue, property taxes, increased almost 5% in FY10. State aid, not including state aid to the school districts, decreased by 10%. Local receipts remained flat when compared to FY09. Local receipts include excise tax, investment income, and fines collected by various town departments.

Town Expenditures

Total Stow expenditures increased 1.2% in FY10. These expenditures can be divided into three large groups: Education, which increased 1.6%, Municipal Government, which increased 2.9% and other/special items, which decreased 3.2%. Table 2 shows a comparison of total Stow expenditures for FY09 and FY10.

The Municipal Government showed a marginal increase that was largely related to negotiated cost of living wage increases. Debt Service actually fell by 3.2% due to maturing debt. Debt Service should stay relatively flat in fiscal year 2011, but may almost double by the time the debt associated with the Center School project takes full effect in 2013 and 2014.

Table 2: Town Expenditures

	FY09 Voted	FY09 % of Total	FY10 Voted	FY10 % of Total	\$ Change FY09- FY10	% Chng FY09-10
Municipal Govt						
General	908,714	4.1%	948,792	4.3%	40,078	4.4%
Public Safety	1,896,744	8.7%	1,944,727	8.9%	47,983	2.5%
Public Works	921,294	4.2%	945,632	4.3%	24,338	2.6%
Human Services	242,850	1.1%	250,483	1.1%	7,633	3.1%
Culture/Rec	264,947	1.2%	271,254	1.2%	6,307	2.4%
Town Wide Expense	714,454	3.3%	733,200	3.3%	18,746	2.6%
Total Municipal Govt	4,949,003	22.6%	5,094,088	23.2%	145,085	2.9%

Table 2: Town Expenditures, continued

Education						
Nashoba	12,607,229	57.5%	13,043,439	59.5%	436,210	3.5%
Minuteman	963,952	4.4%	750,000	3.4%	-213,952	-22.2%
Total Education	13,571,181	61.9%	13,793,439	62.9%	222,258	1.6%
Other						
Debt Service	1,323,188	6.0%	1,275,591	5.8%	-47,597	-3.6%
Special Articles	976,976	4.5%	775,392	3.5%	-201,584	-20.6%
Capital Spending	347,600	1.6%	446,000	2.0%	98,400	28.3%
Recap Items	748,158	3.4%	789,993	3.6%	41,835	5.6%
Total Other	3,395,922	15.5%	3,289,976	15.0%	-108,946	-3.2%
Grand Total	21,916,106		22,174,503		258,397	1.2%

Source: Town Administrator, Budget Report, Annual Town Meeting

--- Departmental operating budgets include wages and expenses.

Town Expenditures: Education

The Nashoba Regional School District (“NRSD”) is Stow’s largest expense. The total NRSD expense can be divided into our assessment, \$13,043,439 and our portion of NRSD debt \$340,999 for a total of \$13,384,438 or 60% of total town spending in FY10. In FY10 the NRSD School Committee requested and all three member towns approved a net total budget of \$41,922,178, which is a 1% increase over the net total budget of \$41,497,077 for FY09.

For Minuteman Career and Technical High School (“Minuteman”), the Town’s assessment for FY10 was \$750,000, a decrease of 22% over the prior fiscal year’s assessment of \$963,952. This significant decrease is due to a significant drop in Stow’s student population at Minuteman, which currently stands at approximately twenty five students.

The school budgets have a much heavier reliance on state aid than the municipal government budget and Stow’s assessments are net of the state aid provided to the districts. FY10 saw noteworthy decreases in state aid to the school districts and, in the current economic climate, there remains a significant amount of uncertainty surrounding the amount of state aid going forward. These cuts in state aid to the districts have to be made up for either through spending cuts, higher assessments to the towns or some combination of both. A large portion of the difference between the 1% overall NRSD budget increase and the 3.2% increase in Stow’s assessment can be attributed to these cuts.

Table 1: Stow's School Assessment Budgets						
	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	% Chng FY09-10
Nashoba (incl. debt)	\$10,848,015	\$11,522,329	\$12,097,908	\$12,970,229	\$13,384,438	3.2%
Minuteman	\$987,068	\$971,371	\$954,573	\$963,952	\$750,000	-22.2%
TOTAL	\$11,835,083	\$12,493,700	\$13,052,481	\$13,934,181	\$14,134,438	1.4%

Town Savings

Town savings increased \$308,305 or 35% in FY10 to \$1,179,198, making it just over 5% of the annual budget. Town savings are “rainy day” accounts that are built up during good times and drawn down in bad times. As indicated previously, town savings is a key determinant of the town credit rating and the credit rating will affect the interest rate the town would pay should it decide to borrow money for some future use. There are two major accounts that reflect the town’s savings, or stored assets: Free Cash and Stabilization Fund. Table 4 shows the status of our stored assets.

Free Cash contains unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year. It is certified by the state before the calendar year end. These funds are a necessity, not a luxury. Although the fund is available for appropriation, its primary purpose is to provide for unforeseen expenditures. Still, at various times in the past four fiscal years, the town has used Free Cash to fund certain capital articles.

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. The level of the Stabilization Fund is examined closely by the bond rating agencies when determining the Town’s bond rating. The last Town Meeting voted to increase the Stabilization Fund by \$50,000 by transferring funds from Free Cash.

The Finance Committee would recommend that town savings remain in the range of 5% to 10%. This would leave the town with just \$70,472 in savings before we hit the 5% minimum recommended amount and require an additional \$1 million in total savings amounts before we hit the top of the range.

Table 4: Town Savings						
	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10*	\$ Change FY09-FY10	% Change FY09-FY10
Free Cash	\$472,768	\$410,218	\$434,769	\$604,198	\$169,429	38.9%
Stabilization Fund	334,334	354,047	\$436,124	\$575,000	\$138,876	31.8%
Total	\$807,102	\$764,265	\$870,893	\$1,179,198	\$308,305	35.4%
% of Budget	4.0%	3.7%	4.0%	5.3%		

*FY10 balance reflects the approximate balance as of January 31, 2010.

Effect On Property Taxes

The average valuation of a single-family house in Stow is \$452,350. The effect of changes to the budget on your tax bill is shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Effect on Property Taxes						
	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	% Chng FY09- FY10
Tax Rate (per \$1,000 of Valuation)	\$14.04	\$13.82	\$14.73	\$15.28	\$16.58	8.5%
Avg Single Family Valuation	\$457,435	\$483,765	\$471,013	\$463,581	\$445,062	(4.0)%
Avg Single Family Tax Bill	\$6,422	\$6,686	\$6,938	\$7,084	\$7,379	4.2%

Conclusion

It is our opinion that this is a fair and accurate picture of the Town's financial state. Whether you are pleased or displeased, we remind you that Town Meeting directly controls the rate of growth of town expenses. We encourage your participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Kern, Chair
David Walrath, Vice Chair
James Salvie
Gary Bernklow
Christopher Sarno

Ann Deluty, Associate

Elizabeth Tobey, Administrative Assistant

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Capital Planning Committee is charged by the Town Charter to review and recommend, or not, any department request which is over \$10,000 and has a useful life of three or more years, as well as any land purchase. We maintain a chronological record of department requests and encourage each department to develop a five-year spending plan.

The 2010 budget year was again a challenging one, and the Committee worked hard to ensure that each capital funding request was essential and would provide the Town with good value.

The Building Department's initial request for \$75,000 for installation of an emergency electrical generator for the Town Building was changed after discussion with the Building Commissioner. Ultimately it was decided that the goal of maintaining Town services during an extended power outage could be provided with a rental generator. Thus a request for \$45,000 to modify the building's wiring to accommodate a rental generator to power the entire building was proposed, recommended for approval by Capital Planning, and approved by Town Meeting. Also from the Building Department were requests for \$10,000 for energy efficiency upgrades to the Town

Building and \$50,000 to expand the parking lot at the same building. Both were recommended for approval by Capital Planning, and subsequently approved at Town Meeting.

The Fire Department requested \$200,000 to replace the ambulance and \$100,000 for new turnout gear for the fire fighters. Fire Chief McLaughlin was able to amend the request for turnout gear funding to \$53,000 by obtaining a grant to fund the difference. Thanks, Chief! Capital Planning recommended an affirmative vote for these items and the Town Meeting approved both expenditures.

The Highway Department requested, Capital Planning recommended, and Town Meeting approved expenditures of \$40,000 for a new pickup truck for the Superintendent and \$15,000 for an air compressor. Capital Planning also recommended approval of the Police Department's request for \$33,000 to enable replacement of a cruiser; the expenditure was similarly approved at Town Meeting.

The Nashoba Regional School District requested \$60,000 for Hale School roof repairs and \$15,000 for asbestos tile removal at Center School – both multi-year projects. The funding for these projects was proposed to be unspent funds from a 2003 Warrant Article. Capital Planning recommended that the District carry out the asbestos removal project in one year to the tune of \$42,000 with the use of the available funds. Both requests were approved at Town Meeting.

The Historical Commission requested \$50,000 for a Historic Properties Inventory. Capital Planning initially voted to recommend the expenditure be reduced to \$25,000. At a subsequent meeting, however, a motion to reconsider this recommendation was made and the original \$50,000 was voted to be recommended to Town Meeting where it was approved by voters.

At the Special Town Meeting in the fall, the Building Inspector requested funding in the amount of \$25,000 to replace the Department's vehicle, which had been totaled in an accident. Capital Planning recommended approval of this request, which was subsequently amended to \$20,500 at Town Meeting and approved by the Town.

Also for the Special Town Meeting, the Stow Community Housing Corporation proposed to utilize Community Preservation Committee funds to initiate development of an expansion to the Plantation Apartments and for additional affordable housing units at the Pilot Grove complex. Funds would be transferred and expended over a three-year period as follows: \$650,000 for immediate use, \$550,000 in 2011, and 550,000 in 2012. Capital Planning supported this proposal as did the voters at the Special Town Meeting.

Finally at the Special Town Meeting, the Elementary School Building Committee requested that the Town authorize the expenditure of \$35,629,870 for the proposed addition to and renovation of Center School. Prior to the Meeting, it was announced that a reimbursement grant for the project in the amount of \$18,132,259 had been awarded to Stow by the Massachusetts School Building Administration. This school building funds request received the support of Capital Planning as well as the Special Town Meeting. The ballot question on October 29, 2009 received the necessary votes required to pay for the bonds for this project.

Capital Planning would like to welcome any interested voters to join our Committee as Associates. By helping carry out the Committee's work, you will provide a valuable service to your Town as we work to decide how best to allocate our financial resources. Please consider joining us.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Lynch, Chair, Moderator's Appointee
Steve Jelinek, Clerk, Moderator's Appointee
Dave Arsenault, Moderator's Appointee

Ross Perry, Finance Appointee
Kathy Farrell, Selectmen's Appointee

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The residential real estate market has been showing weakness these past few years. Throughout calendar year 2009, residential real estate has continued on a slight decline in Stow. However, any potential value changes experienced in calendar year 2009 will not affect your tax bill until Fiscal 2011. Assessments, and thus your tax bills, are structured on a fiscal year basis, where the assessment valuation date for Fiscal 2010 is January 1, 2009. Sales of real estate before that date were used to determine your assessment for the current fiscal year. Therefore any weakening of the real estate market during 2009 will not be evident in your current assessment. Even though assessments may decrease, tax bills may not because, as assessments go down, the tax rate normally increases, presuming that the town's overall expenditures either remain the same or increase.

Fiscal 2010 was a certification year for Stow, and the Assessors' office was required to perform extensive analysis to provide the Department of Revenue with data required to certify that property assessments are uniform throughout town and are representative of the real estate market. The Assessors' office adjusts values every year to reflect the current market, now required by the Department of Revenue.

For Fiscal 2010, the residential sector as a whole decreased from the previous fiscal year by 3.2%, and excluding new growth, the decline comes to 4.8%. The total assessed value for FY2010 is \$1,170,108,445, down from \$1,209,002,390 in FY2009. New Growth is at the lowest it has been in several years. Decreases in value for the commercial sector and personal property mirrored the percentage in the residential sector. Land values have also fallen modestly.

Seniors on fixed incomes can be particularly vulnerable in the current economy. A notebook at the Assessors' window contains information on the details of the various exemptions, deferrals, and other programs designed to help with taxes. The 41C tax exemption of \$1000 is available for those over the age of 65 who qualify with limited income and assets. Other exemptions are also available. In addition, an article was passed at Town Meeting increasing all exemptions by up to 100% in certain circumstances.. Lastly, the interest rate on Tax Deferrals is now at 4%. Do not hesitate to check with the Stow Assessor's office to see whether you qualify for any of these programs.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge system continues to be administered by the Assessors' office. The total CPA surcharge raised during FY2009 was \$426,120 with \$219,912 in matching funds received in September. The percentage of matching funds is no longer at 100%, because more towns take advantage of the CPA program, thus decreasing the percentage

each town receives. Exemptions from the surcharge are available for certain income brackets. Please check with the Assessors' office for more information.

This year John Bolton was re-elected to his position on the Board of Assessors. John has been serving as chair for several years and is a valuable member of the Board. From time to time, you may see the staff or a sub-contractor 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 reliant on accurate data collection.

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
Dominick Pugliese

Dorothy K. Wilbur, Principal Assessor
Louise A. Nejad, Assistant Assessor
Tina Salvo, Assessors' Clerk

FISCAL 2010 TAX RATE RECAPITULATION

TAX RATE SUMMARY

A.	Total Amount to be Raised	\$24,662,097.55
B.	Total Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue	\$ 5,261,699.53
C.	Tax Levy	\$19,400,398.02

D. Distribution of Tax Rates & Levies:

CLASS	LEVY PERCENTAGE	LEVY BY CLASS	VALUATION BY CLASS	TAX RATES
Residential	91.2281%	\$17,698,614.51	\$1,067,468,095	\$16.58
Open Space	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Commercial	4.7399%	919,559.47	55,462,300	\$16.58
Industrial	2.1521%	417,515.97	25,181,200	\$16.58
Personal	1.8799%	364,708.08	21,996,850	\$16.58
<hr/>				
TOTAL	100%	\$19,400,398.02	\$1,170,108,445	

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

	FY 2008	FY 2009	% Change
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE:	6,094,161	6,509,207	6.8%
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			
Property Tax	17,644,634	18,522,913	5.0%
Community Preservation Surcharge	408,677	426,121	4.3%
Motor Vehicle & Other Taxes	867,104	898,792	3.7%
Tax Titles & Deferrals	60,834	103,672	70.4%
Department & Misc Revenue	1,296,541	1,408,884	8.7%
State Aid & Grants	1,033,117	1,249,626	21.0%
Bond/Note Receipts	932,000	865,000	-7.2%
Interest on Investments	274,263	153,138	-44.2%
Offset Payroll Deductions	1,081,399	1,137,005	5.1%
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	23,598,569	24,765,151	4.9%
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>			
Payroll	3,485,642	3,597,135	3.2%
Vendor	5,447,348	5,438,617	-0.2%
School District Assessments	12,409,810	13,028,604	5.0%
Retirement Assessment	410,254	458,974	11.9%
Debt Payments	1,430,469	1,245,403	-12.9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	23,183,523	23,768,733	2.5%
ENDING CASH BALANCE:	6,509,207	7,505,625	15.3%

Prepared by Pamela Landry
Treasurer-Collector

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT FY 2009

Tax & Levy Year	Tax Outstanding as of 7/1/08	New Commitments	Amount Collected	Exemptions & Abateements	Refunds	Tax Takings & Deferrals	Tax Outstanding as of 6/30/09
2009 Real Estate	\$0.00	\$18,124,113.98	\$17,860,732.16	\$66,276.77	\$39,570.35	\$112,470.68	\$124,204.72
2008 Real Estate	\$172,847.69	\$0.00	\$120,102.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52,716.44	\$29.23
2007 Real Estate	\$3,065.58	\$0.00	\$3,037.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27.64	\$0.00
2009 Supplemental RE Tax	\$0.00	\$152,521.36	\$153,873.21	\$503.30	\$15,721.35	\$0.00	\$13,866.20
2008 Supplemental RE Tax	\$95,478.93	\$0.00	\$95,676.87	\$0.00	\$2,294.36	\$2,096.42	\$0.00
2009 Comm Pres Act	\$0.00	\$435,516.46	\$421,226.28	\$9,270.50	\$466.45	\$2,431.17	\$3,054.96
2008 Comm Pres Act	\$6,415.80	\$0.00	\$5,360.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,054.98	\$0.00
2009 Personal Property	\$0.00	\$349,442.79	\$347,414.86	\$429.87	\$1,266.66	\$0.00	\$2,864.72
2008 Personal Property	\$4,158.12	\$0.00	\$753.25	\$693.00	\$693.00	\$0.00	\$3,404.87
2007 Personal Property	\$2,240.13	\$0.00	\$1,344.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$895.46
2006 Personal Property	\$1,851.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,851.98
2005 Personal Property	\$671.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$671.92
2004 Personal Property	\$909.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$909.28
2009 Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$768,353.04	\$695,562.89	\$25,614.81	\$4,334.49	\$0.00	\$51,509.83
2008 Motor Vehicle	\$107,477.67	\$105,238.45	\$200,717.03	\$11,470.31	\$5,778.17	\$0.00	\$6,306.95
2007 Motor Vehicle	\$7,629.68	\$2,401.26	\$6,033.53	\$678.66	\$156.15	\$0.00	\$3,474.90
2006 Motor Vehicle	\$4,584.21	\$0.00	\$1,196.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,387.75
2005 Motor Vehicle	\$2,189.48	\$0.00	\$489.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,700.42
2004 & Prior Motor Vehicle	\$6,648.36	\$122.08	\$1,247.71	\$1,810.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,712.30
Farm & Forest Excise Tax	\$3,873.00	\$0.00	\$3,814.50	\$58.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:	\$420,041.83	\$19,937,709.42	\$19,918,583.26	\$116,806.15	\$70,280.98	\$170,797.33	\$221,845.49
Interest & Fees Collected:			\$51,897.85				
Total Collected:			\$19,970,481.11				

Prepared by: Pamela Landry, Treasurer-Collector

TOWN OF STOW
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET (Unaudited)
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
June 30, 2009

	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			
Cash and Interest Bearing Deposits	\$ 1,715,166	\$ 4,656,263	\$ 276,193	\$ 1,239,992	\$	\$	7,887,614
Cash and Investments Held by Trustees				970,133			970,133
Receivables:							
Real Estate Taxes	124,234						124,234
Personal Property Taxes	10,598						10,598
Less Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions	(161,519)						(161,519)
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	70,092						70,092
Tax Liens	260,765	5,628					266,393
Supplemental Taxes	13,866						13,866
Tax Foreclosures	140,367						140,367
Ambulance	140,929						140,929
CPA Surcharge		3,055					3,055
Due From Other Funds	16,224						16,224
Due From Other Governments		139,883					139,883
Amount to be Provided for Notes and Bonds Payable						8,155,000	8,155,000
Total Assets	\$ 2,330,722	\$ 4,804,829	\$ 276,193	\$ 2,210,125	\$	\$ 8,155,000	\$ 17,776,869

TOWN OF STOW
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET (Unaudited)
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
June 30, 2009

	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	\$ 75,539	\$ 196,712	\$ -	\$ -	\$	\$	272,251
Accrued Payroll	97,011	8,779	-	1,454			107,244
Amounts Withheld from Employees and Other Liabilities	55,412			117,332			172,744
Due to Other Funds				16,224			16,224
Deferred Revenue:							
Personal Property and Real Estate Taxes	(26,687)						(26,687)
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	70,092						70,092
Tax Liens	260,765	5,628					266,393
Supplemental Taxes	13,866						13,866
Tax Foreclosures	140,367						140,367
Ambulance	140,929						140,929
CPA Surcharge		3,055					3,055
Other		139,883					139,883
Notes Payable			865,000			8,155,000	865,000
Bonds Payable							
Total Liabilities	827,294	354,057	865,000	135,010		8,155,000	10,336,361

TOWN OF STOW
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET (Unaudited)
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
June 30, 2009

	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	\$ 1,715,166	\$ 4,656,263	\$ 276,193	\$ 1,239,992	\$ -	\$	7,887,614
Cash and Investments Held by Trustees				970,133			970,133
Receivables:							
Real Estate Taxes	124,234						124,234
Personal Property Taxes	10,598						10,598
Less Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions	(161,519)						(161,519)
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	70,092						70,092
Tax Liens	260,765	5,628					266,393
Supplemental Taxes	13,866						13,866
Tax Foreclosures	140,367						140,367
Ambulance	140,929						140,929
CPA Surcharge		3,055					3,055
Due From Other Funds	16,224						16,224
Due From Other Governments		139,883					139,883
Amount to be Provided for Notes and Bonds Payable					8,155,000		8,155,000
Total Assets	\$ 2,330,722	\$ 4,804,829	\$ 276,193	\$ 2,210,125	\$ 8,155,000	\$	17,776,869

TOWN OF STOW
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN FUND EQUITY
STATE GRANTS & REVOLVING FUNDS
June 30, 2009

	Beginning Fund Equity	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Fund Equity
STATE GRANTS:				
Public Safety	\$ 18,891	\$ 33,465	\$ 55,444	\$ (3,088)
Education Grant	2,469	-	-	2,469
Culture & Recreation	12,085	4,513	5,275	11,323
Council on Aging	-	4,888	4,888	-
Library	6,062	8,873	6,007	8,928
Other Grants	5,108	16,083	20,266	925
TOTAL STATE GRANTS:	\$ 44,615	\$ 67,822	\$ 91,880	\$ 20,557
REVOLVING FUNDS:				
Recreation	\$ 10,020	\$ 133,033	\$ 124,666	\$ 18,387
Inspectors	17,795	36,381	28,152	26,024
Ambulances Services	78	7,604	7,682	-
TOTAL REVOLVING FUNDS:	\$ 27,894	\$ 177,018	\$ 160,500	\$ 44,412

Prepared by:
Julie Costello
Town Accountant

TRUST FUND FINANCIAL REPORT - FY 2009

The following Town trust funds are managed by Abbey Capital LLC and as of 6/30/09 were invested as follows:
Government Money Market Fund (12%), Certificates of Deposit (85%), and Equities (3%).

