

Stow Board of Selectmen
Town Building – Warren Room
November 14, 2017

Present were Selectmen, Brian Burke, Don Hawkes, Ingeborg Hegemann, Tom Ryan and James Salvie. Also present were Town Administrator Bill Wrigley and Administrative Assistant Maureen Trunfio.

At 7:00 p.m. Mr. Burke called the meeting to order.

Public input: None

Chair comments: Mr. Burke announced that the next Tri-Town meeting would take place tomorrow night in Stow. He noted the passing of Donna Jacobs, long-time resident and participant on many Town Boards and Committees and also the passing of Brigitte Hegemann, Selectman Hegemann's mother.

Correspondence: None

Minutes

Mr. Hawkes moved to accept the meeting minutes of the July 10, 2017 meeting with amendments. Mr. Salvie seconded the motion and it was passed. Mr. Salvie abstained.

Mr. Hawkes moved to accept the meeting minutes of the July 25, 2017 with amendments. Mr. Salvie seconded the motion and it was passed. Mr. Burke abstained.

Mr. Hawkes moved to accept the meeting minutes of the October 24, 2017 meeting with amendments. Mr. Salvie seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Appointment of Police Officer and Special Police Officers

Police Chief Bosworth was present and recommended the appointment of new, full-time Officer James Landi, who would fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Prosecutor Gary Murphy. Chief Bosworth also recommended the appointment of two Special Officers.

On the recommendation of Police Chief William Bosworth, Mr. Ryan moved to appoint James Landi as a Police Officer for the Town of Stow, pending successful completion of physical and psychological assessments, for a probationary period of one year, from November 14, 2017 until November 14, 2018, subject to reappointment thereafter. Mr. Hawkes seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

On the recommendation of Police Chief William Bosworth, Mr. Ryan moved to appoint James Banatoski as a Special Police Officer for the Town of Stow, for a term expiring June 30, 2018 and subject to reappointment thereafter. Mr. Hawkes seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

On the recommendation of Police Chief William Bosworth, Mr. Ryan moved to appoint Cody Costa as a Special Police Officer for the Town of Stow, for a term expiring June 30, 2018 and

subject to reappointment thereafter. Mr. Hawkes seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Tax Classification Hearing

Mr. Burke read the legal notice to open the hearing at 7:23 pm. Kristen Fox, Principal Assessor and Dom Pugliese, Chair of the Board of Assessors were present. Ms. Fox reported that there is currently a single tax rate in Town and the estimated tax rate for FY 2018 would be \$20.98 per thousand in Stow. The average, single-family home tax bill would rise from \$9,251 in FY-17 to \$9,657 in FY-18. Mr. Pugliese explained that choosing a number more than 1 would split the tax rate. This would cause a change to commercial tax rates as well as tax rates for farms and agricultural properties. The Board voted to continue to use one-rate system for property tax assessments and they signed the Classification Tax Allocation for FY-2018.

The public was invited to present their views on whether or not Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Open Space and Personal Property should be taxed with one rate for all property classes or to use different tax rates for different property classes.

Mr. Hawkes moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Salvie seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Based on information from the Board of Assessors, Mr. Hawkes moved that the Town of Stow adopt a minimum residential factor of 1, to keep a single tax rate for fiscal year 2018, taxing all property classes at one rate. Mr. Ryan seconded he motion and it was passed unanimously.

Appointment to the Council on Aging (COA)

The COA Board voted last Thursday to recommend Peter Cirioni. Mr. Cirioni was present and spoke about his interest in serving on the Board of the Council on Aging. He will replace Newt Wesley (not present) who the Board thanked for his many years of service on the COA Board.

On the recommendation of the Board of the Council on Aging, Mr. Hawkes moved to appoint Peter Cirioni as a member of the Council on Aging, for an indefinite term. Mr. Salvie seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Assabet River Rail Trail – Don Rising

Mr. Rising was present and updated the Board on the Stow portion of the Assabet River Rail Trail (ARRT.) They discussed Track Road and intent to connect to Maynard and Hudson's portion of the ARRT in the future. Resident and cyclist Robert Evans of 22 Wildwood Road stated that he would appreciate if Track Road were more easily usable. Resident Margie Lynch mentioned that it might be useful to have signage at Track Road stating that the road is for use by all. With its gate closed, she said, it appears that it might be private land excluding use to visitors. She also stressed the importance of link Stow to the ARRT.

The Board thanked everyone for their input and work on the Rail Trail and asked for volunteers to step forward to help this effort. Anyone interested should contact the Board of Selectmen's Office.

