

Stow Board of Selectmen  
Town Building – Warren Room  
January 24, 2017

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

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

**Public input:** Town Clerk announced that census forms have been distributed and asked all to respond. She added that dog licenses are available and that nomination papers for the upcoming Town Election in May will be ready next week.

**Chair comments:** Mr. Salvie stated that there will be an Open House at the Pompositticut Fire Station/Community Center on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is invited to tour the facility. The Chair requested a moment of silence for the passing of Ellie Beaudette former town employee and volunteer.

**Minutes:**

*Mr. Hawkes moved to accept the meeting minutes of January 10, 2017 with amendments. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

**Discussion/vote on appointment to Open Space Committee**

Carole Sureau was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but the Open Space Committee voted unanimously on January 18, 2017 in support of her appointment. The Board stated that Mrs. Sureau was well-qualified to fill the position and that she had already made significant contributions to the preservation of Open Space in Stow.

*On the recommendation of the Open Space Committee, Mr. Hawkes moved to appoint Carole Sureau to fill a vacancy on the Open Space Committee, to serve an indefinite term. Mr. Burke seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

After the vote, the Board mentioned that they had established the Committee in 1998 as a short-term group that would evaluate open space parcels and prioritize the importance of the various parcels in town. After the prioritization task had been completed, however, they continued and add their opinion on many projects in town relating to Open Space. The Selectmen agree terms for members of this committee should be imposed and will arrange to implement that requirement with the annual July appointment process.

**Update from Town Buildings Use Committee**

Town Planner Jesse Steadman, Town Planner and Assistant Facilities Director Doug Hyde, representing the Building Reuse Committee, updated the Board on municipal building use specifically, the Crescent Street Highway barn, the former Fire Station building also on Crescent Street and historic Town Hall. Mr. Steadman summarized results received from a survey issued by the Committee and Mr. Hyde addressed the condition of the buildings. The Committee stated that it intends to come back before the Board in 6-8 weeks with a final report.

**Discussion/vote on permit for Stow Clean-Up Day**

Resident Sandy Taft was present to request permission to organize the Town's Annual Spring Clean-Up Day. Instead of the originally requested date of April 8<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Taft asked the Board's permission to plan the event for April 29<sup>th</sup>. He explained that this would align Stow's Clean-Up Day with those of neighboring towns including Harvard and Ayer. The Board thanked the Taft family for their work in organizing the event each year.

*Ms. Hegemann moved to permit Sandy Taft and his group of volunteers to use the Lower Common as a staging area for the Annual Stow Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 7AM to 12:30 PM and to waive any fees associated with hanging the banner to advertise the event. Mr. Burke seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

**Update on Lower Village plans**

Mr. Steadman and Assistant Planner Valerie Oorthuys updated the Board on developments with the Lower Village project. They stated that they will soon present final design and construction plans for the area. They explained reasons for seeking improvement to the area including supporting economic development. The Planning Department was recently awarded an \$850K grant which they must use within 120 days and is earmarked for this project.

**Discussion/vote on permit for 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike MS: Minuteman**

The Board voted unanimously to approve the MS Society Bike Ride scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Mr. Hawkes moved to approve the use of Town public ways for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual National MS Society "Minuteman" bike ride through Stow on Saturday, July 15, 2017. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

**Town Administrator's report**

Mr. Wrigley reported that he would present his preliminary FY-18 Budget at the Board's next meeting on February 14, 2017.

Mr. Wrigley left the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

**Liaison reports**

Mr. Burke reported that Eversource had not filed with the Energy Siting Board. He said that the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is currently reviewing seven projects that have come to them for consideration. He attended the recent Minuteman High School budget meeting. He said that it was reported that the construction manager for the new high school building project believes he can bring the project in one year earlier than expected and \$2M cheaper than expected.

Mr. Hawkes said that he attended a meeting at Nashoba Regional High School regarding safety issues on Route 117. It was suggested that NRSD look at Tahanto High School in West Boylston that has been dealing with a similar situation. He has been following the NRSD Finance Subcommittee meetings and has been impressed with School Committee member Mark Jones' diligence in working to understand the results of the recent forensic audit.

Ms. Hegemann said she had attended a meeting of the Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust and that Habitat for Humanity has been hired to manage construction on the Pine Point

Road parcel. SMAHT is requesting funds from the CPC. She attended a meeting of the Randall Library Trustees to discuss goals for the future of the Library.

Mr. Ryan reported that the a training room at the new Fire Station has proven very useful and has been utilized by other Town departments for trainings, such as CPR.

Mr. Salvie stated that he also attended a portion of the forum held by the Randall Library Trustees. He stated that Capital Planning had met last week and has four meetings scheduled in February and March. At the 2/16/17 meeting they will speak with Planning Board and Cemetery Committee. At the 2/23/17 meeting they will speak with the Randall Library Trustees and the CPC.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Hawkes called a letter from the Minuteman Meals on Wheels program to the attention of the Board requesting assistance in delivering meals during the month of March.

**Adjournment:** *Mr. Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. Ms. Hegemann seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Maureen Trunfio  
Administrative Assistant*

**Approved 2/14/17**