Stabilization Fund	Beginning Balance 7/1/2008	\$436,123.71	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Receipts	\$50,000.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$14,468.86	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2009		\$500,592.57
Affordable Housing Fund	Beginning Balance 7/1/2008	\$159,661.41	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Receipts	\$78,802.66	
	Investment Earnings	\$5,096.12	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2009		\$243,560.19
Cemetery Perpetual Care Non-Expendable	Beginning Balance 7/1/2008	\$104,950.00	
	Receipts	\$2,500.00	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2009		\$107,450.00
Expendable	Beginning Balance 7/1/2008	\$40,819.67	
	Disbursements	(\$2,015.48)	
	Investment Earnings	\$4,551.88	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2009		\$43,356.07

Conservation Fund	Beginning Balance 7/1/2008	\$59,777.80	
	Disbursements	(\$9,456.99)	
	Receipts	\$12,772.50	
	Investment Earnings	\$2,075.02	
	Ending Balance 6/30/2009		\$65,168.33
Mabel Hale Fund	Unexpendable Bequest		\$35,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2008	\$6,645.43	
	Disbursements	(\$750.00)	
	Investment Earnings	\$1,282.49	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2009		\$7,177.92
Mabel Hallock - Brookside Cemetery	Unexpendable Bequest		\$2,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2008	\$5,670.22	
	Disbursements	(\$37.50)	
	Investment Earnings	\$238.22	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2009		\$5,870.94

Mabel Hallock - Common Memorial & Flag Unexpendable Bequest		\$1,000.00
Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2008	\$793.26	
Disbursements	(\$301.14)	
Investment Earnings	\$56.43	
Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2009		\$548.55
Otto & Aina Stein Fund		\$18,810.00
Unexpendable Bequest		
Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2008	\$17,934.86	
Disbursements	\$0.00	
Investment Earnings	\$1,140.20	
Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2009		\$19,075.06
Town Farm Fund		\$8,751.96
Unexpendable Original Deposit		
Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2008	\$34,644.41	
Investment Earnings	\$1,346.62	
Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2009		\$35,991.03

Cyrus H. Whitney Central Common Fund	Unexpendable Bequest		\$1,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2008	\$464.32	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$45.43	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2009		\$509.75
James F. Whitney Central Common Fund	Unexpendable Bequest		\$2,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2008	\$974.32	
	Disbursements	\$0.00	
	Investment Earnings	\$92.30	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2009		\$1,066.62
Martha G. Whitney Street Light Fund	Unexpendable Bequest		\$1,000.00
	Beginning Expendable Balance 7/1/2008	\$5,020.38	
	Disbursements	(\$153.52)	
	Investment Earnings	\$186.27	
	Ending Expendable Balance 6/30/2009		\$5,053.13
TOTAL TRUST FUND BALANCE:			\$1,104,982.12

Prepared by: Pamela Landry
Treasurer-Collector

TRUST FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RANDALL LIBRARY

The policy of the Randall Library Trustees is to spend interest and capital gains in excess of inflation generated by the trust funds for the purchase of library materials, primarily books. Trust funds are combined and are managed by the Board of Trustees to target a 60%/40% split between equity and income-based securities, respectively. Highly rated, professionally managed mutual funds are primarily used as investment vehicles.

Based on the Beusch formula method of calculating annual disbursements by the Trustees, a disbursement of \$12,000 was authorized and used for the benefit of Randall Library patrons. The current and past year ending values, cash flow and fund performance for the 2009 Calendar Year are shown in the CY'09 Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Aldape
Treasurer, Randall Library Trustees
March 15, 2010

Statement of Sources & Uses of Funds, CY '09:

January 1, 2009 Opening Balance	\$	404,670.89
---------------------------------	----	------------

Sources of Funds:

Contributions and Donations

Second Century Fund	\$	2,500.00
Hale High School Fund	\$	10,000.00
Friends of the Randall Library	\$	1,971.00
Stow Cultural Council	\$	800.00
Alice Eaton Fund	\$	600.00
Net Investment Income	\$	9,571.42
Capital Gain	\$	96,109.47
Total	\$	121,551.89

Uses of Funds:

Books	\$	(12,029.11)
Audios	\$	(3,233.20)
DVDs	\$	(3,348.99)
Periodicals	\$	(3,502.48)
Reference	\$	(5,313.83)
Children's Programming	\$	(3,110.15)
Copier Lease	\$	(1,579.02)
Software	\$	(263.96)
Miscellaneous supplies	\$	(402.99)
 Total	 \$	 (32,783.73)

December 31, 2009 Ending Balance \$ 493,439.03

Randall Library Trust Funds Statement of Assets and Liabilities, CY '09

Assets	01/01/09 Balance		12/31/09 Balance	
Cash and Bank Accounts				
Family Federal Savings Account	\$	0.00	\$	0.00
Family Federal Checking	\$	13,283.13	\$	8,370.39
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$	13,283.13	\$	8,370.39
Investment Trusts				
Combined Trust Funds	\$	391,387.76	\$	485,068.64
Total Assets	\$	404,670.89	\$	493,439.03
Liabilities	\$	0.00	\$	0.00
Overall Total	\$	404,670.89	\$	493,439.03

RANDALL RELIEF FUND

Balance January 1, 2009	\$ 54,179.53
Interest received	188.69
Contributions received	0
Repayments received	0
Payments	(1,600.00)
	<hr/>
Balance December 31, 2009	\$ 52,768.22
(Citizens Bank Insured Money Market Account)	

RANDALL TOWN FUND

Balance January 1, 2009	\$ 20,000.00
Previous accumulated CD interest earned	534.17
Current interest earned	633.92
Paid to Town Treasurer	(1,168.09)
	<hr/>
Balance December 31, 2009	\$ 20,000.00
(Citizens Bank 3-year Certificate of Deposit)	

Louise E. Peacock
Jeffrey D. Smith
Dorothy G. Sonnichsen, Treasurer
Trustees

**HALE HIGH SCHOOL FUND
INCOME/EXPENSE
7/1/08 - 6/30/09**

INCOME

Dividends	\$ 8,114.88
Bond Interest	10,006.25
Mutual Fund Income	<u>1,324.14</u>
Total Income	\$ 19,445.27

EXPENSE

Avidia Bank - Management Services	<u>5,411.71</u>
Total Expense	\$ 5,411.71

Trustees of the Hale High School Fund

Ray S. Frost
Jeffery D. Smith
Wayne A. Fletcher
Robert F. Derby
Linda Hathaway

EDUCATION

NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nashoba Regional School District is on the right the course, academically and financially. Despite the state and national economic realities, Nashoba has used solid financial principles to mitigate declining revenues and continue our focus on our mission: *To educate all children to their fullest potential*. Our budget is supportive of the key components that make Nashoba's communities desirable to live, work and have our children grow, thrive, and prosper. The primary way we achieve our mission is hiring quality staff. Whether they are in the classroom, in the corridor, on the field, or in the kitchen, Nashoba only engages highly trained people in order to continue getting highly desirable results. We have also been very fortunate to commit to continuous learning for our faculty, staff, and administrators.

This past fall, the School Committee reviewed our District Improvement Plan, endorsing a plan that supports goals we set some five years ago. With a focus on continuing to develop parity among our grades in each community, comprehensive reporting tools are in the development stage. This is a significant undertaking as we explore what parents want, what teachers need, and what we can provide to inform learning for each student.

Teachers, para-professionals, and administrators are working to promote effective literacy and mathematics strategies. These interventions will help teachers address learning deficits more successfully. This is connected to an initiative started last year called *Response to Intervention*, in which the entire district went through training to learn to use data, identify effective strategies individually or as part of a team and then monitor progress more frequently as the need presents.

We continue the conversation over sustainable models that would maintain excellent results, but may be more cost effective over the long term. Last summer the District began to explore sustainable, sellable, and strategic models that differ from current approaches everywhere in the school. Over the summer we were very successful in looking at different vendors for our health insurance program and were successful in finding a vendor who would offer the same subscriptions at a lower increase to the premium and that saved the district and our employees close to \$400,000.

Student Performance

Our students continue to perform well across all content areas. The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is one measure of their academic strengths, and the one we use to guide us in our development of curriculum, instruction and assessment practices. In addition, the district has been working to have local assessment tools to monitor student progress within the academic year. This past fall we have begun a statistical analysis to determine whether they correlate with the MCAS. In the coming year we will be developing a writing assessment tool, as well.

NRHS students have performed extremely well on the MCAS. Ninety-two (92) percent of the current juniors received either Advanced or Proficient on the English Language Arts and Science tests while ninety (90) percent achieved either Advanced or Proficient on the Mathematics test.

Technology Ramp Up

The district dedicated the summer to redesigning its technology infrastructure. We went fiber throughout the entire district, enabling us to improve web access internally for all of our district

software and to provide greater access for teaching tools such as video clips for instructional lessons. Over time, this endeavor will save the district money, since instead of having to purchase site licenses we will be able to have software running on one server.

The Center School and Pompositticut School

The Town of Stow's support for the renovation and addition at The Center School is truly appreciated. The design will bring our elementary program into the twenty-first century with the educational space needed for our enrollment and the program space needed for the variety of opportunities afforded our students. Our faculty and staff are very excited about the plans for combining the schools into one building in 2012. They are very involved in the process, meeting with the architects, discussing classroom set-up, materials, and colors.

Athletic Hall of Fame

The District held its Inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in 2009. The inductees included:

Bob Cali (Coach – Cross Country, Track & Field)
Rebecca Donaghue '94 (Cross Country, Track & Field)
Donnie Drugge '73 (Football, Track & Field, Basketball)
Everett Ingalls (Athletic Director, Coach)
Shirley (Stott) Ingalls (Coach, PE Dept. Chair)
Raymond LaChance '62, (Football, Track & Field)
Kristi (Palmaccio) Therrien '92 (Soccer, Basketball, Track & Field)
Peter Richards '66 (Athletic Director, Coach, Student-Athlete).

District Staff Retirements

NASHOBA is fortunate to have many talented individuals work within our district. The following people retired during the 2009 year.

Jackie Scheibel, FSS
Pam Marston, FSS
Larry Isomaki, FSS
Alice Trussell, FSS
Barbara Scavone, NRHS
Patricia Linenkemper, MRE
Carol Clark, MRE

Joan Fallon, NRHS
Gail Gallant, MRE
Susan Berini, MRE
Brad George, HALE
Sally Sullivan, DISTRICT
David Zina, Center

Respectfully submitted,
Michael L. Wood, Superintendent of
Schools

Brian Burke, NRSD School Committee,
Stow

Lynn Colletti, NRSD School Committee,
Stow
Maureen Busch, NRSD School Committee,
Stow

Aleta Masterson, Executive Assistant

MCAS Tests, Percent of Students at Each Performance Level

Grade and Subject	Adv/ Above Proficient		Proficient		Needs Improv		Warn/ Fail		Total Incl	CPI	SGP	Incl in SGP
	NRSD	MASS	NRSD	MASS	NRSD	MASS	NRSD	MASS				
GR 3 READ	17	12	54	45	24	33	5	10	272	88.6	N/A	N/A
GR 3 MATH	22	20	52	40	19	25	7	15	272	89.2	N/A	N/A
GR 4 ELA	15	11	57	42	23	35	5	11	274	88.7	45.0	259
GR 4 MATH	20	16	38	32	39	41	3	11	274	85.9	44.0	260
GR 5 ELA	17	15	60	48	20	29	4	8	273	91.8	50.0	257
GR 5 MATH	27	22	36	32	26	29	11	18	273	83.4	48.0	260
GR 5 SCI/TECH	28	17	39	32	30	39	3	12	273	88.1	N/A	N/A
GR 6 ELA	20	16	59	50	16	24	5	9	263	93.3	52.0	241
GR 6 MATH	41	24	37	33	15	27	7	16	264	91.1	67.0	242
GR 7 ELA	15	14	72	56	10	23	2	7	240	96.1	44.0	225
GR 7 MATH	29	16	48	33	16	30	7	21	241	89.5	51.0	227
GR 8 ELA	19	15	72	63	8	15	1	6	252	96.9	45.0	240
GR 8 MATH	41	20	41	28	12	28	6	23	251	91.9	59.0	240
GR 8 SCI/TECH	6	4	55	35	34	40	5	21	251	84.7	N/A	N/A
GR 10 ELA	52	29	41	52	5	15	2	4	219	97.9	68.0	196
GR 10 MATH	71	47	19	28	5	18	5	8	222	95.8	64.0	198
GR 10 SCI/TECH	43	16	47	45	7	29	2	9	203	97.3	N/A	N/A
ALL ELA	21	16	59	51	16	25	3	8	1,793	93.1	50.0	1,418
ALL MATH	35	23	39	32	19	28	7	16	1,797	89.3	55.0	1,427

Source: Mass Department of Education. Data last updated on October 27, 2009.

NASHOBA REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009

Meghan Elizabeth Ryan ** – President
Erin Lee Sadler ** – Treasurer

Elizabeth Anne Harvey ** – Vice President
Lynnette Marie Gonzalez ** – Secretary

James Paul Abraham **
Nicholas Alexander Abraham
Camille Elizabeth Adams
Leonardo Raul Alarcón
Rebecca Hawkins Aldrich **
Rachel May Anzaldi
Morgan Margaret Atkinson
Matthew Collins Atwood
Jeffrey Simon Bagdikian
Corey Thomas Baker
Michael Isaiah Bartlett
Kendall Sharee Beyeler
Jonathan William Birse
Justin Michael Biskaduros

Daniel Hayward Blanton **
Nicole Elizabeth Bonazzoli
Elizabeth Sophia Bonczek
Joshua Joseph Bonn
Ryan Patrick Boye
Tyler Robert Brandt
Rebecca May Brouillette
Christopher Lloyd Bruning
Jaclyn Elizabeth Bucciero
Ashley Evelyn Buettner
Caroline Jean Buffum **
Andre Pierre Burgess
Kristen Mary Camacho *
Samuel Matthew Camp

Andrea Beth Caron
 Stephanie Elizabeth Carvalho **
 William John Cassidy
 Nicholas Geoffrey Chin **
 Rhyvere Cornella Christopher
 Raya Laurel Clements
 Joshua Scott Cohen
 Evan Daniel Collins
 Jeremy Thomas Colon
 Kersten Elizabeth Coull
 Raymond David Couture
 Jamie Nicole Crooker
 Alyssa Lynn Crozier
 Megan Elizabeth Cullinane **
 Michael Sean Dandley
 Cameron Mark Delay
 Robert Tiberius DeMeo
 Elise Marie DePlanche
 Andrew Thomas Detsikas
 Craig Paul Doran
 Joseph Dao Doyle
 Candace Dineen Duggan
 Elizabeth Esther Dutting **
 Steven Edward Ek
 Lauren Marie Enterkin
 Robert Joseph Falvey
 David Edward Farrell
 Benjamin Edward Farrow
 Brian William Feely
 Christin Elizabeth Fernau
 Connor Mark Finnerty
 Hope Mattea Fiori **
 Georges Martin Fischer
 Ann-Marie Elizabeth Fisher
 Michael Albert Flaherty **
 Mark Anthony Fratto
 Jillian Freedlender *
 Colleen Eleanor Frost **
 Marissa Rose Fuentes
 Lindsey Adona Fuller
 Ryan Keith Galeski
 Megan Elizabeth Gardner
 Vivek Jun Garge' **
 Alexander Michael George
 Bradford James Giunta
 Jessica Lauren Giunta **
 Jennafer Ashleigh Gonsalves
 Marissa Bryden Goodhue
 Ramesh Govindan **
 Andrew James Gradeski
 Jeffrey Lucas Gunderson

Joshua Eliot Hamilton
 Lucas David Hammar
 Anne Gabriel Hannaway
 Jennifer Michelle Harding **
 Amanda Lee Hasenzahl
 Katherine Anne Hedstrom
 Daniel Keegan Heffernan
 Ian Maxwell Hills
 Allison Patrice Hodge
 Kayleigh Erin Hoffman
 Heather Danielle Hovasse
 Jordan Richard Howley
 Julia Elizabeth Hvoslef
 Alyssa Maria Iannuccilli
 Antonious Younan Ibrahim
 Dena Younan Ibrahim
 Samantha Irene James
 Bethany Marie Johnson
 Thomas James Joyce
 Coleen Elizabeth Kearns
 Emily Janice Kerrigan
 Sean Thomas Killackey **
 Philipp Knasmueller
 Nicole Elizabeth Kovacs
 Rebecca Grace Krantz
 Nicole Ann Kreidermacher **
 Brianna Meghan Kuzmitch
 Heather Elaine Lally
 Marjorie Louise Wing Yi Lam **
 William Albert Lawler *
 Nicholas Evan Lawrence
 Rodney Bryan Leach
 Nicholas Laurence Lena
 Cashel Elena Lisse-Brown
 Caryssa Marie Lumbar
 Kelly Elizabeth Macko **
 Janelle Kathleen MacLaughlin **
 Kara Ann MacLean
 Marc William MacLeod **
 Joseph Harry Cotton Madden
 John Charles Malley **
 Erin Marie Mannion **
 Elise Alexandra Mariolis
 Jenna Dallaire McAlpine
 Brianna Lynn McNamara
 Conor Howe Megee
 Kyle Anthony Mendes
 Laura Elizabeth Millet
 Justin Robert Mills
 Starr Sumie Miyata
 Robert Alan Moody

Katelyn Ann Morse
 Matthew Bolton Murray
 Paul William Murray
 Jacquelyn Carmen Murtha
 Kimberli Nicole Nelson
 Luke Timothy Nesman **
 Tyler Mark Nikitas
 Lauren Ellen Nisotel
 Michael Jordan Nolan
 Joseph Martin O'Donnell
 Allison Lynne O'Neil **
 Kseniya Ivanovna Obidina
 Emmanuelle Omeler
 Ryan Joseph Ordnung
 Lindsay Ruth Ormond
 Brittany Sonja Osachuk **
 Jonathan Kyle Palmer
 Alexander James Papanastassiou **
 Nicholas John Papanastassiou **
 Benjamin James Parker
 Ivanka Prit Patel **
 Travis Richard Patterson
 Elizabeth Faith Peacock
 Erika Perez
 Kyle Andrew Perry
 Brian Thomas Petillo
 Peter John Petkauskos
 Amanda Lynne Pipich
 Jessica Fatima Pires
 Molly Campbell Porcher **
 Craig Edward Power
 Ava Joy Raku **
 Isa Kai Raku
 Brittany Michelle Ringler
 Justin Louis Rizzi
 Carlista Joyce Robinson
 Paige Elizabeth Rockel
 Mark Alan Salhany
 Leah Marissa Santangelo

Robert Elliot Savino
 Sophie Joy Sayles
 Gregory Michael Schab
 Emily Jane Schwarzkopf
 Michael Vincent Sestito **
 Aaron Christian Seymour
 Brian Robert Shaughnessey
 Maura Lynn Sheridan
 Jacob Harris Sherman **
 Rebecca Rose Shoer **
 Ryan Joseph Sivret
 Michelle Ann Slattery
 Briana Emily Smith
 Josiah David Smith
 Nicholas Daniel Sozio **
 Alexandra Hart Spear **
 Meghan Anne Stafford
 Trisha Elizabeth Starkey
 Jeffrey Paul Stefanis **
 Jeffrey Patrick Stokes
 Daniel John Sullivan
 Emily Grace Tamker
 Krystin Martha Thissell
 Victoria Leigh Tompert
 Daniel Mark Trefry
 Bridgette Siobhan Trudeau
 Sarah Marie Trueblood
 Alexander Moritz Udvare
 Rhys Ryan Ursuliak
 Eric Charles Ventura
 Christopher Andrew Vogel
 Alexandra Katherine Wade **
 Jillian Rose Walsh
 Aaron Joseph Wassall
 Ryan Keith Williams
 Allison Leigh Wyand
 Amelia Catherine Young
 Haley Ann Zoller

* Certificate of Completion

** Inducted into National Honor Society. Members wearing gold and blue cords remain in good standing and completed a senior community service project.

MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

About Minuteman

Minuteman High School is a four-year career and technical high school serving our member towns: Acton, Arlington, Belmont, Bolton, Boxborough Carlisle, Concord, Dover, Lancaster, Lexington, Lincoln, Needham, Stow, Sudbury, Wayland, and Weston, as well as, 47 other cities and towns in Eastern Massachusetts. Minuteman combines rigorous academics and preparation for college with relevant career and technical programs. The school also provides career development programs for adults as part of our self sustaining Community Education Program.

Enrollment

As of October 1, 2009, 22 high school students and 3 post graduate students were enrolled at Minuteman providing a full time equivalent (FTE) of 25 students that reside in Stow. Minuteman offers a part time program where Nashoba Regional High School students are able to take part in elective technical training courses on a half day basis. Currently, very few Nashoba Regional students take advantage of this unique program designed to give juniors and seniors the opportunity to explore career majors and still remain at Nashoba Regional High School. The District offers 'Post Graduate' programs to Stow residents of any age who are seeking to enhance their own economic opportunity at Minuteman via skill development.

2009 Stow Graduates and Awards

Frederic Corazzini, Plumbing
Elizabeth Piantedosi, Environmental Technology
Christopher Sproul, Health Occupations
Cody Stockhaus, Carpentry
Ryan Wasserman, Horticulture and Landscaping Technology

At the 2009 graduation, Elizabeth Piantedosi received the DAR Old Concord Chapter Good Citizen Award, Minuteman Drama Club Award and the Stow Lions Club Award. Christopher Sproul received the Friends of Minuteman, Minuteman Parent Assoc.-Commercial Services Division award and the Stow Lions Club Award. These awards are given to students of superior academic achievement and significant participation in school or community activities.

SkillsUSA Awards – Stow Students

Elizabeth Piantedosi was a bronze State medalist for Action Skills. Katherine Mikoski was a silver State medalist for the Tech Prep Showcase - Health Services. Kristen Mikoski was a Silver State medalist for Commercial Baking. Kenneth March was elected State Officer.