Discussion/demonstration re: Town Website Update

Ron Eld, IT Director and Linda Hathaway, Town Clerk were present to discuss and offer a brief demonstration of the recently updated Town of Stow website. They explained many of the

features that are available to residents in order to automatically receive agendas, hearing announcements etc. once they have signed up for certain features that interest them. One new feature highlighted is the ability to pay bills online via a simple *payment* button.

Complete Streets Committee

Jesse Steadman, Town Planner was present and gave the Board a brief update on progress of the Complete Streets Committee. He stated that the group has been meeting with Howard Stein Hudson regularly. The Committee will be asking for input from business owners and residents regarding the Lower Village area in the near future via a Wikimap application. Users wishing to comment on the project or the Lower Village area can live click through the Planning Board website or submit comments/suggestions via hardcopy to the Planning Board office.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Wrigley reported that long-time Administrative Assistant to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Kay Desmond had submitted a letter to the ZBA expressing her intentions of retiring as soon as her replacement could be found. A qualified replacement has been found in the person of Karen Kelleher. Ms. Kelleher retired last year as Stow's Planner having spent 33 years working for the Town. The ZBA has voted to hire Karen and they are discussing a start date.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) recently asked whether it was possible to substitute Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (SMAHT) for the Stow Housing Authority as a member of the Community Preservation Committee which was created through Annual Town Meeting by-law vote in 2001. The by-law identifies the "Housing Authority" as being one of the named members of the CPC. The Stow Housing Authority would like SMAHT to represent the community's housing interests and needs on the CPC. The Selectmen would need to vote to appoint a SMAHT member to serve on the Community Preservation Committee.

The Stow Board of Health (BOH) is working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and a number of residents at Lake Boon in testing their well water for TCE, an industrial cleaning solvent. A recent residential well test showed elevated levels of THC in the water and additional tests of wells within 500 ft of the first well show varying elevated levels of this compound. The BOH met last Thursday evening to discuss this matter and to receive an update of DEP's on-going investigation.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Salvie reported that the Library Trustees met and are beginning their budget process. He mentioned briefly that CPC met and began the discussion about replacing the Housing Authority with SMAHT and that the Board might expect a request for action on this item soon. He said that the Stow Conservation Trust received a grant to protect small farm. They are waiting for information on a similar grant to protect Carver Hill. He mentioned that a matching grant is now available from a generous, conservation-minded Stow family. He reported that over 100 people participated in an Owl Walk at Town Forest last weekend organized by the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Hawkes said that there was a report from Lake Boon resident stating that their shallow well had gone dry; the inference being that the drawdown sets up potential for dry well, It was determined that the drawdown was not responsible in this case. A new pump installed and the well is now functioning.

He talked about a possible non-formal ceremony to light the Town's tree on the Lower Common on the evening of December 1. Resident Karen Stams is interested in organizing an event and

will attend a future Selectmen's meeting to request permission to use the Lower Common for such an event on December 1st.

Mr. Ryan thanked everyone and commended them on the process in hiring new police officer, James Landi.

Ms. Hegemann reported that the Recreation Commission will be meeting on Thursday, November 16th, and SMAHT will meet after Thanksgiving.

Mr. Burke mentioned that he attended the Veteran's Breakfast and learned that active service member Patty Bolton will now serve on the Veterans graves Committee

Mr. Burke mentioned that the Cannabis Commission is now up and running. He stated that he hopes to have the Town Planner attend the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss Stow's zoning regarding marijuana.

He mentioned that the Finance Committee will be appointing liaisons to Town boards and committees. He spoke of the Board possibly developing a list of goals. He said that the Local Cable Access Committee (LACAC) would be meeting soon.

The Eversource Project was discussed briefly. Mr. Burke stated that the only money spent by the Town to date on this subject was, with Town Administrator's approval, to have Town Counsel present at evidentiary hearings, approximately twice, in the past. He mentioned possible funding for the Towns from Eversource for mitigation of any damage done during the project. He stated that the COA is concerned about a crosswalk.

Correspondence

Mr. Hawkes mentioned an educational seminar that will take place on Monday, November 27th beginning at 5:45 p.m. on the campus of Middlesex Community College addressing implementing responsible local cannabis policies in Massachusetts. He stated that he hopes to attend.

Adjournment

At 9:50 p.m. Mr. Ryan moved to adjourn. Mr. Hawkes seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen Trunfio
Administrative Assistant*

Documents used at meeting:

Notice of Tax Classification Hearing
Mass DOR Classification Tax Allocation Sheet FY-18
FY-18 Classification Presentation (from the Board of Assessors)
Email from COA recommending Peter Cirioni for appointment
Map of "What this means for Maynard" re: ARRT

View meeting at:

Meeting YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWFPZOU2Pgk>