

Select Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 23, 2021
Stow Town Building & Zoom

Present in the Warren Room: Chair Ellen Sturgis, Megan Birch-McMichael, Cortni Frecha, James Salvie, and Town Administrator Denise Dembkoski

Absent: Zack Burns

Chair Sturgis called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Public Input

Mark Forgues, 9 White Pond Road and 39 Adams Drive, asked if the Chair would allow public input on license renewals. The Chair said no. Mr. Forgues then commented on Mr. Richard Presti's property at 92 Great Road.

Katie Fisher, 1 White Pond Road, commented on funds regarding sales taxes.

Dorothy Granat, 11 White Pond Road, commented on Mr. Richard Presti's Class II license and property.

Board Member Comments

Krista Flinkstrom of Stow, a senior at the US Military Academy majoring in economics, has been named a Rhodes Scholar and will be attending the University of Oxford in England.

The Stow Gobbler 5K, to benefit the Community Chest, is virtual this year and registration is available online.

Deb Woods is collecting Wreaths for Veterans for the cemeteries, and donated wreaths can be left at her house on Great Road. Her goal this year is 250 wreaths.

The Library Building Committee public forum that was held last week is available to watch on Stow TV.

Town Administrator's Report

- The Wreaths for Veterans placement will be at 12 noon on December 18 at Brookside Cemetery. Volunteers can contact Deb Woods at dwoods453@aol.com.
- There is information from the Library Building Project on the Randall Library webpage.
- Mistletoe Farms is now open; expect traffic delays over the next few weekends through December 12th. Stow's new tree farm, Taproot Tree Farm will be open one weekend only, on December 3-5. There is a traffic management plan in place to include one direction travel on Tuttle Road.
- The Town tree will be lit Wednesday, December 1st with a small ceremony that will be filmed and rebroadcast on Stow TV.
- Beginning this fiscal year the Town will be assessing boat excise tax, and there is information on the Assessors webpage.
- Mass DEP has issued an immediate response plan regarding PFAS in Gleasondale. Businesses that were or are in the mill have received this notice.

Police Department Commendation Policy

Chief Michael Sallese was present to discuss the new commendation policy.

Board member Salvie moved to approve the Police Department Commendation Policy as presented by Police Chief Michael Sallese. Board member Frecha seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Covid Vaccination Policy Update

The Town Administrator explained that OSHA has suspended activity related to the implementation and enforcement of a vaccine mandate policy pending further developments in litigation. She is waiting to see what happens between now and the next Select Board meeting and expects to have a policy to discuss in December. Currently, employees who have provided proof of vaccination may choose to not wear a mask, and those who have not provided proof of vaccination are required to wear a mask anywhere outside their individual space.

Common Victualer renewals for 2022

Board member Salvie moved to renew the Town's Common Victualer Licenses for the following businesses for 2022 through December 31, 2022:

*Stow LLC, dba Dunkin Donuts, @Stow Shopping Plaza, 117 Great Road;
29 Culinary LLC, dba Nan's Market, 271 Great Road*

Board member Frecha seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Class II Used Car License renewals for 2022

There was a request to increase the number of cars allowed onsite in the renewal packet for Car Lot Express. This request will be addressed at a future meeting.

Board member Salvie moved to renew the following Class II Licenses for 2022 through December 31, 2022:

*Patterson Auto Body, Inc., 18 Great Road;
Import Export of Boston, 8 Whitman Street;
BGL Automotive Corp., dba Hudson Road Auto, Inc., 383 Hudson Road;
Dover Speed Shop LLC, 370 Hudson Road;
Car Lot Express, 92 Great Road, Units 1 & 3;
YOLO MOTO CO, 92 Great Road, Unit 2*

Board member Frecha seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board member Salvie moved to renew the Class II License for Chapel Partners, Inc. through March 31, 2022:

Richard Presti, Chapel Partners, Inc., 102 Great Road

Board member Frecha seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Stow Acres South Course Purchase and Sale Agreement & Conservation Restriction

The Town Administrator reported that the Conservation Restriction for the 151 acres is pending and the Board was asked to approve it pending the final draft with minor, non-substantive changes. Conservation Director Kathy Sferra was present via Zoom and told the Board that the goal is to close by the end of December.

Board member Salvie moved to approve and sign the Stow Acres South Course Purchase & Sale Agreement, and further to approve signing a Conservation Restriction on approximately 151 acres, pending final draft from the EOEa with minor, non-substantive changes. Board member Frecha seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning

The Board is meeting on December 7 with the Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee and will be discussing the outlook for capital requests, and ARPA funds. The second part of the meeting will focus on Select Board goals.

Meeting Minutes

The “Letter of Support for SEHC for Plantation II Project” motion was corrected to 3-0 as Board member Salvie had recused himself.

Board member Salvie moved to accept the meeting minutes of the November 9, 2021 meeting with amendments. Board member Frecha seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Correspondence

There was no discussion regarding correspondence received.

Executive Session

Board member Salvie moved to convene in Executive Session, pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, section 21(a)(3) for the purpose of reviewing Executive Session minutes and also pursuant to MGL section 21(a) (2), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with John P. Benoit, for the position of Fire Chief, and to adjourn thereafter. Board member Frecha seconded the motion and it passed unanimously on a roll call vote: Salvie -aye, Frecha -aye, Birch-McMichael -aye, and Sturgis -aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Sampson

Executive Assistant

Documents used at this meeting:

Documents can be found in the Select Board’s Office in the meeting folder.