Class of 2009 Graduate Achievement Highlights

- 100% successfully passed the state-required MCAS tests in English and Math.
- 66% college acceptance or advanced Technical Training, 27% career bound in field and 3% military. Overall, graduates achieved a 96% placement rate.
- 100% of Dental graduates passed the National Dental Board examination.
- 100% of Early Education and Care program completers were certified by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.
- 100% of Cosmetology graduates that participated in the state board examination were certified.

- Health Occupation graduates achieved 100% in college acceptance.
- Rebecca Rowe, an Environmental Technology graduate from Arlington, was honored as the Massachusetts Vocational Student of the Year by the Minuteman Career & Technical High School Committee, the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, and the State Commissioner of Education.
- JonFranco Barreto, a Biotechnology student from Medford graduated Valedictorian of the Class of 2009.
- Student speakers at the Class of 2009 graduation ceremony were Valedictorian JonFranco Barreto of Medford, Salutatorian, Christopher Sproul of Stow, and Class President Alicia Ofria of Medford.

Leadership, Governance and Communication

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges conducted a decennial site visit to Minuteman in March of 2009. On December 10th, the Superintendent received a letter from Paul Bento, Director of the Commission announcing our reaccreditation. The following are excerpts:

“I write to inform you of deliberations of the Commission on Technical and Career Institutions at its November 5-6, 2009 meeting, at which time the Commission reviewed the report of its decennial visiting committee dated March 3-6, 2009, and voted continued accreditation for Minuteman Career & Technical High School with a Two-Year Progress Report due February 1, 2011, and a Five-Year Focused Visit in the Spring 2014.

The Commission commends the administration and staff at Minuteman Career & Technical High School for the many commendations identified by the visiting committee. The Commission wishes to highlight several of the accomplishments listed by the committee, although it does so not minimizing the many good things listed in the decennial visiting committees report. These commendations are:

- 1. The positive school climate observed by the visiting committee and displayed by students and staff*
- 2. Administrative efforts to provide leadership in developing plans needed to initiate a comprehensive improvement project for the facility*
- 3. The articulation of the school’s Mission Statement and Goals into learning experiences for Students*
- 4. The enthusiastic and committed staff*

The Commission also focused on several visiting committee recommendations that are of particular concern and to which the school should pay particular attention as it strives to reach excellence. These recommendations are:

- 1. Address all health and safety recommendations detailed throughout the report*
- 2. Continue to work toward funding and implementing the facility renovation project*
- 3. Develop and implement new and additional strategies to recruit students to take advantage of the excellent educational opportunities available*
- 4. Continue to work toward greater integration between academic and vocational/technical program instructors”*

The complete NEASC Report is available at www.minuteman.org.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and Treasurer Tim Cahill announced Minuteman's inclusion in the Career & Technical Education Building Program, providing \$100M to 10 Career & Technical Schools for renovation and repairs. MSBA invited Minuteman to the Feasibility phase of a renovation project (visit www.minuteman.org for more information.)

The Minuteman ESCO project upgraded and retrofit a number of the school's energy-using building systems with cutting-edge technology and implemented a series of energy efficiency strategies that will trim Minuteman's energy use as much as 50% and generate equivalent savings on the school's energy bill. Upon completion of \$5,000,000 worth of work which included new boilers, chillers, electrical switch gear, lighting upgrades and weatherization Minuteman saves 57% of our water; 44% Gas and 22% of our electrical bill. This results in savings of about \$275,000. In addition, annual energy savings is being used to pay for the improvements; thus no cost to our member communities.

Curriculum and Instruction

The Art program has been restored to the Minuteman Curriculum. More than 160 students have enrolled in 3 levels of classes and a waiting list has been established. A Health class has also been established to supplement a well-rounded student education. Minuteman has reinstated music as a formal elective course and performance outlet after a hiatus of over twenty-five years. The purpose is to assemble a comprehensive music and performing arts program and attending graduation requirements during the next four years. Our expectations include the development over time of a diversified course of instruction that will feature traditional course work (chorus, theory, instrumental instruction and performance) as well as activities that reinforce the relationship between musical knowledge and skill and our technical majors, including electronics and computer programming as well as recording and sound engineering. Minuteman has added a full-time Reading Specialist position that combines classroom teaching with consulting responsibilities. Reading skills improvement is a school-wide goal. The Reading Specialist oversees our computer-assisted remedial reading lab, co-teaches developmental English classes, and provides specific reading services per students' Individualized Educational Plans (IEP). In addition, he will share his expertise in collaboration with all academic and career and technical departments to improve curriculum delivery through the active application of reading strategies and study skills. Minuteman has reinstituted the full-time position of licensed School-Adjustment Counselor. The position is supported by Special Education grant funding, and it allows for the provision of counseling services to students in response to needs articulated in their Individualized Educational Plans (IEP).

Career and Technical programs are now aligned along 5 Career Clusters: Agriculture and Transportation, Bio-Science, Business and Information Technology, Human & Commercial Services, and Trade & Engineering. Clustering allows for common core curriculum to be delivered in clusters to 9th and 10th grades students.

Since the Fall of 2008 all 9th grade students partake in daily English and Math instruction, rather than the long-established "week on-week off" schedule, thus providing consistent academic instruction in preparing for required MCAS score increases by the state department of education.

Assessment and Program Evaluation

Minuteman developed a Non-traditional Exploratory Program through which all students learn about the viability and challenges of men and women in non-traditional careers, such as Automotive Technology, Carpentry and Construction, Computer Science, and Engineering for women and in Medical Careers, Cosmetology / Barbering, and Office Technology for young men.

The students learn about these careers through a series of hands-on exercises, guest speakers and alumni panelists, and field site visits to industry partners.

Minuteman is moving towards a 'modified inclusion model' for Special Education students. Professional development for staff continues as we implement this proven strategy.

Minuteman underwent its 3rd New England Association of Schools and Colleges Decennial re-accreditation site visit in March of 2009 and Minuteman will remain an accredited High School.

Minuteman students performed very well on the 2009 MCAS: 92% pass rate in Math, 100% pass rate in English, 95% pass rate in Science & Technology.

Professional Development

The Minuteman staff has prioritized two professional development topics for the 2007 – 2010 timeframe. Based upon feedback from our EQA report, several half day training sessions on summative and formative assessment methodologies are being held. In addition, the development of Professional Learning Communities is happening for 40 staff with several outside resources.

Student Access, Participation and Support

Minuteman reorganized the assignment of guidance counselors to provide incoming 9th grade students with a dedicated guidance counselor. Our research has shown that many freshmen need additional support as they made the adjustment to High School.

In addition to having a dedicated 9th grade counselor, the re-assignment strategies now include counselors covering the career clusters. This provides the counselors with a more thorough knowledge of the career areas and the staff.

Minuteman offers 16 sports with three levels (Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshmen) throughout the school year. Over the past 7 years the number of participants has doubled in many of the sports offered. Minuteman maintains a no cut and no athletic fee policy. In addition, Minuteman students have access to more than 30 clubs and activities.

The Minuteman Parent Association meets monthly and supports all aspects of the Minuteman community. In addition, they assist in fundraising for scholarships awarded at graduation. The goal of the MPA is to help support student access and achievement in all areas including but not limited to academic, vocational, athletic, and extra-curricular activities.

A new website, www.minuteman.org, launched in September 2009.

Financial and Asset Management Effectiveness and Efficiency

The Minuteman FY10 budget was passed unanimously at \$17,496,001, which represents a 2.91% increase without taking into account the cost of the Middle School Tech Programs. A portion of the increase was due to rising health care costs and utility costs.

Budgets continue to be tightly managed as Minuteman seeks to 'right size' itself and reduce its' per pupil expenditures.

A new financial management software system was implemented to improve the efficiency in the Business Office as well as a restructuring of staff. A new Director of Business and Operations position was hired with the impending retirement of two separate administrators. This position

oversees all areas of non-instructional support services provided to the school and will continue to improve efficiency in all of these areas.

The FY10 Capital funds were used for major systems repairs, continuing to implement the approved Technology Plan, upgrading the main entrance mall area of the school, relocating the vocational coordinator office, renovating and relocating the Early Education Child Care Center, renovating of hallway areas and the cafeteria space, upgrading the pool heating systems, upgrading the graphic arts classrooms, physical education classrooms, and fitness room for students, refurbishing the tennis courts, relocating the maintenance office, renovating classroom space for a new music room and barbering room and relocating and installing the student made welding horse at the front entrance of the school.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward A. Bouquillon, Superintendent
Thomas Markham, Assistant Superintendent
Alice DeLuca, Stow Representative

Grace A. Brueckner, Executive Assistant

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Stow Police Department hired a full-time patrol officer to fill the vacancy created when Officer Kimberly Doughty officially retired. With approval from the Town Administrator and Selectmen, the hiring process began with advertising the full-time position. We received 77 applications and narrowed the search to 14 applicants. Interviews and background investigations were conducted on the top applicants by the three Stow Police Sergeants who then reduced the number of applicants to six candidates. The next step required the six candidates to be interviewed by a committee that included the Town Administrator, a member of the Board of Selectmen, the Fire Chief and a Police Sergeant. When the interviews were complete, Thomas Maskalenko was selected. He was offered the position and he accepted. Tom was a full-time police officer in the Town of Pepperell, Massachusetts. The Town of Pepperell was having financial difficulties at that time and several police officers were informed of pending lay offs, he being one of them. Not only does he have all the required training to be a full-time police officer; he has years of experience and training as a former full-time firefighter and certified Emergency Medical Technician. Tom worked his first shift on January 12th and is currently assigned the 11 P.M. to 7 A.M. shift.

We continue to do our part in energy reduction and conservation in areas where we have some control. A few years ago the police station building was evaluated and recommendations were made to help reduce electrical usage, however, the changes would come at a high monetary cost. This information was given to a group of residents known as the Stow Energy Working Group who offered to volunteer their time and evaluate energy usage in our building. A recommendation will be made when the evaluation is complete.

We continue to search and apply for various grant opportunities. The Community Policing Grant was a very popular grant that many police departments counted on each year to support many activities and to purchase new equipment. Due to financial cuts in State Government, Governor Patrick ended this grant opportunity. The amount varied from year to year, but Stow was eligible for around \$12,000.00 per year. Over the years this grant paid for our laptop computers, Domestic Violence Victims Assistance Program (DVVAP), the D.A.R.E. Program, support for the Boys and Girls Club summer program and during the last four years, and the activities at Springfest. The parents and children who attended Springfest this year (2009) would have seen the inflatable slides located near the tennis courts. The police department was able to provide the inflatables, hats and T-shirts at no charge to the public. In addition, the Police Association donated the cotton candy, popcorn and snow cones. This grant will be missed by all agencies as it helped fund many activities that are important to each individual police department across Massachusetts

We applied for and received \$12,525.00 from the State 911 Department Support and Incentive Grant Program to replace and upgrade all the computer equipment in dispatch. We also purchased two dispatch chairs and were able to move the AC unit to cool the E911 equipment to the attic. A portion of this grant was used to pay the hourly rate of a part-time dispatcher who worked scheduled shifts. We applied for and received \$5,000.00 from the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board Training Grant Program to help defray the costs of specialized

training courses. The grant subsidized the cost of the specialized training classes plus the cost to pay dispatcher's overtime or the overtime costs to cover the dispatchers shift.

Each year we seem to have one or two incidents that stand out among all the rest. Last year it was apprehending a murder suspect for Framingham Police. This year's incident was a call from the parents of their missing 14-year-old girl. Responding police officers discovered the young girl had left her home one hour before the parents had called police. Her cell phone and laptop computer indicated that the missing girl had been emailing and text-messaging a person prior to leaving the home that night. The suspect was identified as a member of the Air Force based in Georgia. We made calls to the Air Force, Massachusetts State Police and District Attorney's office requesting assistance. Experts in the Cyber Enforcement Unit analyzed the computer and cell phone. Information from computer records led State Police to a location in Boston where the individuals were not found. Other means were used to track the suspect to a location in Concord. The suspect was arrested and the girl was returned to her home. In the end it was found that these two individuals had initially made contact over the Internet using Facebook and a date and time was set to meet. A young girl willing to leave her home and get into a car with someone she met on Facebook. We all hear stories about sexual predators using the Internet to find their next victim. Fortunately, in this case the 14-year-old girl is back home, safe and can move on with her life. Not all cases similar to this one end on a good note. Many times victims are scarred for life or never come home. With all the good the Internet has brought to all of us, there comes the dark side. The criminals and sexual predators have another tool at their fingertips to search for victims, to scam a person out of their money, steal their identity or place that person in a dangerous situation. In this case the suspect was prosecuted in Superior Court in Massachusetts and Military Court in Georgia.

I will briefly write about an incident that took place late one night in July to give you an idea of how we respond to a specific situation. This incident took place at the Stow Acres Country Club and would involve almost a dozen other police departments. On July 15th at 12:30 A.M. the police department dispatched two cruisers to investigate an alarm for the main building at Stow Acres Country Club. The first officer who arrived at the scene reported finding a broken window with the screen removed which meant someone was possibly inside the building. Mutual Aid was requested from Hudson, Bolton, Boxborough and Maynard Police to surround the building. A Hudson police officer arrived and saw a person inside the building looking out a window. A State Police K-9 was requested to assist searching the building for the individual(s). Within a short time two K-9 units arrived and were sent in along with several police officers. Within minutes the K-9 located two suspects hiding. One suspect gave up immediately and the other did only after being bitten by the K-9. The remaining building was searched and two arrests were made. It was found that these two subjects were both armed with throwing knives, pepper spray and numerous tools to commit their crime. Their vehicle was located at the far end of the parking lot. The vehicle was towed back to the police station and secured in our garage. The arrest of these two individuals for breaking into the Stow Country Club was broadcast over the teletype system informing police agencies across Massachusetts. Many calls came in from other police agencies that had similar breaks in country clubs. A detective from Leominster Police interviewed the subjects and they both admitted to breaking into and vandalizing about nine other country clubs in Massachusetts and stealing property. A search warrant was obtained for their vehicle and a wallet containing identification belonging to another person was found and property from the vehicle was identified from several other area breaks. In the end, two more subjects were arrested in Leominster for taking part in breaking into and vandalizing other golf courses in the area and breaking into cars throughout the Leominster area. It was also discovered that they did this for fun, using a GPS unit to find golf courses so they could steal and destroy property.

In 2007, the Town implemented SwiftReach 911 as our emergency notification provider to communicate with Stow residents and businesses. This is an overview of the SwiftReach 911, Town-Wide Notification System. The Board of Health activated the Notification System four times during the calendar year to inform residents of the flu clinic, H1N1 clinic, E-Coli level at Lake Boon and to activate the Medical Reserve Corps. I'll explain how quickly the system works, and what the costs are associated to use the system.

A database was created to include all public phone numbers and entered into the notification system. This system does NOT include unpublished numbers or cellular phone numbers unless someone enters them into the system manually. The unpublished and cellular phone numbers can be included by residents by going to the Town of Stow webpage www.stow-ma.gov, click on the Swift911 icon and enter your information. If you don't have access to a computer, call the police station or drop a notice off with the name, address and phone numbers. Once you enter your information, an officer will confirm the information and geo code (GPS coordinates to enable the system to send the message to a specific area of Stow) of the residential location. The policy on the use of this system is clear, that the intended purpose is for "Emergency Use Only". However, there are times when the system could be used for Non-Emergency situations. In those cases, prior approval must be granted by the Town Administrator or the Police Chief. Access to the system is password-protected and only one official from Police, Fire, Highway, Board of Health and one from the Town Building are given user privileges.

A town official composes a brief message, then logs into the SwiftReach website and types out the message that will be sent. A phone call is made to SwiftReach and the voice message is recorded. The date and time for the message can be set and the system will immediately call the residents. In May, the Board of Health notified the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) members to report to a certain location for a drill. To quickly reach the MRC members, 62 numbers are listed in the SwiftReach system. Sixty-two calls were made in five minutes twenty-one seconds at a cost of \$9.59. In July a message was sent to Stow residents, a total of 2339 calls were made, of that total 237 did not answer the phone nor did an answering machine pick up the call, 30 lines were busy, 41 numbers were "op-int", which means the number is out of service or no longer exists. The system made a total of 2339 calls in 23 minutes 45 seconds. The system records who answered, who did not, message left on a recorder, records name and address and number called. In this case 237 did not answer the phone after three attempts. The message can be re-sent specific to those 237 numbers. The cost for this notification is \$239.82.

When residents receive a SwiftReach message, the caller ID displays a phone number and the Town of Stow. Please listen to the entire message. Answering machines have a delay in the recording time so residents need to listen carefully as the introduction will be repeated twice before the voice message is recorded. If you would like to learn more about the system, you can go to their website at www.swiftreach.com.

On a sad note, Officer Kim Doughty passed away in December 2009. Officer Kim had recently retired and moved to New Hampshire where she spent her days enjoying life, caring for her cats and fishing. Kim was a kind and caring person who loved the children she taught in her D.A.R.E. classes and also the friends at the Council on Aging and in the town. Kim unselfishly gave of herself to help others. She will be fondly remembered by all whose lives she touched. We are that much less for her passing.

In closing, I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and all other departments. Most importantly, I wish to thank the officers of the Police Department, Public

Safety Dispatchers, members of the Fire Department and the Highway Department employees for their continued support of the Police Department throughout the year as we all work together towards one goal of serving the people of Stow. And, to you, the residents of Stow and the business community, I thank you for continued support during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Trefry, Chief of Police

Rachel R. Belanger, Administrative Assistant

Full-Time Officers:

William L. Bosworth, Sergeant
Ralph Marino, Sergeant
Timothy Lima, Sergeant.
Steven B. Sturtevant, Detective
Gary P. Murphy, Prosecutor
David J. Goguen, Patrolman
Kimberly H. Doughty - Retired
Darren J. Thraen – D.A.R.E. Officer
Sean M. Collins, Patrolman
Michael J. Sallese, Detective
Thomas Maskalenko, Patrolman

Special Police Officers:

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
James F. Finneran
Robert F. Blanton
John Connors
Michael Smith
Lee Heron
Enrico Maldari

Public Safety Dispatchers:

Sherry J. Morton-Pelley, Supervisor
John Fantasia
Jonathan Butler
Darlene Trefry
Justine St. John – part-time

Police Matrons/Prisoner Watch:

Deborah L. Richardson
Rachel R. Belanger
Darlene D. Trefry
Phyllis Tower
Richard Tower

Auxiliary Police Officer: Darlene Trefry



IN MEMORY OF

KIMBERLY DOUGHTY

1964 - 2009

STOW POLICE OFFICER

1990 - 2008

Years of Service

POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Accidental 911 Calls	110	120	112				
911 Calls	1215	1469	1718	Domestic Disturbances	11	6	6
Alarms	194	224	196	Found/Lost Property	51	60	53
Animal Calls	204	216	170	General Complaints	207	298	426
Annoying Calls	5	13	9	House Checks	1418	1741	1568
Assaults	18	22	14	Larcenies	35	29	29
Assist Citizens	476	394	323	Medical Calls	348	298	295
Assist Other Agency	220	250	227	Missing Persons	3	3	8
Auto Theft	1	2	2	MV Accidents	96	105	132
Burglary	12	16	11	MV Stops	3289	2411	2737
Bylaw Violations	19	12	20	Suspicious Activity	317	258	267
Citations	2312	1207	1289	Threats	1	4	6
Disturbances	18	24	26	Vandalism	30	31	37
Disabled MV Calls	92	97	105				
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE					16,996	13,993	14,710

FIRE / RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department continues to provide the Town of Stow with Emergency Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The dedicated individuals of this department work tirelessly, around the clock, responding to a wide range of emergency calls.

At the May 2009 Town Meeting, voters approved funding for a new ambulance. Our new Horton Ambulance went into service in January 2010. This new Rescue vehicle has proven to be a great addition to our emergency fleet. It is equipped with a new patient monitoring system, four-wheel drive, an ergonomic stretcher design to reduce EMT back injuries, a brand new air bag system in the patient area to protect the EMT and patient along with many other safety features. We are very thankful to the taxpayers in Stow.

2009 was again a very busy year for the Fire Department. Your department responded to 736 combined fire and medical calls. Some of the major calls we answered are as follows: We responded to a structure fires on Adams Drive, Hudson Road and Sandy Brook Drive as well as responding mutual aid to Hudson's structure fire on Bennett Street and to assist Concord once and Acton twice with fire station coverage assignments during recent fires.

The department responded to 74 motor vehicle accidents.

Fire Prevention was once again a major focus for your Fire Department in the year 2009. Under the direction of Captain John Paul Benoit, the Fire Department completed 333 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 481 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 and adults learn about fire prevention. The Fire Department members also conduct many tours and safety talks throughout the year. We also participate in a Juvenile Firesetter prevention coalition.

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 Fire Fighters and E.M.Ts be properly trained in all areas of Firefighting and E.M.S. services as well as Hazardous Materials, Confined Space Rescues, Auto Extrication, Firefighter & E.M.T. Safety and Survival, and Water & Ice Rescue. Members of the department conduct training drills monthly and on weekends. We also attend classes offered by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the National Firefighting Academy. Our firefighters conduct an extensive recruit class every year to recruit and train new firefighters. Ongoing EMS training is continuous throughout the year. All our EMTs must complete a recertification class every two years along with 200 hours of continuous education hours approved by OEMS.

Apparatus and Maintenance

Stow Fire is fortunate to have an excellent mechanic on staff as a full-time firefighter/EMT. Firefighter Greg Vogel holds the position of Department Mechanic and other members of the department assist when possible. He does an excellent job keeping everything running saving the Fire Department and the Town of Stow lots of money and minimizing equipment down time. We continue to provide maintenance to all our equipment and current apparatus in-house whenever possible.

Thanks from the Chief

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

I would also like to thank all the citizens of the Town of Stow, the business community, the Town Administrator, the Board of Selectmen, Building Commissioner and all other town departments for their support of the Fire Department. I would especially like to thank the Police Department, Communications Center and the Highway Department for all your help and support during the year. The State Fire Marshall, Stephen Coan also deserves special thanks for his continued help and support over this past year.

A special thanks to the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for all their ongoing support especially with emergency shelter operations.

Thank you all! I look forward to another year of progress and teamwork in the Town of Stow.

Respectively submitted,

Mike McLaughlin, Fire Chief

Lisa McNiff, Administrative Assistant

Fulltime Firefighters:

Benoit, John Paul, Captain

Evers, Barry

Guerin, Mark

Vogel, Greg

Stevens, Mike

Call Firefighters:

Adams, Francie

Blakley, Kris

Brooks, Fred

Byrne, Gerry

Camelio, Chris

Connelly, Rick

Crowley, Shelia

D'Antonio, Brian

Dwinells, Scott

Emond, Joe

Evers, Jonathan

Fiorvanti, Jeremy

Fisher, Carolyn

Galofaro, Jason

Gray, Jonathan

Gray, Tim

Holman, Peter

LaBarge, Kevin

Landry, Scott

Latta, Walter

Lazuka, Chris

Lazuka, K Clayton

Magazu, Matt

Morse, Scott

Murphy, Jonathan

Neufell, Tim

Patterson, Frank

Pratt, Liana

Scimeca, Mike

Siewierski, Sue

Smart, Bob

Stafford, Larry

Taylor, George

Trioli, Mike

Trioli, Nick

Villa, Keith

Warren, Eddie



2009 FIRE / RESCUE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS		
Accidents	Motor vehicle	75
	Motorcycle	1
	Aircraft	0
Assists	Police	1
	Public	9
Details	Fire works	1
Fires	Structure	5
	Car	4
	Chimney	4
	Brush	6
	Illegal burning	10
	Oven	2
	Transformer	1
	Trash	2
	Recreational vehicle	1
Hazmat	Incidents	4
Investigations	Alarm	57
	Carbon Monoxide	37
	Electrical	5
	Outdoor investigation	6
	Odor	12
	Outdoor smoke	18
	Smoke in building	3
	Suspicious package	0
	Arching wires	0
Medical emergencies	Incidents	369
	Strike Team	0
	Lift assist	6
	Life line activations	6
	Mutual aid ambulance	29
	Well being checks	4
	Walk ins	5
Missing persons	Incidents	2
Municipal fire alarm boxes received	Fire	30
Mutual aid given	Medicals	29
	Motor vehicle accidents	3
	Station coverage	5
	Structure fire	0
Rescues	Animal	0
	Lock outs	6
Special Service	Incidents	2
Tree/wires down	Tree down	2
	Wires down	6

2009 FIRE / RESCUE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS		
Water emergencies	Incidents	2
Non-emergency incidents	Inspections performed	333
	Open burning permits issued	439
Other statistics	Life flight	0
	Mutual aid – ladder truck	2
	Advanced Life Support intercepts	114
TOTAL INCIDENTS		736

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

The Stow Fire Department responded to 36 Brush Fires and investigations of outdoor smoke calls in the year 2009.

The Town Forest and other conservation lands were patrolled regularly for down trees and limbs that block the fire roads. Brush cutting was also performed where required to keep the roads open for Fire Department apparatus.

The open burning season was once again very busy for the Fire Department. The department issued 439 burning permits from January 15 until April 30, 2009. Those who wish to burn brush must be sure to come to the Stow Fire Station to obtain a burning permit for the day you wish to burn. You must also call the Fire Department before you begin burning (after 9:00 am). The number to call is 897-4537. We allow burning between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm with permission from the Fire Department depending on staffing and weather conditions. This allows us to have the appropriate personnel available in case your fire gets out of control.

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,

Mike McLaughlin, Forest Warden

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Elementary School Building Committee was formed following the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, which voted to support an addition/renovation at Center Elementary School. As outlined by the selectmen, the ESBC duties are to:

Direct and oversee the renovation and addition to the Center School, as recommended by the School Building Task Force and approved by the residents of Stow in May 2007. To include bringing a firm estimate of cost to Town Meeting for approval (expected May 2008). To include

hiring design services, contractor and other professionals as required. The Committee shall use the final report of the School Building Task Force as well as the Stow Schools Master Plan in their work. Committee members will need to be versed in the requirements of the Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA) and ensure that the building project meets all the requirements for potential reimbursement.

Continuing to work with our owner's project management firm, Construction Monitoring Services, Inc (CMS), in February 2009 the ESBC issued an architectural Request For Services and received responses from a dozen architectural firms. From those, the committee narrowed the choice to three firms and in consultation with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), selected Symmes, Maini, and McKee Associates in May to design the addition/renovation and draft design documents for its completion.

Working closely with the MSBA, the ESBC reviewed several design concepts created by SMMA for the new Center School property. The selection was finalized in early August and submitted to the MSBA for final approval.

On September 30, 2009, the MSBA approved the design as presented and issued a budget and scope agreement which included a grant to the town of Stow in the amount of \$18,132,259, representing a 50.85% reimbursement calculation several points higher than the ESBC had initially anticipated. The overall cost of the project was estimated at \$38 Million, a figure that included \$2.2 million already appropriated at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting as design funding.

At Special Town Meeting, the ESBC placed two articles on the warrant. Article 1 asked for approval of the project cost of \$38 million, with the MSBA commitment for 50.85% reimbursement (a grant of \$18,132,259). The article passed by the necessary 2/3 majority with more than 90% voting in favor.

The second article asked for voters to approve moving control of a portion of Stow Fire Department land from the Fire Department to the Selectmen so that a new student bus entry could be added to the Center School property from Hartley Road. This vote was also approved.

Following the vote at Town Meeting, article 1 was approved at the Special Town Election garnering nearly 75% of the vote. Having received approval at Town Meeting and at the polls, the Center School elementary school building project was officially authorized and work began in earnest to move the project forward with our timetable for completion.

The ESBC has set a very aggressive timetable for the completion of this project. Upon approval from the MSBA of the final design documents in January/February 2010, the ESBC and our OPM will issue an RFQ for construction firms in the spring of 2010. Construction is currently set to begin immediately after the last day of school in mid-June. In the fall of 2010, grade 3 students will return to Pompo while the new addition is constructed on the Center School grounds. In the fall of 2011, grades 3-5 will begin to occupy the new wing while the current Center School undergoes renovation. In the fall of 2012 all students, PreK-5, will move into the "Center" School and Pompo will be turned over to Town for other municipal use.

Throughout this process, the ESBC has endeavored to address project cost and tax impact on Stow residents through private fund-raising efforts, notably chaired by Greta Morgan. Under Greta's direction, RECESS (Raising Extra Capitol for the Elementary Schools in Stow) was formed, a volunteer-led group raising extra funds to help reduce the tax burden on Stow residents. In addition, the ESBC has already received a grant award for up to \$400,000 from

Intel/Organization for the Assabet River to pay for systems to manage stormwater and groundwater recharge. We continue to research options for additional grant awards.

We encourage residents to keep track of our progress through the town website, where all meetings, minutes and documents are updated regularly.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen S. Sturgis, Co-Chair , Selectman
Amy Finkel Hastings, Co-Chair; Architect
Michael Wood, Superintendent
Stephen Quinn, Planning Board
Craig Martin, Building Inspector
Gary Bernklow, Finance Committee

Lynn Colletti, School Committee
David Korn, Associate Member
Greta Morgan, Associate Member
Lisa D'Alessio, Associate Member
Gregory Irvine, Ex-officio; Principal,
Pompo & Center Schools

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Overview of Master Plan Committee

The Town Charter requires the Master Plan to be updated every five years. In 2000, the Master Plan Committee agreed to undertake an update of the 1996 Master Plan. The Board of Selectmen appoints the committee. It currently includes a representative from the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Board of Health, Finance Committee, Conservation Commission and two members at large.

Broad Outline of the Plan

Our primary concern has been housing because housing policy has a major effect on almost every major issue confronting Stow. We want Stow to be a multigenerational community with a variety of housing options that does not exclude either younger or older populations. We would prefer a Stow where young people can afford to live and start a family and older residents can afford to stay instead of moving away because they can no longer bear the high real estate tax burden on a fixed income.

We want to protect open space in Stow, but we acknowledge that our current zoning rules encourage sprawl. We believe that village development (i.e. zoning changes that would permit smaller lots and provide for mixed use zoning) is suitable for the Lower Village and Gleasondale. Village development and housing partnerships working together can promote a multigenerational community and help mitigate further sprawl.

We cherish the rural flavor of Stow but we recognize that the state's laws require Stow to accept further growth and development. We feel that it is critical that Stow should find an equitable way to share both the benefits and burdens of development.

Current Activities

The Master Plan Committee seeks input from the citizens of Stow. In 2008, the committee hired the Ciccolo Group to help:

- Improve outreach to the town, including our recent survey
- Improve communication with the town as seen in our recent public hearing
- Review our plan and help bring it into compliance with recent regulations

The update of the plan is nearly complete. When the update is complete the Master Plan committee will hold a public hearing to present the plan. Our committee encourages you to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Rising, Chair, Board of Health
Stephen Dungan, Board of Selectmen
Karen Kelleher, At Large
Charles Kern, Finance Committee

Rebecca Mattison, Conservation Commission
Roy Miller, At Large
Kathleen Willis, Planning Board

MINUTEMAN ADVISORY GROUP ON INTERLOCAL COORDINATION

Twenty-five years ago, leaders of the MAGIC communities established the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) to help local elected officials and planning staff meet growth management challenges by facilitating inter-local collaborative planning and problem solving to enhance the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the MAGIC region. MAGIC is a group of thirteen communities consisting of:

Acton	Concord	Maynard
Bedford	Hudson	Stow
Bolton	Lexington	Sudbury
Boxborough	Lincoln	
Carlisle	Littleton	

MAGIC began in 1984 as a group of local communities interested in promoting planning, retaining community character, and providing a mechanism to communicate, cooperate, and implement mutual goals. In addition, MAGIC is one of the oldest of the eight subregions of the regional planning agency, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). For 25 years, MAGIC has focused on managing the impacts of rapid growth as they affect water quality and quantity, open space preservation, affordable housing, transportation, wastewater treatment, local planning capacity, and local budgets. MAGIC meetings give participants a chance to learn about and to influence the activities of MAPC. This “two-way street” gives MAPC a direct outlet to its municipalities regarding legislation and other matters while it also provides MAPC with input regarding state and local issues.

MAGIC:

- Discusses planning issues impacting their communities
- Promotes coordination and collaboration between communities on grants and project proposals/studies
- Reviews development projects with sub-regional impacts (and makes comments to MEPA and other relevant parties)
- Hosts semi-annual meetings with legislators who represent the communities of the subregion
- Assists and advises communities on growth & development policies and actions
- Provides comments to MAPC and the Boston MPO regarding transportation planning in general, and makes specific comments on the Regional Transportation Plan, and transportation funding priorities
- Hears speakers on topics of interest (e.g., clean energy, CPA, brownfields, proposed state legislation)

One selectman and one planning board member (or designee) represent each member community. Both representatives are appointed by the respective boards. Each community has one vote, as does MAPC, also considered a member. Communities contribute annually to fund expanded services such as the study of Conflicting and Compatible Land Uses, and the Economic Development White Paper.

MAGIC meets every month except August. Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday evening, but these dates are subject to change. The meetings rotate among participating towns. They are open to the public, and local officials and others are welcome.

By linking the core elements of housing, economic development, transportation, infrastructure and open space, MAGIC offers communities a broader view of challenging issues and provides leadership on issues vital to Stow's future. For additional information regarding MAGIC, please contact Donna Jacobs, Stow's representative to MAGIC at donna.jacobs@verizon.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jacobs, Stow MAGIC Representative

STOW MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

The Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (SMAHT) was established by a Town Meeting vote on May 16, 2005 when Stow voted to accept the provisions of MGL C44 s 55C, paragraphs (a) through (j) inclusive, establishing a municipal affordable housing trust fund. In May 2008, Town Meeting voted to adopt a Municipal Affordable Housing Trust. This provides for a Board of Trustees consisting of seven trustees to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, one of whom is to be a member of the Board of Selectmen. Trustees serve for a term of two years, with no limit on the number of terms.

The powers and duties of the Trust allow it to buy and sell real estate, borrow money, develop and hold property, and all with the benefits of being under the Town's municipal structure – insurance coverage, investment management and accounting, and other such administrative functions. The Trust requires Board of Selectmen approval for any real estate transaction, and Town Meeting approval to borrow, mortgage or pledge for amounts greater than the current Trust assets.

The Trust continues to be active in this third year, and has focused on development of a Housing Production Plan. It began with obtaining Community Preservation Act funds, issuing an RFP and hiring a consultant. Throughout the year SMAHT worked with the consultant to create a draft plan, and then circulated the draft plan for review and comment by Town boards and committees. SMAHT met with the Planning Board to review the draft plan, and agreed upon a handful of zoning-related action items. SMAHT hopes to have the final draft plan issued in spring 2010.

SMAHT partnered with the Master Plan Committee in drafting the Housing element of the Stow Master Plan, and will continue to participate in the Master Plan's development to ensure that the housing goals and objectives complement the Housing Production Plan.

In addition to the Housing Production Plan, SMAHT worked to develop a grant program that would help facilitate the production of affordable housing units eligible for inclusion on the Town's Subsidized Housing Inventory. The grant program would use monies in the Housing Trust Fund. The Trust receives funds from the Pulte Active Adult Neighborhood development as a condition of the Planning Board's special permit. As of December 31, 2009, there was \$243,586.44 in the Trust Fund.

SMAHT met with the Stow Community Housing Corporation (SCHC) several times, and supported the warrant article presented at Special Town Meeting in fall 2009. SMAHT also wrote a letter of support for SCHC to assist them in securing funding for the proposed expansion.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kopczynski, Chair
Quince Papanastassiou
Trish Settles

Cynthia Perkins
Donna Jacobs
Laura Spear, Selectman

STOW ASSABET RIVER RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE

In July the Town finally closed on the purchase of an easement on "Track Road" for rail trail and public access purposes. Voters approved the purchase at the May 2008 Town Meeting. With this purchase the Town now has a 1.85 mile easement from Sudbury Road to the Stow/Maynard town line at White Pond Road, the longest uninterrupted segment on the 12.5 mile Assabet River Rail Trail from Marlborough to the commuter rail station in South Acton. We thank the Community Preservation Committee and the Stow Conservation Trust for providing the funds for this latest purchase. We thank you voters, and also thank the Town of Hudson for their efforts in getting our \$40,000 reimbursement in federal grant funds managed by the Commonwealth.

With tight budget constraints, design work on the Maynard/Acton section of the rail trail was halted, but is expected to resume in 2010. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has budgeted funds for the design and construction of the rail trail in Stow starting a few years out, if the Town votes to proceed with paving.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Rising, Chair
Scott Arsenault
Ralph Fuller

Ross Perry
Kirk Teska
John Sangermano, Associate

SUASCO WATERSHED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

"SuAsCo" stands for the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers. Any rain falling within the SuAsCo watershed eventually drains into these rivers. The watershed is a 377-square mile area encompassing, partially or wholly, 36 Massachusetts towns. Acton, Carlisle, Framingham, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, Northborough, Southborough, **Stow**, and Sudbury are all completely within the watershed. The towns of Ashland, Bedford, Berlin, Billerica, Bolton, Boxborough, Boylston, Chelmsford, Clinton, Concord, Grafton, Harvard, Holliston, Hopkinton, Lincoln, Littleton, Lowell, Natick, Sherborn, Shrewsbury, Tewksbury, Upton, Wayland, Westborough, Westford, and Weston are partially within the SuAsCo Watershed.

Retaining the natural beauty and rural character of the SuAsCo Watershed is a challenge as this is one of the most rapidly growing areas in Massachusetts, and is facing severe resource challenges. Rapid growth and development have made land expensive, which makes open space and habitat protection increasingly more difficult. Many stretches of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers routinely fail their water quality standard for nutrient enrichment and experience both severe flooding and low flow concerns. Water shortages are evidenced as many towns post water

bans during the summer. The rivers' capacity to handle nutrients is severely stressed by non-point sources (stormwater) and wastewater treatment plant discharges.

To rise to these challenges, the watershed community formed the SuAsCo Watershed Community Council to bring together the expertise and vantage points of diverse interest groups to collaboratively tackle the critical challenges facing this important watershed region. The SuAsCo Watershed Community Council's mission is to build a community-based alliance that promotes the sustainable economic and environmental well-being of the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River (SuAsCo) Watershed; in other words to promote blue waters and a green economy.

The SuAsCo Council is comprised of representatives from business and industry; municipal government; environmental organizations; and state, federal and regional agencies. This community-based alliance is a unique non-profit organization whose mission is accomplished through education and collaboration.

In 2006, the Executive Office of Environment Affairs approved the SuAsCo Watershed Action Plan (WAP). The WAP identifies the priority issues in the SuAsCo Watershed and the top actions needed over the next 5 years to address those problems and improve the watershed's environmental health. The Plan is driven by existing municipal reports and research data, as well as by public opinion. The FINAL Watershed Action Plan is available on the Council's website (click the link; PDF file is 10 MB).

The SuAsCo Council sponsors the "Stormwater Community Assistance Program (SWCAP)" which annually provides outreach materials to municipalities to address two of the six minimum control measures under the federally mandated Stormwater Phase II Regulations: Public Education & Outreach and Public Participation & Involvement. The Council has assembled a team of diverse watershed professionals including engineering consultants, municipal and state officials, science teachers, and interested citizens to create the annual SWCAP outreach materials, and tailor them to each town. Simply by practicing the "good housekeeping tips" found on the Stormwater Matters website (www.stormwatermatters.org), stormwater will be cleaner as it flows into our lakes and rivers. Cleaning up stormwater not only benefits your neighborhood, it also benefits the entire network of water bodies and land that make up our watershed. We all need clean water for drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, and for protecting wildlife.

Selectman Kathy Farrell is Stow's representative to the SuAsCo Steering Committee. For more information about the SuAsCo Watershed Community Council, please call Nancy Bryant, Executive Director at 978-461-0735 or via email at info@suasco.org, or visit the SuAsCo Council's website at www.suasco.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Farrell, Selectman and Stow SuAsCo Representative

OUR HERITAGE

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Stow's Historical Commission is the part of town government dedicated to the preservation and protection of Stow's historical and archaeological resources. Our responsibilities include researching and documenting local historical information, undertaking projects that promote the

appreciation of the town's historic resources and increase awareness of our town's history, and establishing long-lasting protection of these resources for future generations.

Community wide Historic Inventory: Among the many duties of the Commission, one of the most important is maintaining an inventory of the town's historic buildings and landscapes. Since the town's previous inventory was over 25 years old, the Commission felt it was time for an update.

Preservation Consultant Ann Forbes was hired with Community Preservation Act administrative funds to assess the scope of work that would be needed for the proposed community wide historic properties inventory. Her study noted that although there were as many as 750 buildings and other structures, including monuments, boundary markers and similar items in Stow, the proposed survey would involve about 240 inventory forms since some sites had been included in the Lake Boon inventory two years ago, many would go on group forms, especially more recent construction, and some had been altered so significantly that they no longer met the criteria of accurately representing the style or time of their construction.

The 2009 Annual Town Meeting approved \$50,000 to be spent out of Community Preservation Act (CPA) Historical Preservation funds to hire consultants to conduct a community wide historic inventory. The new inventory will be conducted to the latest Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) standards and will contain much more detailed information than the prior inventory. It will be in digital form, allowing for far greater accessibility, and will include properties built up to about 1960. The Request for Proposals was written this year and the consultants will be hired in 2010.

Plaque program: The Historical Commission reintroduced in 2009 the historic plaque program. Homeowners of historic houses may purchase a historic plaque to be displayed on their houses from Ould Colony Artisans of Farmington, Maine. Eligibility of properties and the wording for the sign must be approved by the Historical Commission. An application can be obtained from Historical Commission members.

The Stow Musket: The Stow Minutemen brought to the attention of the Commission, that a historic musket, known as the Stow musket, was on the market. It was being offered privately to the Minutemen for a cost of \$13,500 and it had an appraised value of \$15,000. The appraisal indicated it was one of the finest examples of this musket type. Although Stow family legend suggested that Stephen Stow carried the musket on April 19th, 1775, it is highly unlikely, though not impossible, that Stephen could have acquired a 1768-1773 period French Charleville musket pre-revolution since England and France were not on friendly terms. Once the Revolution got under way, France became our ally and shipped a hundred thousand Charleville muskets to our new country. Stephen's son Ichabod was at the surrender at Saratoga in 1777 and he also participated in the battle of Newport, Rhode Island in 1778, where French troops fought alongside the Americans. The later battle is the more likely place the family could have acquired the musket. The musket remained in the Stow family for over two hundred years.

A historic object like this musket helps bring our past alive to us, learning about it deepens our understanding of that past, and it also enhances our community identity. With this in mind, the Commission agreed to support using CPA funds to pay for half the purchase price with the Minutemen raising the rest. After an article in the Stow Independent, a private Stow citizen, Jean McFedries, stepped forward to donate the entire amount in honor of her husband, William A. McFedries who received the Purple Heart and other commendations during the Korean War. Also, a former Minuteman and former Stow citizen, Jeff Baker, stepped forward to make a

museum quality display case for it. It will be displayed upstairs in the Randall Library. The Stow Historical Commission has care and custody of the musket for the town.

West School Museum: In April, the Commission was informed by neighbors that the West School roof appeared to be damaged. Temporary repairs were made on the roof and the first West School program occurred as planned. Richard Gnatowski, a miller at the Wayside Inn, gave a presentation at West School on Tuesday, June 16th. He spoke on life in rural Massachusetts around 1825. This program was paid for through a grant from the Stow Cultural Council. Due to the leak in the roof, mold developed inside the schoolhouse and the programs for the rest of the season were cancelled. The roof was replaced in August with a new wood shingle roof. The mold was remediated in October. We look forward to programs being offered again in 2010.

SpringFest: The Pied Potter, Richard Hamelin, set up beside the Blacksmith Shop at SpringFest. He demonstrated pottery making using a wheel, answering many questions from the fascinated viewers. The 1982 historic property inventory was available for citizens to peruse. Applications for a historic plaque were also available.

Trolley Stop: A new Stow sign was placed on the Trolley Stop on the Upper Common. The Commission thanks Wayne Fletcher, who built and installed the sign, and Dwight Sipler, who speeded the process with the temporary “Stowe” sign, for their efforts.

Cemetery Restoration: The Commission met with the Cemetery Commission to work on plans for a restoration of cemetery headstones. GH Gledhill, cemetery superintendent, told the Commission that 478 gravestones in the town’s three cemeteries were either broken, fallen or leaning, with 278 stones needing repair by an outside vendor. Given the historic importance of the cemeteries, we hope to move forward with restoration in 2010 using CPA funds.

Stone Building/Apple Larsen Barn: The Commission was contacted in August by the Elementary School Building Committee (ESBC) that their plans for a new school building would include razing of the Stone Building on the school property, which had been the Larsen Apple Barn at the Larsen Farm before the property was purchased by the town for a new elementary school. Their plans included a memorial to the building.

Peter Larsen, a Danish immigrant, was a blacksmith, a farmer, a constable and the first Police Chief of Stow. Larsen built his apple barn of fieldstone around 1918, using typical construction techniques from his homeland, with the most notable feature being the three-foot thick walls to help keep the apples stored in the basement fresh. When the school was built, the farmhouse was sold and moved to the property next door, some buildings were removed, but the apple barn and the blacksmith shop remained at their original locations. They are among numerous historic buildings in the Upper Common and are valued today as part of the Great Road streetscape. Although there have been significant alterations made to the apple barn, it still reflects an important part of its agricultural nature in the early 20th Century.

While initial discussion by the Commission centered on the memorial, concern over the number of historic buildings that the town was losing as well as dissatisfaction with the process under which the decision to raze the building was made, the focus shifted to efforts to save the building. The Commission stated their opposition to the razing of the building at Town Meeting. The Commission wrote to the Massachusetts Historical Commission to ask them to intervene. For projects that use state or federal grant funds, the project proponents must get the approval of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). If the MHC decides that there is an adverse impact on a building that meets National or State Register standards, they would order

negotiations between the concerned parties. (In February of 2010, MHC ruled that the building did not meet National or State Registry standards.) The Commission will continue to work on this in 2010.

Plantation II/Pilot Grove II projects: Commission members did site visits of the locations for the proposed new affordable housing projects in Stow. The Commission determined that they had no concerns about the projects.

Membership Changes

With her term expiring in 2009, long-time Commission member Karen Gray decided not to seek reappointment as a full member. She continues to serve as an Associate Member, with the thanks of the Commission. Associate Member Ralph Fuller was appointed to serve as the Commission's fifth member.

Holiday Party: The Historical Commission and Ancient Documents Committee celebrated the holiday season with their annual party in December. The food and cheer were both abundant and good. Commission member Ralph Fuller gave a talk on his new book, *Stow Things*, based on a series of columns he wrote in the Stow Independent about the history of Stow.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Fletcher
Ralph Fuller
Susan McLaughlin
Joseph Mishley
Linda Stokes, Chair
Karen Gray, Associate
Lew Halprin, Associate and Treasurer

Anne Luxnor, Associate
Dick Luxnor, Associate
Robert MacDonald, Associate
John Makey, Associate
Doug Moffat, Associate
Janet Kresl Moffat, Associate

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE

Publication of Ralph Fuller's book "Stow Things" was the highlight of the year. Fuller, member of the Ancient Documents Committee (ADC), scoured Town Vault records and photos for the new book, which had its beginnings as columns in the Stow Independent in 2008. The columns, "325 Things to Know About Stow," celebrated the 325th anniversary of the incorporation of Stow. The book was published by the Stow Historical Society. Congratulations go to Fuller for making the history of this old New England Village into "a worthy tome."

As part of SpringFest, the Stow Historical Society organized an "Historic Trolley Tour of Stow," with Ralph Fuller as tour conductor. Tours had been conducted by Frannie Warren and Norman Castle in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, and narratives had been collected and housed in the Town Vault. The tour on May 16 followed the path of the old tours with an updated narration. The tour was sold out with requests for additional trips.

Liz Moseley has taken on the position as collection curator and is overseeing the revamping of the historical museum in the upper level of Randall Library. The collections are being rearranged, new identification tags prepared, and new shelf liners installed. Maps and other items will be reframed, and an inventory of all donations will be compiled.

Dorothy MacDonald, genealogist, researched family information for John Doyle, Phillip Cummings, Mary Kittredge, Faxon family, William Taylor, Gates/Hooker, Samuel Gates, and Ephraim Robbins. Bob Walrath continued his inventory and filing of town maps. Lew Halprin continued to digitize old videos and other photographic materials.

For the second year ADC and the Historical Society joined together to present a history program for third graders from Center School. More than 150 students and teachers were invited to Town Hall for a visual presentation on a "Walk Through Upper Village." The most popular part of the program was the hands-on demonstration of artifacts from the Vault and personal collections including a manual typewriter, earhorn, metal lunch box and novelty telephones.

The committee was sorry to lose Karen Green, who moved out of state, and Ann and Dick Luxner. ADC meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays, November through June. New members who have an interest in Stow history are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Sipler, Chair
Karen Gray
Lew Halprin
Bob Walrath
Linda Hathaway

Bill Byron, Associate
Bill Clack, Associate
Ralph Fuller, Associate
Liz Moseley, Associate
Jody Newman, Associate
Dorothy MacDonald, Genealogist

TOWN CLERK

There are seventy-three chapters and four hundred fifty-one statutes of the Massachusetts General Laws that direct the Town Clerk's duties. The town clerk interacts with all of Stow's town boards, as well as several state agencies on a regular basis. The town clerk is also the chief election officer for the Town of Stow and a member of the Board of Registrars of Voters.

This year the Massachusetts Legislature amended the Open Meeting Law, the Campaign Finance Law and the Ethics Law. The changes have a significant impact on the town clerk's office, as well as all the elected and appointed municipal employees and officials. Every municipal employee and official must receive a summary of the Ethics Law annually and provide the clerk with documentation that he/she has received the summary. Every other year municipal employees and officials must take an online educational training and provide a certificate of completion to the town clerk. All of this paper work is retained for a minimum of six years. It is quite an undertaking to track all of this information. Many clerks consider this an unfunded mandate.

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 the vital record index cards, the vitals log book and assisting with census data entry. She also assists with town meeting and various other projects over the course of the year. Debbie Seith joined me in August as my office assistant. She works in the office fifteen hours a week assisting with filing, dog licensing, and a multitude of other clerical tasks. She is managing the Ethics Law paperwork filing requirements. A special THANK YOU to Army Buckman for his help in creating a database to track all of the Ethics information.

Volunteers Bill Byron and Ellie Beaudette assisted with the tedious task of opening all the census envelopes and sorting the forms by street number again this year. Also, thank you to all of the election and town meeting workers for their assistance over the course of this busy election year. The October special Town Meeting had one of the highest turnouts to vote on the Center School addition-renovation project. The workers' names are listed at the end of each election and town meeting. Thank you to everyone who assisted me this year. Your help is greatly appreciated.

2009 VITAL RECORDS

BIRTHS	80
MARRIAGES	10
DEATHS	43

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

2009 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Fees Collected

Vital record copies, bylaws, maps, etc	\$ 2,735.75
Fines, bylaw violations, late fees	2,855.00
Business Certificate filings	680.00
Fuel storage tank registrations	10.00
Raffle permit	20.00
Dog Licenses	11,487.00
Kennel Licenses	960.00
Total Fees Collected	\$ 18,747.75

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 4, 2009

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of March 24, 2009, posted by the Constable on April 17, 2009, the annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School by Town Clerk Linda Hathaway in the absence of Moderator Edward Newman. Mr. Newman was unable to attend due to illness. His message was read to the Town Meeting recommending appointment of a Deputy Moderator and a Moderator.

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously that Gary Horowitz be elected to serve as Deputy Moderator and Assistant Moderator, and that Elizabeth Painter be elected to serve as Temporary Moderator and Assistant Moderator for the ensuing year. Town Clerk Hathaway administered the oath. The meeting was then turned over to Temporary Moderator Elizabeth Painter.

The meeting rose for an invocation recited by Ms. Painter who then led the meeting in the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*. Town officials were introduced: Selectmen, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Town Counsel, Town Administrator, Selectmen's and Administrator's Administrative Assistant, Finance Committee and others. A list of non-voters who may be heard during the course of the meeting was approved.

The meeting recognized the recent passing of Donald B. Hyde, Jr. who had served as Town Moderator from 1970 to 1995 and who was a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the past forty-one years.

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, 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. Town Officers Not Elected by Ballot

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, 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 Selectmen and Other Officers and Committees

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to take **no action** on acceptance of the reports of the Selectmen and other Town Officers, Boards, Committees and Commissions as the 2008 Annual Town Report has not been returned from the printer.

ARTICLE 3. Report of Special Committees

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to take **no action** on acceptance of the reports of Special Committees as the 2008 Annual Town Report has not been returned from the printer.

At this point, Jason Robart, as the Selectmen's liaison to the Land Use Task Force, reported on progress toward a process to answer questions regarding the status of open land in Stow. Of the 11,000 acres of land in Stow, one-third is developed, one-third is in conservation and the remaining one-third is undeveloped. An inventory of Town-owned land was conducted totaling 150 acres. Forty-eight parcels were reviewed of which six were felt could be developed for small municipal purposes. Two larger parcels are not suitable for development, but rather for

passive use. Land acquired for conservation purposes could possibly be converted but it is extremely difficult and time-consuming as there are many approvals required. A process was developed to guide the Selectmen and boards with regard to parcels to be removed from Chapter 61 status. Mr. Robart indicated that the committee's full report will be submitted to the Selectmen within the next six to eight weeks.

Finance Committeeman James Salvie presented an overview of the Town's financial situation. The Fiscal 2010 operating budget is in balance without the need for a Proposition 2-1/2 override. Town personnel will be granted a 3% COLA, and there are no new staff positions. Because of the worldwide recession and the resulting economic situation, State local aid will be down by 11% and local receipts are also expected to be reduced. The operating budget shows a 2.9% increase. Some of the proposed capital expenditures will be funded through free cash or unexpended balances of previous appropriations. No borrowing is projected, thus no increase in debt.

Dwight Sipler of the Agricultural Commission called attention to the town election ballot question that, if approved, would eliminate the assessment of excise taxes imposed on certain animals, machinery and equipment of those principally engaged in agriculture. The amount of money realized is less than \$4,000 which barely offsets the related expenses of the Assessors' office.

ARTICLE 4. Wage and Salary Schedules

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, 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 and E, and inserting in place thereof new Schedules A, B, C, D and E, as printed in the warrant.

TOWN OF STOW WAGE & SALARY SCHEDULES *Effective July 1, 2009 (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	72,040	74,661	78,590	85,138	96,304
Police Lieutenant	65,184	70,103	73,793	77,482	79,943
Supt. of Streets	64,459	68,486	72,518	76,542	80,576
Fire Chief	63,934	66,493	70,330	76,727	83,116
Town Accountant	59,135	62,809	66,510	70,208	73,908
Treasurer-Collector	50,859	54,040	57,219	60,395	63,575
Building Inspector	49,788	52,898	56,010	59,123	62,236
Library Director	47,378	50,340	53,299	56,266	59,224
Town Clerk	42,576	45,105	47,760	50,409	53,065

SCHEDULE B
HOURLY RATE POSITIONS

GROUP A

<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	10.83	11.74	12.74	13.68	14.61
Cemetery Worker	10.83	11.74	12.74	13.68	14.61
Custodian	10.83	11.74	12.74	13.68	14.61

GROUP B

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Asst. Town Clerk	15.95	17.18	18.46	20.00	21.49
Capital Program Comm. Secretary	12.29	13.20	14.20	15.39	16.53

GROUP C

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Board of Appeals Secretary	16.78	18.28	19.72	21.24	22.68
Town Secretary	13.20	14.40	15.53	16.73	17.88
Highway/Tree/ Grounds Worker	13.20	14.40	15.53	16.73	17.88

GROUP D

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Highway/Tree Grounds Driver-Laborer	16.36	17.40	18.42	19.42	20.42

GROUP E

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Highway Dept. Equipment Operator	17.87	18.98	20.09	21.22	22.30
Tree Worker (Moth)	17.87	18.98	20.09	21.22	22.30
Maintenance Person	17.87	18.98	20.09	21.22	22.30

GROUP F

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Highway Dept. Mechanic	18.94	20.04	21.32	22.51	23.66
Crew Chief	19.70	20.85	22.18	23.39	24.62

GROUP G

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Asst. Supt. of Streets	23.14	24.61	26.04	27.48	28.92
Highway Dept. Foreman	21.03	22.35	23.65	24.98	26.25

SCHEDULE C
SINGLE RATE POSITIONS PAID ANNUALLY

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Registrar of Voters	127.00
Assistant Registrar of Voters	254.00
Animal Control Officer	16,439.00
Animal Inspector	3,412.00
Director of Summerthing	2,553.00
Beach Director	5,502.00
Cemetery Superintendent	39,942.00
Veterans' Agent	1,342.00
Council on Aging Secretary	400.00

SCHEDULE D
SINGLE RATE POSITIONS PAID HOURLY

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Election Warden	9.73
Election Clerk	9.73
Election Teller	8.61
Election Clerical Assistance	8.61
Lifeguard	10.69
Lifeguard (W.S.I.)	12.63
Beach Checker	8.61
Summerthing Assistant	8.61
Street Lister	9.29
Street Listing Clerk	8.61
Street Numberer	8.61
Per Diem Firefighter (call)	13.50

Apprentice Firefighter (call)	13.09
Firefighter (call)	14.96
Emergency Medical Technician (call)	14.96
Firefighter/EMT (call)	15.64
EMT -w/Defib & Epi Pen (call)	16.33
Firefighter/EMT - w/Defib & Epi Pen (call)	17.01
Officers - Fire or Medical (call)	18.38
Police Officer - part-time	20.91
Police Matron	18.45
Auxiliary Police Officer	13.65
Dispatcher - part-time	17.38

SCHEDULE E
FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL SINGLE RATES

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Deputy Fire Chief (call)	923.00
Fire Engineer	800.00
Fire Captain (call)	614.00
Fire Lieutenant (call)	492.00
Fire Medical Officer	369.00
EMS Quartermaster	246.00
EMS Schedule Coordinator	185.00
EMS Assistant Coordinator	308.00
EMS Records Coordinator	369.00

ARTICLE 5. General Budget for Fiscal Year 2010

Selectman Kathleen Farrell moved to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,213,118.00, as recommended by the Town Administrator and Selectmen for Items 1 through 75 inclusive, as printed in the warrant under the column entitled "*FY 2010 Budget Town Admin/Selectmen Recommended*", each item to be considered a separate appropriation for the purposes designated and the same to be expended only for such purpose.

Moderator Elizabeth Painter read off each group of line items, and the following were held for questions or clarification: 3, 5, 10, 13, 14, 16, 24, 26, 34, 35, 37, 40, 43, 48 and 72.

The items of the general budget that were not held were voted as printed in the warrant.

Item 3 - Administrative Assistant Salary: Voter Gary Small questioned salary increases, considering the current financial situation. Selectman Thomas Ruggiero responded the budget is level-funded as regards services. There have been reductions in other areas. He felt this is a responsible budget, and the people who work for the Town are the reason for that. The sum of \$46,150.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 5 - Town Administrator Salary: Mr. Small said that many people in this economy are feeling the pinch with no salary increases and lost 401K's. Mr. Ruggiero repeated some of the previous remarks. The sum of \$107,299.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 10 - Accountant Salary: Town Administrator pointed out that the accountant is a CPA whose background is felt to be very important. The sum of \$45,831.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 13 - Principal Assessor Salary: The sum of \$61,980.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 14 - Assessors' Clerical Wages: The sum of \$59,364.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 16 - Treasurer-Collector Salary: The sum of \$58,807.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted by majority.

Item 24 - Conservation Commission Clerical Wages: The sum of \$68,253.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 26 - Planning Board Clerical Wages: The sum of \$105,856.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 34 - Police & Dispatch Wages: The sum of \$1,049,665.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 35 - Police & Dispatch Expenses: The sum of \$92,300.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 37 - Fire and EMS Wages: The sum of \$451,055.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 40 - Building Department Clerical Wages: The sum of \$31,765.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 43 - Highway & Grounds Wages: The sum of \$442,209.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 48 - Cemetery Salary and Wages: The sum of \$46,582.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

Item 72 - Minuteman Voc-Tech Assessment: The sum of \$800,000.00, as printed in the warrant, was moved and voted unanimously.

The total general budget for FY2010 at \$20,213,118.00 was approved as printed in the warrant.

General Government

1	Moderator Salary	\$	37.00
2	Moderator Expenses		45.00
3	Selectmen Administrative Asst. Salary		46,150.00
4	Selectmen Expenses		9,470.00
5	Town Administrator Salary		107,299.00

6	Town Administrator Expenses	500.00
7	Town Building Clerical Wages	8,130.00
8	Finance Committee Wages	3,513.00
9	Finance Committee Expenses	550.00
10	Accountant Salary	45,831.00
11	Accountant Clerk Salary	0.00
12	Accountant Expenses	1,525.00
13	Principal Assessor Salary	61,980.00
14	Assessors' Clerical Wages	59,364.00
15	Assessors' Expenses	7,650.00
16	Treasurer-Collector Salary	58,807.00
17	Treasurer-Collector Clerical Wages	44,789.00
18	Treasurer-Collector Expenses	39,000.00
19	Information Technology Clerical Wages	20,952.00
20	Information Technology Expenses	51,524.00
21	Town Clerk Salary	53,065.00
22	Town Clerk Other Wages	23,173.00
23	Town Clerk Expenses	16,124.00
24	Conservation Commission Clerical Wages	68,253.00
25	Conservation Commission Expenses	4,280.00
26	Planning Board Clerical Wages	105,856.00
27	Planning Board Expenses	4,510.00
28	Board of Appeals Clerical Wages	6,964.00
29	Board of Appeals Expenses	2,940.00
30	Municipal Building & Property Wages	26,973.00
31	Municipal Building & Property Expenses	60,488.00
32	Town Reports Expenses	<u>9,050.00</u>

General Government Total	\$948,792.00
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Public Safety

33	Police Chief Salary	\$ 96,304.00
34	Police & Dispatch Wages	1,049,665.00
35	Police & Dispatch Expenses	92,300.00
36	Fire Chief Salary	76,727.00
37	Fire & EMS Wages	451,055.00
38	Fire & EMS Expenses	80,000.00
39	Building Inspector Salary	62,236.00
40	Building Dept. Clerical Wages	31,765.00
41	Building Dept. Expenses	<u>4,675.00</u>

Public Safety Total	\$1,944,727.00
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Public Works and Facilities

42	Supt. of Streets Salary	\$ 80,576.00
43	Highways & Grounds Wages	442,209.00
44	Highways & Grounds Expenses	112,600.00
45	Snow & Ice Removal Expense	150,000.00
46	Municipal Lighting	13,500.00

47	Gasoline & Diesel Fuel Expense	90,000.00
48	Cemetery Salary & Wages	46,582.00
49	Cemetery Expenses	<u>10,165.00</u>

Public Works and Facilities Total \$ 945,632.00

Human Services

50	Sanitary Agent Wages	\$ 17,995.00
51	Health Department Wages	77,707.00
52	Health Department Expenses	7,475.00
53	Council on Aging Executive Director Salary	52,672.00
54	Council on Aging Wages	80,800.00
55	Council on Aging Expenses	12,292.00
56	Veterans' Agent Salary	1,342.00
57	Veterans' Agent Expenses	<u>200.00</u>

Human Services Total \$ 250,483.00

Culture and Recreation

58	Library Director Salary	\$ 59,224.00
59	Library Wages	80,326.00
60	Library Expenses	56,513.00
61	Recreation Wages	46,621.00
62	Recreation Expenses	23,550.00
63	Lake Boon Commission Wages	2,745.00
64	Lake Boon Commission Expenses	700.00
65	Historical Commission Expenses	525.00
66	Memorial Day Expenses	950.00
67	Lighting of Clock Expenses	<u>100.00</u>

Culture and Recreation Total \$ 271,254.00

Town-Wide Expenses

68	Group Insurance	\$ 579,700.00
69	Insurance & Bonds	125,000.00
70	Telephone	<u>28,500.00</u>

Town-Wide Expenses Total \$ 733,200.00

Education

71	Nashoba Regional School District Assessment	\$13,043,439.00
72	Minuteman Voc-Tech Assessment	<u>800,000.00</u>

Education Total \$13,843,439.00

Debt Service

73 Principal, Long-Term Debt	\$ 880,000.00
74 Interest, Long-Term Debt – Bonds	392,591.00
75 Interest, Temporary Loans – Revenue	<u>3,000.00</u>

Debt Service Total \$ 1,275,591.00

TOTAL GENERAL

BUDGET.....\$20,213,118.00

At this point, Selectman Jason Robart moved to take Article 46, Minuteman Regional Stabilization Fund, out of order and act on it after Article 5 and before the Consent Calendar. Voted unanimously.

ARTICLE 46. Minuteman Regional Stabilization Fund

On motion of Selectman Robart, it was voted unanimously to approve the establishment of a Stabilization Fund by the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District, beginning July 1, 2009, under Mass. General Laws Chapter 71, Section 16G1/2.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted to take the following articles out of the order in the warrant and take action on Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32 and 33, 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.

Articles 11, 13 and 31 were dropped from the Consent Calendar at the request of voters. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the articles within the Consent Calendar.

The articles of the Consent Calendar that were not held were voted unanimously as printed in the Consent Calendar.

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, 2009.

ARTICLE 7. Tax Title Proceedings

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated for Tax Title proceedings for tax taking and Land Court foreclosure, including 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 \$10,600.00 for a Town financial audit.

ARTICLE 9. Revolving Fund for Inspection Fees

Voted to authorize, upon the recommendation of the Selectmen, a revolving fund pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2 for FY2010, 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 \$60,000.00 for FY2010, 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 10. 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 FY2010, 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 FY2010, 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 11. Transfer to Conservation Fund

Removed from Consent Calendar and acted upon separately.

ARTICLE 12. Conservation Fund Addition

Voted 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.

ARTICLE 13. Transfer from Wetlands Protection Fund

Removed from Consent Calendar and acted upon separately.

ARTICLE 14. Update of Property Valuations

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,700.00 to be added to any balance 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 15. 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 16. Highway Department

Voted to raise and appropriate the sums of money for Highway Department purposes as set forth in the schedule below:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. For the Road Machinery Account | \$40,591.00 |
| 2. For repairs on private ways | \$15,000.00 |

ARTICLE 17. Highway Road Construction

Voted to appropriate and borrow the sum of \$208,934.00 from FY2009 apportionment for construction, reconstruction and/or improvements to Town roads, as requested by the Board of Selectmen, to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth.

ARTICLE 18. Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 to be added to any balance previously appropriated 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 19. Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from the previous appropriation, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health for the purpose of providing for household hazardous waste collection.

ARTICLE 20. Municipal Solid Waste Disposal

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from the previous appropriation, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health for the purpose of renting a container and disposing of solid waste, which has been dumped on Town land and roadsides.

ARTICLE 21. Medical Reserve Corps Expenses

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health for the purpose of providing equipment and operating expenses for the Medical Reserve Corps.

ARTICLE 22. Stow Cultural Council

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 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.

ARTICLE 23. Selectmen's Engineering/Consulting Expenses

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated for this purpose, to be expended by the Board of Selectmen for engineering and consulting services, including but not limited to the Board's implementation of the Town's Master Plan.

ARTICLE 24. Planning Board Engineering/Consulting and Master Plan Expenses

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated for this purpose, to be expended by the Planning Board for Planning Board engineering/consulting services and Master Plan expenses.

ARTICLE 25. Employee Educational Incentive Program

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$67,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from previous appropriation for the purpose of funding the Town's employee educational incentive program.

ARTICLE 26. Legal Services

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining from any previous appropriation for the purpose of funding the town's general legal account.

ARTICLE 27. Police Officer and Firefighter 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 Mass. General Laws Chapter 41, Section 100, 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 28. Water Holes for Firefighting

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Fire Chief for the purpose of constructing and maintaining water holes and hydrants to support firefighting operations.

ARTICLE 29. Weights and Measures Testing

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,600.00 to be added to any balance remaining from a previous appropriation for the purpose of funding the Town's weights and measures testing.

ARTICLE 30. SwiftReach 911 Notification System

Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500.00 to be expended under the direction of the Chief of Police for the purpose of paying for a town-wide telephonic emergency notification system know as SwiftReach Networks.

ARTICLE 31. Agricultural Commission Account

Removed from Consent Calendar and acted upon separately.

ARTICLE 32. Community Preservation Committee Expenses

Voted to appropriate from Fiscal Year 2010 Community Preservation Fund annual revenues the sum of \$28,000.00 to be expended for wages and expenses associated with the creation, implementation and maintenance of Community Preservation programs, in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act, including but not limited to office supplies, clerical assistance, property surveys, appraisals, attorney's fees and other professional services, recording fees, printing and all other necessary and proper expenses for the Fiscal Year 2010, in accordance with a budget to be prepared for the Town Administrator.

ARTICLE 33. 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 2010 Community Preservation Fund Annual Revenues, in accordance with the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act, for the undertaking of Community Preservation projects.

1. Preservation of Historic Resources	\$60,000.00
2. Preservation of Open Spaces	\$60,000.00
3. Affordable Housing	\$60,000.00

Report of Community Preservation Committee re Articles 32 and 33:

On March 9, 2009 the Community Preservation Committee voted to approve the warrant articles for Community Preservation Expenses (\$28,000.00) and for Community Preservation Reserves. Total amount \$180,000. Approval was unanimous.

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

Deputy Moderator Gary Horowitz assumed the gavel.

ARTICLE 11. Transfer to Conservation Fund

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from the Conservation Land Maintenance Account to the Conservation Fund the sum of \$1,645.00 to be expended by the Conservation Commission.

ARTICLE 13. Transfer from Wetlands Protection Fund

On motion of Selectman Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from the Wetlands Protection Fund the sum of \$2,827.50 as additional appropriation to the Conservation Commission, to be expended by the Conservation Commission in performing its duties under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

ARTICLE 31. Agricultural Commission Account

On motion of Selectman Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$450.00 to be added to any balance remaining as additional appropriation to the Agricultural Expense Account, to be expended by the Agricultural Commission for the purpose of agricultural preservation activities.

The Finance Committee was in favor.

ARTICLE 34. Capital Requests

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, 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. Emergency Generator for Town Building

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted by more than two-thirds to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00 for the purpose of rewiring the Town Building and enabling it to be powered by a portable generator during emergency outages.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 34-2. Energy Efficient Lighting for Town Building

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 for the purpose of increasing the energy use efficiency of the Town Building.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 34-3. Expansion of Town Building Parking Lot

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted by more than two-thirds to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for the purpose of expanding the parking area at the Town Building.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 34-4. Ambulance Replacement

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted by more than two-thirds to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$200,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new ambulance.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 34-5. Fire Department Turnout Gear

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$53,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing turnout gear for the Fire Department.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 34-6. Highway Department Pick-Up Truck

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new pick-up truck for the Highway Department.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 34-7. Highway Department Air Compressor

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new air compressor for the Highway Department.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 34-8. Police Cruiser

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a new cruiser for the Police Department.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 34-9. Hale School Roof Repairs

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Article 26 of the 2003 Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$60,000.00 for the purpose of making roof repairs at the Hale School.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

ARTICLE 34-10. Center School Floor and Ceiling Repairs

On motion of Selectman Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Article 26 of the 2003 Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$42,000.00 for the purpose of making floor and ceiling repairs to the Center School.

The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee were in favor.

Temporary Moderator Elizabeth Painter assumed the gavel.

ARTICLE 35. Amendment of Article 36 of May 7, 2007 Annual Town Meeting

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to amend the vote of the Town passed under Article 36 of the warrant for the May 7, 2007 Annual Town Meeting to read as follows:

"that, \$1,900,000.00, or any other sum not to exceed \$2,200,000.00, is appropriated for engineering and architectural services, Owner's Project Manager and any other Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") related program requirements and related activities in compliance with MSBA regulations, for the design and development, and preparation of plans

and specifications, through the bidding phase of the project, for the purpose of the renovation of the Pompositticut School and (*italics and emphasis added*) the renovation of and construction of an addition to the Center School, the total project cost of which is estimated to be \$30,080,000.00; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$1,900,000.00, or any other sum not to exceed \$2,200,000.00, under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that if it is determined (i) that the renovation of and construction of an addition to the Center School is to be undertaken and (ii) that the renovation of the Pompositticut School is not to be undertaken, the custodial control of the Pompositticut School shall return back to the Town following the completion of the renovation of and construction of an addition to the Center School; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; the amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds authorized by this vote having been excluded from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2-1/2) by a vote of the Town passed at the May 15, 2007 town election.

The Finance Committee was in favor.

ARTICLE 36. Public Health Nurse

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted by majority to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,400.00 for the purpose of providing home care services and communicable disease follow-up to Stow residents, to be expended under the direction of the Board of Health.

ARTICLE 37. Snowblower Attachment for Cemetery Tractor

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from the Sale of Lots Account the sum of \$3,000.00 to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Committee for the purpose of purchasing a snowblower attachment for the Cemetery tractor.

ARTICLE 38. Brookside Cemetery Fence Section

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500.00 for the purpose of erecting a new section of wood and granite fence at Brookside Cemetery.

The Finance Committee was in favor.

At this point, Robert Wilber as chair of the Community Preservation Committee presented an overview of the Community Preservation funds that are designated for affordable housing, historic preservation and open space and recreation. Since Town Meeting approved the 3% surcharge on real estate tax bills in 2001, the Town has realized \$5.5 million with CPA matching funds of 100%. Due to the number of communities now enrolled in the program and the effects of the decline in the housing market on deed recordings, a match of only 40% is anticipated for 2009.

ARTICLE 39. Community-wide Historic Properties Inventory

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted by majority to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$50,000.00 from the Community Preservation Fund Reserve for Historic Preservation purposes, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act, to be expended under the direction of the Historical Commission for the purpose of creating a town-wide historic properties inventory."

ARTICLE 40. Purchase of Historic Musket

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted to take **no action** on Article 40.

A generous donor has come forward offering to assume the entire cost of acquiring the musket, and it has been accepted. Thank you.

ARTICLE 41. Senior Tax Relief

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted to accept the provisions of Section 4 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, and further to act under the aforesaid statutes to increase by 100 percent the amount of property tax exemption granted to persons who qualify for said exemption under clauses 17, 17C, 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 37, 37A, 41, 41B and 41C of Section 5 of Chapter 59 of the Mass. General Laws and Acts and amendments thereof or additions thereto, for FY 2010.

ARTICLE 42. Unemployment Compensation Fund Addition

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be added to any balance remaining and previously appropriated to the Unemployment Compensation Fund of the Town for the purpose of reimbursing the Commonwealth for expenses attributed to the Town of Stow for unemployment compensation benefits.

ARTICLE 43. Delinquent Tax Bills Demand Fee Increase

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted by majority to charge for each written demand issued by the Collector a fee of \$10.00 to be added to and collected as part of the tax, as authorized by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 60, Section 15, effective as of June 1, 2009.

ARTICLE 44. Acceptance of Mass. General Law Chapter 32B, Section 18

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to accept the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 32B, Section 18, so as to require that all retirees, their spouses and dependents who are enrolled in Medicare Part A at no cost to a retiree, their spouse or dependents, or eligible for coverage thereunder at no cost to a retiree, their spouse or dependents, be required to enroll in a Medicare health benefits supplement plan offered by the Town.

ARTICLE 45. Trench Safety Regulations Permitting Authority

On motion of Selectman Stephen Duggan, it was voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Selectmen to designate a permitting authority to issue permits and otherwise implement the provisions of the Excavation and Trench Safety Regulations (including the regulation of trenches, as that term is defined by Mass. General Laws Chapter 82A, Section 3 and 520 CMR 14.00) as promulgated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Safety.

ARTICLE 46. Minuteman Regional Stabilization Fund

Acted upon after action on the General Budget (Article 5.) and prior to consideration of the Consent Calendar.

ARTICLE 47. Land Acceptance - Wildlife Woods Open Space

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted by greater than two-thirds majority to accept a deed conveying the fee interest in certain parcels of land in the Wildlife Woods Subdivision, as printed in the warrant.

Parcels of land shown as Open Space "A1", Open Space "A2", Open Space "A3", Open Space "A4", Open Space "B", Open Space "C", Open Space "D", Open Space "E", and Open Space "F", on a plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan, Wildlife Woods, Stow, Massachusetts", dated May 15, 1997 and revised through October 27, 1999 and recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds as Plan Number 1013 of 2000.

A motion by Kathleen Sferra to amend by adding the words "for park and open space use" after the words "to accept", failed to carry.

ARTICLE 48. Street Acceptance - Foxglove Lane - Wildlife Woods Subdivision

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to accept the laying out of Foxglove Lane from Station 0+00 to Station 6+47.8, as printed in the warrant, and establish it as a town way, together with all drainage and other easements related thereto and included in the Order of Layout, the boundaries and measurements shown on the plan referred to in the description, which plan shall be included in the Order of Layout of the Selectmen to be adopted with respect to such way and related easements, and filed in the office of the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82, Section 21-23.

The length of the road shown as **Foxglove Lane** (STA 0+00 to STA 6+47.8, as shown on the plans entitled:

- "Roadway As-Built Foxglove Lane (STA 0+00 to STA 6.47.8)", prepared for Bentley Builders, dated December 23, 2008
- "Street Acceptance Plan Woodland Way, Foxglove Lane, Ladyslipper Lane & Whispering Way", prepared for Bentley Builders, dated December 15, 2008.

ARTICLE 49. Street Acceptance - Ladyslipper Lane - Wildlife Woods Subdivision

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to accept the laying out of Ladyslipper Lane from Station 0+00 to Station 6+47.8, as printed in the warrant, and establish it as a town way, together with all drainage and other easements related thereto and included in the Order of Layout, the boundaries and measurements shown on the plan referred to in the description, which plan shall be included in the Order of Layout of the Selectmen to be adopted with respect to such way and related easements, and filed in the office of the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82, Section 21-23.

The length of the road shown as **Ladyslipper Lane** (STA 0+00 to STA 6.47.8), as shown on the plans entitled:

- "Roadway As-Built Ladyslipper Lane (STA 0+00 to STA 6.47.8)", prepared for Bentley Builders, dated December 23, 2008
- "Street Acceptance Plan Woodland Way, Foxglove Lane, Ladyslipper Lane & Whispering Way", prepared for Bentley Builders, dated December 15, 2008

ARTICLE 50. Street Acceptance - Whispering Way (portion) - Wildlife Woods Subdivision

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to accept the laying out of Whispering Way from Station 10+00 to Station 13+00, as printed in the warrant, and establish it as a town way, together with all drainage and other easements related thereto and included in the Order of Layout, the boundaries and measurements shown on the plan referred to in the description, which plan shall be included in the Order of Layout of the Selectmen to be adopted with respect to such way and related easements, and filed in the office of the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82, Section 21-23.

The length of the road shown as **Whispering Way** (STA 10+00 to STA 13+00), as shown on the plans entitled:

- "Roadway As-Built Whispering Way (STA 10+00 to STA 13+00)", prepared for Bentley Builders, dated December 23, 2008
- "Street Acceptance Plan Woodland Way, Foxglove Lane, Ladyslipper Lane & Whispering Way", prepared for Bentley Builders, dated December 15, 2008

ARTICLE 51. Street Acceptance - Woodland Way (portion) - Wildlife Woods Subdivision

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to accept the layout of Woodland Way from Station -0+81.95 to Station 19+81.37, as printed in the warrant, and establish it as a town way, together with all drainage and other easements related thereto and included in the Order of Layout, the boundaries and measurements shown on the plan referred to in the description, which plan shall be included in the Order of Layout of the Selectmen to be adopted with respect to such way and related easements and filed in the office of the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82, Section 21-23.

The length of the road shown as **Woodland Way** (STA -0+81.95 to STA 19+81.37), as shown on the plans entitled:

- "Roadway As-Built Woodland Way (STA -0+81.95 to STA 19+81.37)", prepared for Bentley Builders, dated December 23, 2008
- "Street Acceptance Plan Woodland Way, Foxglove Lane, Ladyslipper Lane & Whispering Way", prepared for Bentley Builders, dated December 15, 2008

ARTICLE 52. Street Acceptance - Cider Mill Road

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously to accept the laying out of Cider Mill Road, as printed in the warrant, and establish it as a town way, together with all drainage and other easements related thereto and included in the Order of Layout, the boundaries and measurements shown on the plan referred to in the description, which plan shall be included in the Order of Layout of the Selectmen to be adopted with respect to such way and related easements and filed in the office of the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82, Section 21-23.

The length of the road shown as **Cider Mill Road**, as shown on the plan entitled

- "Street Acceptance Plan, Cider Mill Road, Hiley Meadows Estates, Stow, Massachusetts", prepared for John Anderson, 20 Main Street, Acton, MA, dated November 20, 2008

ARTICLE 53. Street Acceptance - Kettell Plain Road

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to accept the laying out of Kettell Plain Road, as printed in the warrant, and establish it as a town way, together with all drainage and other easements related thereto and included in the Order of Layout, the boundaries and measurements shown on the plan referred to in the description, which plan shall be included in the Order of Layout of the Selectmen to be adopted with respect to such way and related easements, and filed in the office of the Town Clerk in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 82, Section 21-23.

The length of the road which as **Kettell Plain Road**, as shown on the plan entitled

- "Street Acceptance Plan of Kettell Plain Road, Stow, MA", prepared for the Town of Stow by InLand Survey, Inc. DBA Zanca Land Surveying, dated June 19, 2008, revised through March 17, 2009

ARTICLE 54. General Bylaw Amendment - Paper Ballots at Town Meeting

Selectman Thomas Ruggiero moved to amend the General Bylaws as it relates to Article 1 of the General Bylaws by adding a NEW SECTION 4 and Article 2 of the General Bylaws by adding a NEW SECTION 11, to read in its entirety as printed in the warrant.

SECTION 4. Votes taken on any warrant article that contains a request to spend Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) or more shall be by the use of paper ballots. This section shall not apply to votes taken with regard to the General Budget article at Annual Town Meeting on individual items contained therein.

SECTION 11. The Moderator shall call for a paper ballot on any warrant article that contains a request to spend Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) or more. This section shall not apply to votes taken with regard to the General Budget article at Annual Town Meeting or individual items contained therein.

The Selectmen supported this article, as did the Finance Committee. Some attendees of Town Meeting have indicated discomfort in voting by show of hands on proposed large expenditures and wish to vote privately by paper ballot. Discussion ensued for about a half hour. Some of those opposed to the motion felt paper ballots would cause town meetings to run longer and prove cumbersome. It was pointed out that any voter can move for paper ballot on any article without a bylaw.

A call for the question was voted unanimously. When put to a vote, the motion to amend the General Bylaws as printed in the warrant **failed to carry**.

ARTICLE 55. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Active Adult Neighborhood

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting Sections 5.4.3, 5.4.6 and 5.4.9 to read in their entirety as stated in subsections (A), (B), and (C) of this article, as printed in the warrant; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Zoning Bylaw.

(A) Amend Section 5.4.3 to read in its entirety as stated below:

5.4.3 AAN District

This district shall be an overlay district and shall include parcels of land depicted on a map dated May 13, 2002 and entitled "Active Adult Neighborhood District", or any amendments thereto. This map is hereby adopted coincident with the adoption of this Bylaw. Development in an AAN District is subject to all provisions of the remainder of the Zoning Bylaw, except to the extent provided in Section 5.4, ACTIVE ADULT NEIGHBORHOOD (AAN). Section 8.9, Inclusion of Affordable Housing, applies to the AAN District, except for the restriction in Section 8.9.5.1.C.iii, which states that the total number of MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS shall not exceed 10% of the lots in the development.

(B) Amend Section 5.4.6 to read in its entirety as stated below:

- 5.4.6 Dimensional Requirements - There shall be no minimum LOT area, FRONTAGE, FLOOR AREA RATIO, LOT width or YARD requirements within an AAN or for any LOT or BUILDING within an AAN except as provided in this section. However, an AAN shall comply with the applicable requirements of the Water Resource Protection and Flood Plain/Wetlands Districts. The Planning Board may impose appropriate additional conditions on the location, layout and size of BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES and OPEN SPACE.

An AAN shall be built according to the following dimensional standards:

Minimum TRACT OF LAND area	25 acres
Minimum frontage of TRACT OF LAND	No Minimum Required
Minimum TRACT OF LAND width	No Minimum Required
Minimum SIDE and REAR YARDS of TRACT OF LAND	No Minimum Required
Minimum setback of BUILDINGS, pavement areas other than ACCESS DRIVEWAYS and walkways from all boundaries of the TRACT OF LAND	50 feet
Minimum separation between BUILDINGS and/or STRUCTURES	20 feet
Maximum height of Principal and Accessory STRUCTURES	35 feet
Minimum OPEN SPACE	40% (OPEN SPACE shall not contain more than 50% wetlands, as defined in MGL, Ch. 131, S.40 and the Stow Wetlands Protection Bylaw.)
Maximum density	3 DWELLING UNITS per acre of DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA
Maximum DWELLING UNITS per BUILDING	4

(C) Amend Section 5.4.9 to read in its entirety as stated below:

- 5.4.9 Occupancy Income Range - The AAN shall be designed to provide housing for occupants earning a broad range of incomes, as defined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the Town of Stow. The AAN shall comply with the provisions of Section 8.9, Inclusion of Affordable Housing. In addition, at least 5% of the DWELLING UNITS shall be built to sell at a price affordable to middle income households, as defined by Executive Order 418 for the Town of Stow. All low income and moderate income and middle income DWELLING UNITS shall contain deed restrictions and comply with the provisions of MGL Ch. 184, s.31 as to resale price and shall provide for notice of any proposed resale and a right of first refusal to the Town of Stow, prior to any such sale.

- A. Low income or moderate income DWELLING UNITS created under this section shall be restricted as such in perpetuity and comply with the provisions of MGL Ch. 184, s.31. Middle income DWELLINGS UNITS created under this section shall be restricted as such in perpetuity; and comply with the provisions of the Regulations promulgated in accordance with this Section 5.4.
- B. - This subsection deleted at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting.
- C. - This subsection deleted at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting.
- D. - This subsection deleted at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting.
- E. - This subsection deleted at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting.
- F. - This subsection deleted at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting.
- G. Rights and privileges - QUALIFIED AFFORDABLE HOUSING PURCHASERS and middle income purchasers shall have all rights, privileges and responsibilities given to owners or renters of market rate DWELLING UNITS, including access to all amenities within the development.
- H. A Special Permit issued under this Bylaw shall include the provision that no building permit shall be issued in reliance on said Special Permit, unless and until the Town of Stow has received written correspondence from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that the low or moderate income DWELLING UNITS, authorized as a result of the Special Permit, will be included in DHCD's Subsidized Housing Inventory of low income or moderate income housing DWELLING UNITS for the purposes of compliance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40B, § 20-23. The correspondence from DHCD must provide documentation that the low or moderate income DWELLING UNITS will be treated as if they were created pursuant to an application for a Comprehensive Permit and qualifying programs thereunder.
- I. Purchaser/tenant selection - Procedures for the selection of purchasers and/or tenants shall be subject to approval by the Town of Stow or its designee.
- J. Timing of commitments - All contractual agreements with the Town of Stow and other documents necessary to ensure compliance with this Section shall be executed prior to and as a condition of the issuance of any Special Permit required to commence construction.
- K. Timing of construction - As a condition of the issuance of a Special Permit under this Section, the Planning Board may set a time schedule for the construction of both low income or moderate income and market-rate DWELLING UNITS. No Certificate of Occupancy shall be issued for any market-rate DWELLING UNIT in a development, subject to the requirements of this Section, until there have been issued Certificates of Occupancy for low income or moderate income DWELLING UNITS in an amount equal to the percentage of low income or moderate income UNITS, which are to be constructed in the development or provided off-site.
- L. The above provisions apply to all on-site, off-site, buildings and existing housing stock made affordable with AAN provided funds.

Report of the Planning Board

The Planning Board held a duly noticed Public Hearing on March 17, 2009 in the Stow Town Building to consider the following proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw:

Article 55 A), B), and C). Active Adult Neighborhood - This article is meant to clarify inconsistencies between the provisions of Section 8.9, Inclusion of Affordable Housing, and Section 5.4, Active Adult Neighborhood, by removing the existing language relative to affordable housing requirements and referencing Section 8.9, Inclusion of Affordable Housing. At its

meeting of March 17, 2009, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT the proposed amendments in sections 5.4.3, 5.4.6 and 5.4.9 of the Zoning Bylaw.

ARTICLE 56. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Developable Site Area

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 1.3, 9.3.11.2 and 4.1.7 to read in their entirety as stated in subsections (A), (B), and (C) of this article, as printed in the warrant; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Zoning Bylaw.

(A) Amend Section 1.3 by amending the definition for DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA to read in its entirety as stated below:

DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA - The DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA of existing or proposed LOT(s) shall be calculated by subtracting from the LOT area all land, which is located in:

- a wetland, which shall mean a "freshwater wetland", as defined in Chapter 131, Section 40 of the General Laws and the Stow Wetlands Protection Bylaw, Article 9 of the General Bylaws;
- a Flood Plain/Wetlands District as defined in the Stow Zoning Bylaw;
- another zoning district in which the principal use of the LOT is not also permitted; and
- an access or right of way easement.

(B) Amend Section 4.1, Standard Dimensional Provisions, by adding a new subsection 4.1.7 to read in its entirety as stated below:

4.1.7 No BUILDINGS and STRUCTURES, except driveways, roads and septic systems, shall be located outside the DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA.

(C) Amend Section 9.3, Site Plan Approval, by amending subsection 9.3.11.2 to read in its entirety as stated below:

9.3.11.2 No BUILDINGS and STRUCTURES, except driveways, roads and septic systems, shall be located outside the DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA, and the DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA shall be clearly identified on the plan and shall meet the requirements of the definition in Section 1.3.

Report of the Planning Board

The Planning Board held a duly noticed Public Hearing on March 17, 2009 in the Stow Town Building to consider the following proposed amendments to the Stow Zoning Bylaw:

Article 56 A), B) and C), Developable Site Area - This article is intended to clarify that "DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA" applies to individual lots and that driveways, roads and septic systems may be located outside the DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA. At its meeting of March 17, 2009, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT the proposed amendments to sections 1.3 (Definitions) 4.1 (Standard Dimensional Provisions) and 9.3 (Site Plan Approval) of the Zoning Bylaw.

The amendments to the Zoning Bylaws adopted under Articles 55 and 56 were approved by the Attorney General on August 31, 2009. Posted as a Town Bulletin on September 3, 2009.

ARTICLE 57. Zoning District Map Amendment

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously to **take no action** on this article. Kathleen Willis of the Planning Board advised there are inconsistencies in that require more attention.

ARTICLE 58. Transfer to Snow and Ice Account

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer \$74,000.00 from the Town's Interest on Long-Term Debt Account and \$3,000.00 from the Town's Interest on Temporary Loans Account to the Town's FY 2009 Snow and Ice Account.

ARTICLE 59. Transfer to the Stabilization Fund

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 60. Transfer to Stabilization Fund - Clean Up of Special Articles

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer the following funds from the associated accounts to be added to the Stabilization Fund:

0200-10-192-70-78500-0000 - 3rd Floor of Town Building	\$ 979.67	
0200-10-192-70-79838-0000 - Town Building Roof Replacement	19,000.00	
0200-20-210-70-70834-0000 - Police Station. Air Conditioning Unit	30.00	
0200-20-220-70-78504-0000 - Pumper & Rescue Trucks	576.49	
0200-20-220-70-78516-0000 - Fire Dispatch Communication Equipment	295.05	
0200-50-510-70-73560-0000 - Concord Family Youth Service	<u>.82</u>	
		\$20,882.03

ARTICLE 61. Balance Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

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

ARTICLE 62. Town Election

On motion of Selectman Jason Robart, it was voted unanimously that the meeting be adjourned until the Annual Election on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, commencing at 7:00 a.m., at the Hale Middle School Gymnasium in said Town of Stow and then and there to act on Article 62 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 11:12 p.m. to reconvene on May 12, 2009 at 7:00 a.m. for the Annual Election.

Checkers at the Door: Janet Derby, Carol Dudley, Elizabeth MacGilvra, Alice Mortenson,
Betty Sauta

Tellers: Robert Aldape, Maureen Busch, Sylvia Daley, Kristin Donovan, Gregory Jones, Jean Lynch, Peter Masters, Edward R. Perry, Jr., Marcia Rising, Debra Seith, Kathleen Sferra, Dwight Sipler, Elizabeth Tobey, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall

Timekeeper: Catherine Desmond

Number of Voters Checked: 176

Number of Registered Voters: 4,586

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
MAY 12, 2009

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of March 24, 2009, posted by the Constable on April 17, 2009, the Annual Town Election was held in Hale Middle School Gymnasium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m.

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 eleven spoiled ballots. There were no provisional ballots. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m. There were 458 total ballots cast. Voter turnout was 10%. There were 4,586 registered voters. The final results are as follows:

Selectman*

(two - three year term)

Thomas Ruggiero (incumbent)	317
Laura Spear	350
Blanks & Scatterings	249

Assessor

(one - three year term)

John Paul Bolton (incumbent)	349
Blanks & Scatterings	109

Nashoba Regional School District Committee

(one - three year term)

Maureen B. Busch	353
Blanks & Scatterings	105

Board of Health

(one - three year term)

Marcia B. Rising (incumbent)	274
Theresa Ann O'Riorden	172
Blanks & Scatterings	12

Planning Board

(one-five year term)

Lori J. Clark	306
Janet C. Stiles	106
Blanks & Scatterings	46

**Note: The total number of votes in the 'vote for two' races will be two times the number of ballots cast.*

Randall Library Trustee ***(two – three year terms)**

Harold B. Donahue, Jr.(incumbent)	321
Jane Sproule Epstein	327
Blanks & Scatterings	268

Stow Housing Authority**(one – five year term)**

Robert Larkin (incumbent)	351
Blanks& Scatterings	107

Stow Housing Authority**(one – three year term)**

Gregory Jones	3(declined election, position is vacant)
Don Dittmore	2
John Kerouac	2
Jason Roberge	2
Blanks	436
Scatterings	13 (single votes)

Ballot Question 1.

Shall the Town of Stow cease assessing the excise imposed under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, s.8A on certain animals, machinery and equipment owned by individuals and non-corporate entities principally engaged in agriculture? Yes 299 No 99 Blanks 60

ELECTION WORKERS

Warden

Philip T. Detsch

Deputy Clerk

Judith A. Scraggs

Checkers, Ballot Box Officers, Ballot Counters

Janet Derby

Carol J. Dudley

Utahna G. Hallet

Ann F. Luxner

Elizabeth D. MacGilvra

Alice L. Mortenson

Betty M. Sauta

**Note: The total number of votes in the ‘vote for two’ races will be two times the number of ballots cast.*

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OCTOBER 19 & 20, 2009

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of September 15, 2009, posted by the Constable on September 29, 2009, the Special Town Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. on October 19th in Hugh Mill Auditorium at Hale School by Deputy Moderator Gary Horowitz, substituting for the late moderator Edward Newman who passed away in July 2009 after a long illness. Mr. Horowitz recalled some of Mr. Newman's accomplishments in his fourteen-year tenure as moderator.

The meeting rose for an invocation recited by Mr. Horowitz, who then led the assemblage in the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*.

Mr. Horowitz recognized the volunteers who set up and operate the microphone and cable television recording systems for town meetings. He explained the voter card system. As an experiment and a possible alternative to the card, each voter was affixed with a neon plastic bracelet as a means of identification for teller vote counting. Result to be determined later.

Town officials present were introduced: Selectmen, Town Administrator, Selectmen's and Administrator's Administrative Assistant, Town Counsel, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Finance Committee members and others. A list of non-voters who may be heard during the course of the meeting was approved unanimously.

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to elect Patricia Walrath as a Temporary Moderator for this meeting. Assistant Moderator Elizabeth Painter's tenure continues for the ensuing year. Ms. Painter presided in the gymnasium overflow area, while Ms. Walrath presided in the cafeteria overflow area.

Moderator Horowitz announced his decision that the vote on Article 1 concerning elementary school building construction will be taken by paper ballot. He noted there has been conversation of late about the use of paper ballot voting at town meeting for certain warrant articles. Rather than spend time debating the matter, he made the decision as the "right thing to do".

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, 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. Elementary School Building Construction

Selectman Ellen Sturgis moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,629,870.00, in addition to the \$2,200,000.00 previously appropriated by the vote of the Town passed under Article 35 of the warrant for the May 4, 2009 Annual Town Meeting which amended the vote of the Town passed under Article 36 of the warrant for the May 7, 2007 Annual Town Meeting and which appropriation can be used for the project described in this vote, for the Pompositticut/Center School elementary school addition and renovation, located on Great Road in Stow, MA, which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children for at least 50 years, said sum to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee, and to meet said appropriation the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or any other enabling

authority; that the Town of Stow acknowledges that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's ("MSBA") grant program is a non-entitlement discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town of Stow incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town of Stow; provided further that any grant that Nashoba Regional School District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty and eighty-five hundredths percent (50.85%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount of \$18,132,259.00 as determined by the MSBA. The Town acknowledges that the maximum amount of funding that the Nashoba Regional School District may receive from the MSBA may be an amount less than \$18,132,259.00 as determined by an audit conducted by the MSBA; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21 C (Proposition 2½); and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Nashoba Regional School District and the MSBA.

The Selectmen were unanimously in support of the article, as was the Capital Planning Committee.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of this article, contingent on the MSBA's approval of financing. The process for developing the proposal has been transparent, deliberate, has followed state guidelines, and has resulted in a sensible design. Because the ESBCs cooperated with the School Building Authority, the Commonwealth is offering considerable financial assistance that will not be available later to this extent, if at all. Unfortunately, even with that assistance, the amount to be financed by the Town will have a significant impact on our borrowing and on the property tax burden (an increase of over \$500 per year on the average assessment of \$463,000, bonded for 22 years at prevailing interest rates). On the whole, however, this proposal fills a present need in a realistic way, takes maximum advantage of available assistance, at a cost that will only get higher in the future.

Ms. Sturgis began the presentation by recognizing those individuals who worked on or assisted the Elementary School Building Committee. A concept plan of the proposed additions to the existing Center School was displayed. It is proposed to transfer some of the land behind the Fire Station to allow construction toward Hartley Road. Part of the addition will accommodate a future second floor. Ms. Sturgis said that the project is on an aggressive timetable. Groundbreaking is planned for June 2010 with completion by fall 2012. Construction will be phased to keep disruption at a minimum. Fund-raising is being planned to help reduce the costs and earn incentive points toward possible MSBA reimbursement increase. It is felt this is a reasonable project for the school and the Town.

Discussion followed. One voter questioned interest rates for the borrowing and what they may be in three years. There was the suggestion that the rate be "locked in" soon. A voter lamented the destruction of the Stone Building that had been originally used for apple storage. Ms. Sturgis noted that the structure is not in good shape and would be difficult to move. A voter questioned the availability of MSBA funding over the course of construction. The MSBA representative stated that the agency is an independent authority and not subject to annual appropriation. It is "good" for the \$18,000,000 that is available now. The offer is open for 120 days from the September 30th vote of the MSBA.

At 8:41 p.m. there was a call for the question. It was voted by more than a two-thirds majority to cease discussion. Moderator Horowitz explained the paper ballot procedure, and the tellers began by distributing the ballots and then collecting them in boxes for counting. After about thirty minutes, the result of the voting was announced.

There were 755 ballots. Two-thirds vote of 504 was required for passage. Yes 684, No 71. The **motion was declared carried** by more than the two-thirds required.

Note: The vote on ballot question 1 at the October 29, 2009 special town election was in the affirmative with 1,069 Yes and 374 No to exempt the borrowing from the provisions of Proposition 2-1/2.

ARTICLE 2. Elementary School Building Land Parcel Transfer

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted in excess of two-thirds majority, pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 40, Section 15A, to authorize the transfer of a portion of the real property currently under the care, custody and control of the Board of Selectmen for the use as a municipal Fire Station located at 16 Crescent Street, Stow, Massachusetts, Assessors' Parcel ID U-10-0090, to the care, custody and control of the Board of Selectmen for use in conjunction with the expansion, use and future needs of the Center Elementary School, such expansion, use and future needs to be determined by the Board of Selectmen, said real property consisting of 2.16 acres, more or less, and more fully described on the plan of land prepared by Symmes, Maini & McKee Associates, scale 1"=40', and dated September 2, 2009.

It was stated that the Fire Department did not feel it had need for this land. The Finance Committee recommended the transfer of land to facilitate the school project and that there would be no detrimental effect on Fire Department operations.

ARTICLE 3. Public Water Supply for Town Center Municipal Use

Selectman Thomas Ruggiero moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to Mass. General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4, to enter into and/or renew, one or multiple contract(s), as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate, with the Assabet Water Company, Inc. of Grafton, Massachusetts, with regard to and for the benefit of, the supply of water within the streets and ways and to private and public consumers, within the Town of Stow.

Town Administrator William Wrigley reported on the attempt to bring a water supply to the Lower Village and businesses that cannot comply with DEP regulations in that regard. If a waterline was to run from the Assabet Water site off Adams Drive to Lower Village, it would not take much more to run one to the center of town to serve the new Center School. It would also provide water to Plantation Apartments and to Pilot Grove Apartments. An affirmative vote on this article will enable the Town to negotiate with Assabet toward reasonable rates.

Discussion followed. Comments were made about the adequacy of the water supply that currently serves Harvard Acres customers. Mr. Wrigley advised that DEP had conducted pumping tests in that regard.

At 10:02 p.m. there was a call for the question. It was voted by more than a two-thirds majority to cease discussion. The vote on the main motion was declared by Moderator Horowitz to have carried in excess of a two-thirds majority. A request for recount was made by more than seven voters. Thereupon a hand count was taken. 358 votes were counted: Yes 255, No 103. The **motion was declared carried** by more than a two-thirds majority.

At 10:14 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Hugh Mill Auditorium of Hale School. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2009
(Second Session)**

Moderator Gary Horowitz called the second session to order at 7:02 p.m. He summarized the results of voting at the October 19th first session.

Mr. Horowitz recognized Malcolm FitzPatrick who said he had planned to request reconsideration of Article 3 concerning a public water supply. He now proposes to circulate a petition seeking to place before a town meeting a proposed contract with Assabet Water Company. Town Administrator Wrigley advised there is a time factor involved. If Article 3 were to be defeated upon reconsideration, there is possible effect on the Center School project. He suggested, as an alternative, a Selectmen's meeting for discussion of a contract. A decision on a water supply contract must be made between now and December 31st when the MSBA offer will expire.

The reconsideration procedure was explained. In order for a town meeting article to be reconsidered, it is necessary that new information be brought forth, that is, something that was not known or discussed originally. Selectman Stephen Dungan asked that the voters trust the Selectmen to act in their best interests.

It was announced that Newell Dearborn, a former member of the Council on Aging, had passed away.

ARTICLE 4. Plantation Apartments Supportive Housing and Pilot Grove Expansion

Selectman Laura Spear moved that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer a sum of \$1,400,000, or any lesser amount, from Community Preservation Unrestricted Fund Reserves, and \$350,000, or any lesser amount, from Community Preservation Affordable Housing Reserves, to be expended under the direction of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) consistent with the Community Preservation Act for the purpose of purchasing land and developing supportive housing units next to Plantation Apartments on a property shown as Parcel 10 on Map U-11 of the Assessors' Maps of the Town of Stow, and for the expansion of Pilot Grove Apartments on a portion of the land shown as Parcel 3 on Map R-17 of the Assessors' Maps of the Town of Stow. Funds shall be appropriated as printed in the warrant. "Source" refers to the specific Community Preservation Fund account to be transferred from, as printed in the warrant. "Available" is when the funds shall be transferred to the project account from the source account. "Associated costs" purpose shall mean funds for appraisal, legal, and other due diligence and associated administrative costs. "Implementation" purpose shall mean funds used to purchase or fund the purchase of land and affordability restrictions in perpetuity in accordance with this article. No Implementation Funds shall be expended until necessary permits required for building are issued and sufficient funding for proceeding with the development is acquired.

Further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (SMAHT) to enter into such agreements, execute such documents and apply for and accept such public or private grants as may be available to the Town for these purposes; and further, to authorize the CPC as approved by Town Meeting within this Article or by subsequent actions to transfer funds when available to the SMAHT as specific grants for the purposes of this article.

Amount	Source	Purpose	Available
\$100,000	Unrestricted Reserves	Associated costs	Immediate
\$350,000	Affordable Housing Reserves	Implementation	Immediate
\$200,000	Unrestricted Reserves	Implementation	Immediate
\$550,000	Unrestricted Reserves	Implementation	January 1, 2011
\$550,000	Unrestricted Reserves	Implementation	January 1, 2012

The Selectmen had voted unanimously in support of this article.

Gregory Jones represented the Stow Community Housing Corporation, a non-profit formed by the Town in 1979 for the purpose of providing affordable housing in Stow. The first was Plantation Apartments for seniors with 50 units, and then Pilot Grove Apartments in 1992 with 60 units of family housing. Thirty-seven of the Pilot Grove units have affordable deed restrictions. It is proposed to construct 37 units of supportive housing on land adjacent to Plantation and 30 units of family housing on land adjacent to Pilot Grove.

Bruce Fletcher of SCHC displayed conceptual architectural designs. It is proposed to construct a three-story building adjacent to Plantation. It will comply with height restrictions. He pointed out that Zoning Board of Appeals approval is required under Chapter 40B.

Ellen Cataldo, also of SCHC, advised that of the 60 existing units at Pilot Grove, 37 have affordable deed restrictions. The rentals are a mix of market, moderate and low income. A market study pointed up the need for additional affordable housing, and 30 additional units seemed reasonable. Mr. Fletcher described the proposed site as 7.25 acres off West Acton Road as a site that is relatively flat. Access will be off the existing Warren Road, and there will be no new driveway off West Acton Road. The buildings will be constructed into the slopes.

As regards CPC funding, Mr. Jones said that all permits will be in hand before the funds will be released. There will be no effect on the real taxes. The \$1.75 million requested computes to \$25,000 per unit. State and Federal sources for \$18,000,000 will be sought. SCHC's purpose is to help people, especially the elderly.

Robert Wilber of the Community Preservation Committee reported there are currently funds on hand for this project, and additions are expected during the life of the project. He stated SCHC is a known entity with the success of Pilot Grove and Plantation, with Stow residents committed to housing. All of these are rental units that will count toward the 10% affordable goal. He felt the agreement with SCHC is structured to protect the funds.

Report of Community Preservation Committee:

On October 14, 2009 the Community Preservation Committee voted to recommend to Special Town Meeting Article #4 as printed in the warrant. The votes were 6 to approve to recommend to STM; 0 to not approve to recommend to STM; and 1 abstention.

Michael Kopczynski of the Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust said that in order for the Trust to initiate affordable housing it must follow state procurement laws. SCHC as a non-profit does not have those restrictions. This article will give the Town site control. There is

need for pre-development funding for engineering, plans, etc. Final figures at this point cannot be known.

Report of Finance Committee as presented by David Walrath:

The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This article uses the Town's Community Preservation funds to fund a bit less than 10% of these developments next to the existing developments. These dedicated CPA funds can only be used for certain purposes, including community housing and not things like schools, and use will not increase the tax rate.

The Article is worded so that the Town will be purchasing assets (land and deed restrictions) with our money, not giving grants. The article is also structured so that town funds will not change hands until the additional needed funds are raised and permits are acquired - it minimizes our risk.

These units will help with housing needs in the town, and will move the town much closer to the 10% affordable housing target in Chapter 40B of the state laws. I won't go into the details unless asked, but the proponents are conservative in the equivalent number of conventional 40B units this project equals - by my math, we would need to build 400 housing units at the more typical 25% affordability to get us as close to the 10% target under 40B - either way you measure it, this is equivalent to 3 or 4 more developments the size of Villages at Stow.

Jean Lynch of the Capital Planning Committee stated that the proposal will benefit current residents, the families of residents and future residents.

Discussion followed. There was a motion to divide the question. Town Counsel Jonathan Witten rules that because of the nature of this article, it is not possible to divide it. The article was drafted by CPC to cover the two developments and cannot be changed by town meeting. Moderator Horowitz ruled the motion out of order.

Attorney Dan Hill, representing the Reynolds family on DeVincent Drive, urged defeat as a proposal not well thought out. One comment was the Plantation building would be too close to the lot line. It was noted that the separate process (Chapter 40B) will sort out those issues.

Peter Munkenbeck, consultant to SCHC, stated he had worked with the group since 1981 when Plantation was developed. The 40B permit applications will be two separate submittals to ZBA.

Other voters spoke of need for this type of housing and were in support.

At 8:31 p.m. there was a call for the question. The vote to cease discussion was unanimous. The vote on the main motion followed. A two-thirds vote was required. Moderator Horowitz declared the motion carried by a show of hands in excess of two-thirds. There was a request for recount brought forth by more than seven voters. There were 173 votes hand counted: Yes 149, No 24. The **motion was declared carried** by more than the 116 votes required for two-thirds.

ARTICLE 5. Truck for Building Department

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted by more than two-thirds majority to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of purchasing a truck for the Building Department.

The Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee were in support of the article.

ARTICLE 6. Forced Hot Water Furnace for Highway Department Garage

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$8,500 for the purpose of purchasing and installing a new furnace for the Highway Department Municipal Garage.

The Finance Committee was in support of the article.

ARTICLE 7. Compressor for Fire Station - A Past Year Expense

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$600 for the purpose of paying an August 2005 invoice for the repair of the Fire Station compressor.

The Finance Committee was in support of the article.

ARTICLE 8. Veterans' Day Supplies - A Past Year Expense

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted unanimously to take no action. An anonymous donor had contributed the funds to reimburse the expense.

ARTICLE 9. Rezone Portion of Land at 215 Harvard Road

Daniel Campbell, representing petitioner Felix Pittorino, moved that the Town vote to rezone a portion of land shown on the Assessors' Map R-4, Parcel 39A, totaling 65,340 s.f.+ from an R./C - Recreation-Conservation District to an RES - Residential District, the portion to be rezoned shall be approximately 65, 340 s.f., as shown on "Plot Plan, 215 Harvard Road, Stow, Massachusetts" by Level Design Group, LLC, dated 7/2009, for a single-family house to be constructed on the above referenced parcel in accordance with the Town of Stow, Massachusetts Zoning Bylaw.

Kathleen Willis, chair of the Planning Board, reported that the board was not in favor of the rezoning and felt, that if granted, precedent might be set for future petitioners in similar requests. The Finance Committee was not in favor.

Mr. Campbell explained the proposed parcel with frontage on Harvard Road is now a portion of Wedgewood Pines Country Club and would continue to be part of the country club to become a residence for the owner who wishes a home close by. The proposal would require a modification of the special permit granted by the Planning Board for the club. Joseph Pittorino spoke in favor of the proposal. Several voters were in support.

When put to a vote, the Mr. Campbell's motion to rezone **failed to carry**.

Report of the Planning Board:

This article is proposed by the property owner to rezone a portion of land (65,340 sq. ft. +/-) shown on Assessors Map R-4, Parcel 39A from Recreation-Conservation to Residential. During the Public Hearing, the petitioner advised the Planning Board of their intent to construct a caretaker's home for Wedgewood Pines Golf Club. The Planning Board is concerned that this action would set precedent for other Recreation-Conservation Zoned parcels in town to bring forth proposals to rezone to Residential. Such action may result in fragmentation of open land, disruption of wildlife habitat corridors and development of property otherwise protected by the purpose of the Recreation/Conservation District, which is intended to protect the public health and safety, to protect persons and property against hazards of flood water inundation and unsuitable and unhealthy development of unsuitable soils, wetlands, marsh land and water courses; to protect the balance of nature, including the habitat for birds, wildlife, and plants

essential to the survival of man; to conserve and increase the amenities of the Town, natural conditions and OPEN SPACES for education, recreation, agriculture, and the general welfare. At its meeting on October 13, 2009, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting NOT ADOPT Article 9.

ARTICLE 10. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Planned Conservation Development Open Space

On motion of Selectman Ellen Sturgis, it was voted unanimously to take NO ACTION on Article 10. Planning Board member Leonard Golder commented that the matter needs more consideration as it relates to passive recreation in the PCD district. The Finance Committee was in favor of no action.

Report of the Planning Board:

This article is meant to clarify that the allowed "recreation" use in a PCD is "passive recreation". During the Public Hearing, members of the Recreation Commission and residents voiced concern that the Planned Conservation Development Bylaw should allow some flexibility to allow "active recreation" as well as "passive recreation", noting that future Planned Conservation Developments may be in areas appropriate for Town active recreation use. Examples of cluster bylaws from area towns that allow active recreation were provided to the Planning Board. At its meeting of October 13, 2009, the Planning Board voted to move NO ACTION on Article 10 to allow the Board more time to consider concerns raised at the Public Hearing.

ARTICLE 11. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Wireless Service Facilities

On motion of Selectman Stephen Dungan, it was voted by more than a two-thirds majority to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 5.3.7.1 by deleting subsection e. so that Section 5.3.7.1 reads in its entirety as printed in the warrant; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Zoning Bylaw.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

5.3.7 Dimensional, Screening and Other Site Development Requirements

- 5.3.7.1 Height - Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4.2.1 of the Bylaw with respect to height
- a. Except on land occupied by the State Firefighting Academy, the State Entomology Lab and the portion of the former Ft. Devens Annex occupied by the Air Force, the maximum height of a new WIRELESS SERVICE FACILITY shall not exceed 100 feet AGL, or such lesser height as is established as the maximum height necessary, and shall not exceed a height that requires it to be illuminated at night under Federal Aviation Administration or Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission regulations, whichever is less.
 - b. On land occupied by the State Firefighting Academy, the State Entomology Lab and the portion of the former Ft. Devens Annex occupied by the Air Force, the maximum height of a new WIRELESS SERVICE FACILITY shall not exceed 150 feet AGL.
 - c. The height of all wireless mounts and facilities shall be proportional to, compatible with and appropriate to the site and surroundings. Factors to be considered include but are not limited to whether there is existing vegetation sufficient to screen the visual impact of the proposed WIRELESS SERVICES

FACILITY, the height and density of existing structures and vegetation on and off-site, the presence of scenic views and vistas on and off-site, visual impact of the structure(s) with landscaping on site or on other land controlled by the applicant.

d. On land located outside the Wireless Service Facility District and within a residential district the maximum height shall not exceed 35 feet AGL, and shall not result in adverse visual or economic impact.

Report of the Planning Board:

This article is meant to remove the restriction that a waiver from the height limitation of Wireless Service Facility requires a vote of Town Meeting. Such waiver requests shall be addressed by the Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with Chapter 40A, S. 10 (Variances). This amendment is intended to address a conflict with Massachusetts General Law, which states the Zoning Board of Appeals has authority to waive requirements of a Zoning Bylaw. This issue came into question in a recent court decision on an appeal of a Planning Board decision to deny a Wireless Service Facility. At its meeting of October 13, 2009, the Planning Board voted to recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT Article 11.

ARTICLE 12. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Methods for Calculating Dimensional Requirements

On motion of Selectman Kathleen Farrell, it was voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Section 4.3.2.1 to read as printed in the warrant but with the deletion of the last bulleted phrase which reads, "at least 75 percent of the minimum required LOT area shall be land which does not have a natural slope of 20 percent or more"; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Zoning Bylaw.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

4.3.2.1 LOT area - LOT area shall be determined by calculating the area within a LOT including any area within the LOT over which easements have been granted, provided that:

- no area within a STREET shall be included in determining minimum LOT area;
- water area beyond ten (10) feet from the shore lines shall not be included in determining the minimum LOT area;
- at least 50% of the minimum required LOT area shall be land which is not in a wetlands resource area (excluding the buffer zone) as defined by Article 9, Wetlands Protection, of the Town of Stow General Bylaw or Flood Plain Wetlands District.

Report of the Planning Board:

This article is meant to require that at least 75% of the minimum required LOT area shall be land, which does not have a natural slope of twenty percent (20%) or more, and to define the term wetlands consistent with Article 9, Wetlands Protection, of the Town of Stow General Bylaw.

Based on input from residents, the Planning Board agreed not to move forward with the last bullet (at least 75% of the minimum required LOT area shall be land which does not have a natural slope of twenty percent (20%) or more) to allow the Board more time to consider concerns that were raised.

At its meeting of October 13, 2009, the Planning Board voted to amend Article 12 by removing the fourth bullet and recommend that Town Meeting ADOPT Article 12 as amended.

ARTICLE 13. Zoning Bylaw Amendment - Residential District Uses

On motion of Selectman Thomas Ruggiero, it was voted by more than a two-thirds majority to amend the Zoning Bylaw by amending Sections 3.2 by adding a new Section 3.2.2.12, amending Section 3.2.2.5, and adding a new Section 3.2.2.8, to read in their entirety as stated in subsections (A), (B) and (C) of this article as printed in the warrant; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Zoning Bylaw.

The Finance Committee recommended approval.

A. Amend Section 3.2.1 by adding a new subsection 3.2.1.12 to read as follows:

3.2.1.12 For parcels of five (5) acres or greater, the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 3 shall apply.

B. Amend Section 3.2.2.5 to read as follows:

3.2.2.5 Veterinary hospitals and kennels, provided that no such BUILDINGS are located within one hundred (100) feet of a LOT line.

C. Amend Section 3.2 by adding a new subsection 3.2.2.8 to read as follows:
--

3.2.2.8 For parcels of less than five (5) acres, stables, raising or breeding animals for sale, and boarding animals, provided that no such BUILDINGS are located within one hundred (100) feet of a LOT line. The Special Permit Granting Authority may allow BUILDINGS to shelter or maintain animals as defined in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 128, Section 1A, within the one hundred foot (100') setback, provided that the BUILDING was in existence on or before November 13, 1968, was historically used for such purpose, and the use meets the requirements of the Board of Health; and provided that the Special Permit Granting Authority finds that such use, with any necessary mitigation measures, are in harmony with the character of the neighborhood.

Report of the Planning Board:

This article is meant to 1) acknowledge Massachusetts General Law 40A, Section 3, which states no zoning ordinance or bylaw shall unreasonably regulate agricultural used, and 2) allow stables, raising or breeding animals for sale, and boarding animals within one hundred (100) feet of a LOT line in BUILDINGS that were in existence on or before November 13, 1968 and were historically used for such purpose.

The proposed amendment:

- Recognizes the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 3, which prohibits the Town from unreasonably regulating or requiring a special permit for the use of land the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture on parcels greater than 5 acres.
- Maintains the existing 100' building setback on parcels of less than five (5) acres in the Residential District for buildings used for stables, raising or breeding animals for sale, and boarding animals.
- Makes provision for the Special Permit Granting Authority to waive the 100' setback requirement on parcels of less than five (5) acres in the Residential District, provided that:
 - the Building was in existence on or before November 13, 1968.
 - was historically used for such purpose,

- the use meets the requirements of the Board of Health, and
- provided that the Special Permit Granting Authority finds that such use, with any necessary mitigation measures, are in harmony with the character of the neighborhood.

At its meeting of October 13, 2009, the Planning Board recommended that Town Meeting ADOPT Article 13.

ARTICLE 14. Town Election

On motion of Selectman Laura Spear, it was voted unanimously that the meeting be adjourned until the Special Town Election on Thursday, October 29, 2009, commencing at 7:00 a.m., at the Hale Middle School Gymnasium in said Town of Stow and then and there to act on Article 14 for such election of Ballot Questions as listed in the warrant; and thereafter, at the close of the polls, to dissolve this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m. to reconvene at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2009 for the Special Town Election.

Checkers at the Door: Josephine Crowell, Alice Cushing, Mary Cutler, Robert Cutler, Janet Derby, Carol Dudley, Pamela Gjestebly, Elizabeth MacGilvra, Jayne Merrick, Alice Mortenson, Joanne C. Newman, Betty Sauta, and Dyane Smith.

Tellers for the Town Meeting: Robert Aldape, Michael Busch, Mary E. Cutler, Robert J. Cutler, Sylvia Daley, Pamela, G. Gjestebly, Donna M. Jacobs, Steve Jelinek, Jean H. Lynch, Joanne C. Newman, Jayne B. Merrick, Karen A. Meyer, John D. O'Connell, Edward R. Perry, Jr., Mark Pieper, Marcia Rising, Thomas E. Ryan, III, Debra M. Seith, Kathleen Sferra, Dwight Sipler, Dyane Smith, Jay Solomon, Melissa Solomon, Chris Spear, Janet Stiles, Elizabeth Tobey, Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, Margaret S. Tucker, Robert E. Walrath, Pamela J. Weathers.

Timekeeper: Catherine Desmond

<u>Number of Voters Checked:</u>	Monday, October 19th	784
	Tuesday, October 20th	192

Number of Registered Voters: **4592**

The amendments to the Zoning Bylaw adopted under Articles 11, 12 and 13 were approved by the Attorney General on February 4, 2010. Posted as a Town Bulletin on February 17, 2010.

**SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION
OCTOBER 29, 2009**

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of September 15, 2009, posted by the Constable on September 29, 2009, the Special Town Election was held in Hale Middle School Gymnasium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m.

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, fifty nine absentee ballots were opened, recorded and cast into the ballot box. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m. There were 1443 total ballots cast. Voter turnout was 31%. There were 4,592 registered voters. The final results are 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 bonds issued in order to construct the Pompositticut/Center School elementary school addition and renovation? Yes - 1069 No - 374

ELECTION WORKERS

Warden

Philip T. Detsch

Clerk

Judith A. Scraggs

Deputy Clerk

Ann L. Deluty

Checkers, Ballot Box Officers & Ballot Counters

Josephine C. Crowell

Janet Derby

Carol J. Dudley

Pamela G. Gjestebj

Utahna G. Hallet

Elizabeth D. MacGilvra

Alice L. Mortenson

Joanne C. Newman

Betty M. Sauta

**SPECIAL STATE PRIMARY
DECEMBER 8, 2009**

Pursuant to the Selectmen's warrant of November 3, 2009, posted by the Constable on November 4, 2009, the Special State Primary was held in Hale Middle School Gymnasium and was called to order at 7:00 a.m.

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, twenty eight absentee ballots were opened, recorded and cast into the ballot box. There were two spoiled ballots. There were no provisional ballots. The polls were declared closed at 8:00 p.m. There were 1206 total ballots cast in the Primary. (964 Democratic, 241 Republican, 1 Libertarian). Voter turnout was 26%. There were 4,657 registered voters. The final results are as follows:

Senator in Congress

<u>Democratic Primary</u>	<u>Ballots Cast</u>	<u>Republican Primary</u>	<u>Ballots Cast</u>
Michael Capuano	189	Scott Brown	212*
Martha Coakley	515*	Jack E. Robinson	28
Alan Khazei	176	Write-in (M.Coakley)	<u>1</u>
Stephen G. Pagliuca	82		241
Blanks	1		
Write-in (S. Brown)	<u>1</u>	<u>Libertarian Primary</u>	<u>Ballots Cast</u>
	964	Write-in (S. Brown)	1
		Total Votes Cast	1206

ELECTION WORKERS

<u>Warden</u>	<u>Checkers & Ballot Counters</u>	
Philip T. Detsch	Carol J. Dudley	Elizabeth D. MacGilvra
	Pamela G. Gjestebly	Alice L. Mortenson
<u>Deputy Warden</u>	Betty Holly	Joanne C. Newman
Edward R. Perry, Jr.	Ann F. Luxner	Betty M. Sauta
<u>Clerk</u>	<u>Deputy Clerk</u>	<u>Ballot Box Officers</u>
Linda E. Hathaway	Uthana G. Hallet	Janet Derby

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 2009 Stow Census: 6,703

COMMITTEE MEETINGS CALENDAR

Agricultural Commission	As needed
Ancient Documents Committee	First & third Fridays, 10 a.m., Nov-Jun
Assabet River Rail Trail Committee	As needed
Assessors, Board of	Monthly, date varies
Cable License Advisory Committee	As needed
Capital Planning Committee	As needed
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.
Cultural Council	As needed
Elementary School Building Committee	Monday, at least twice a month, 7:00 p.m.
Finance Committee	Second & fourth Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Historical Commission	First Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall
Health, Board of	Monthly, date varies
Housing Authority	As needed
Lake Boon Commission	As needed
Local Access Cable Advisory Committee	Monthly, date varies
Master Plan Committee	Monthly, date varies
Medical Reserve Corps	As needed
Minuteman Regional School Committee	Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Lexington
Municipal Affordable Housing Trust	First & third Mondays, 7 p.m.
Nashoba Regional School Committee	First & third Thursdays, 6 p.m., Bolton
Open Space Committee	As needed
Planning Board	Every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Randall Library Trustees	Third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Library
Recreation Commission	Monthly at 6:30 p.m., date varies
Selectmen, Board of	First & third Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	First Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Meetings held at Town Building unless otherwise noted. This calendar is for reference only. Official meeting notices are posted on the town bulletin board at Town Building and with the Town Clerk.

TOWN DEPARTMENT TELEPHONES

Emergency: Ambulance, Fire / Rescue, Police DIAL 911

Animal Control Officer	978-897-2784
Assessors, Board of.	978-897-4597
Building Department and Inspectors	978-897-2193
Cemetery Committee.	978-461-1403
Conservation Commission	978-897-8615
Council on Aging	978-897-1880
Fire / Rescue Department business	978-897-4537
Health, Board of.	978-897-4592
Highway Department	978-897-8071
Inspectors: Gas, Plumbing, Wiring	978-897-2193
Minuteman Regional High School	781-861-6500
Nashoba Regional School District	978-779-0539
Center School	978-897-0290
Hale Middle School	978-897-4788
Nashoba Regional High School	978-779-2257
Pompositticut School	978-897-5774
Planning Board	978-897-5098
Police Department business	978-897-4545
Randall Library	978-897-8572
Recreation Commission	978-461-1411
Selectmen, Board of	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	978-793-9353

Mailing Address: 380 Great Rd., Stow, MA 01775-2127

Website: www.stow-ma.gov

Stow's Historical Attic – *Continued*

2. They're only the tip of the glacier, so to speak, of Stow treasures, from thousands of minutes, records and other documents in the town archives to artifacts like the "Leggett Wagon," a farm cart owned by gentleman farmer Charles Leggett, the 1940s developer of the butternut squash. The wagon is stored away in the town garage on Crescent Street.

3. They're tangible reminders of the people who made our community what it is today, physically and culturally. We may not think Elijah Hale's walking stick to be important to our lives, but it's a reminder of the man whose generosity enhanced the educational opportunities of past generations and has enriched the quality of life in Stow for more than 100 years.

4. They're all preserved through the diligence of town officials and the generosity of private citizens. Town records are maintained in "the Vault," the secure room in the Town Building where Selectmen's minutes from the 1700s rub shoulders with those from the 2000s, and where birth, death and marriage records, maps and assessor's reports provide a wealth of information about Stow and its people through the years (Copies of some can be found in Randall Library).

The Stow Musket, passed down through generations of Stow family descendants, was purchased in 2009 through a gift of funds by Stow resident Jean McFedries. The walking stick came to the town archives as a gift from Elijah Hale's descendants, the Regicide's coffin nails from the Stowites who opened his grave to examine his body.

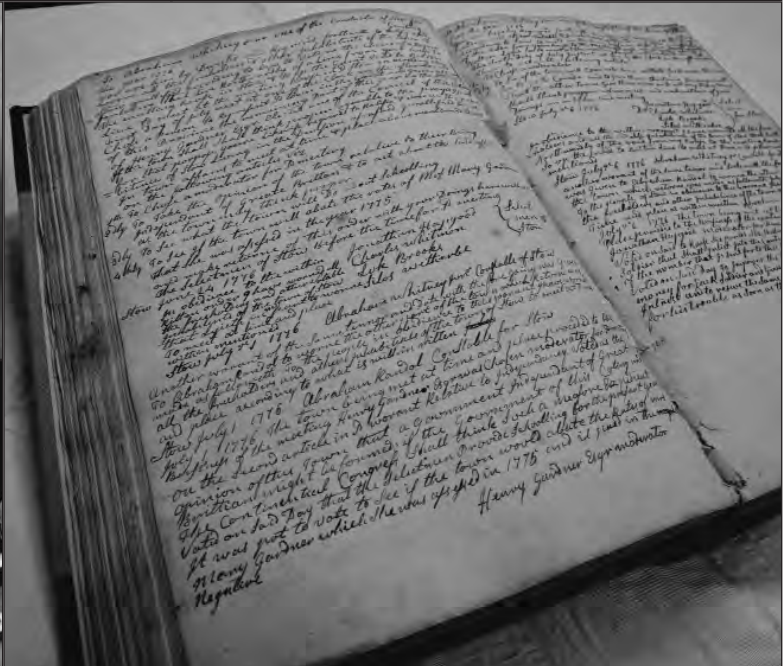
Many artifacts are maintained by the Stow Historical Society on the second floor of Randall Library. There, display cases showcase things intimately germane to Stow's narrative – such as the medical case and instruments of Dr. Abel Cutting Livermore, who faithfully served the town during the last half of the 19th Century. And things quixotic – such as African ivory carvings donated in 1911 by Stowite Grace Parks, whose husband Alonzo was a successful African trader and explorer.

The Historical Society always welcomes artifact donations. Among recent contributions are the whistle and nightstick used by Peter Larsen, Stow's first police chief; a postcard showing the Minister's Manse; more postcards depicting Lake Boon and the Upper Village; a Campfire Girls ring; a ticket for a sleigh ride and ball in 1846; a history of the Lord family; a genealogy of the Gates family; a history of Cyrus Whitney and his descendants – and a section of track and two spikes from the trolley line that ran from Concord through Stow to Hudson.

As the above list suggests, useful and interesting historical stuff varies in size, shape and nature – and possibly lies stashed in attics, basements and drawers throughout the town (not to mention in the ground). If you have something you think should be in Stow's historical attic, contact Liz Moseley, curator of the Stow Historical Society at 978-897-4930. It's a chance to share your Stow treasures with all the town.

Text and pictures provided by the Stow Historical Society.

Represented on the back cover from Stow's artifact collections are (clockwise from top): Stow Police Chief Peter Larsen's hat, whistle, billy club and a "come-along," a sort of handcuff; medicine vials from Dr. Livermore's 19th-Century medical bag; a book of Selectmen's minutes and other town records from the 18th Century; a lancet, a Revolutionary War-era medical instrument; a copy of the 1830 Stow map; pieces from the Gates family tea set; the ornate head of Elijah Hale's walking stick.



Chelsea Tea Set
1850-1860
This set was one of a wedding gift to the
daughter of Henry James. The coffee service
was the mother of Edward and John. The
first service made on this set was only one
occasion, which is why this set is so rare.

