

Select Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022  
Stow Town Building & Zoom

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

Absent: Cortni Frecha

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

The Chair noted that if there is a vote that is not unanimous she will ask for a roll call vote. She also advised everyone participating in the meeting remotely that Stow TV is recording this meeting.

**Public Input:** None.

**Board Member Comments:**

Chair Sturgis noted that today is International Women's Day and Marilyn Zavorski's recently published book "Celebrating Stow's Women: 1920 and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment" is available at the Randall Library and the Council on Aging. She also noted that Jonathan Daisy of Stow TV produced a 20-minute video about the book.

Board member Birch-McMichael read the Town of Stow's Statement on Ukraine, which will be posted on the Town's website.

**Town Administrator (TA) Report**

- The COVID cases in Town continue to decline; we are at 18 cases which is 3.85%. At-home COVID test kits are still available to residents from the Randall Library circulation desk during business hours.
- Orders have been placed for many of the Capital ARPA projects, and the cost for many items are under the estimate. At the next meeting the first batch of project submissions for the remainder of the ARPA funds will be discussed. At the February 8th meeting the Board authorized deficit spending for the Snow & Ice Account; to date the account is overspent by approximately \$36,000.
- Town Meeting warrant articles are due by Friday, April 1, 2022.
- Nomination papers are still available from the Town Clerk's office for the May 21st annual election. The deadline to take out papers is March 30th, the deadline to return papers is April 1st at 5 p.m.

**Randall Library Friends Used Book Sale**

Carol Stoltz, Vice President of the Randall Library Friends, was present via Zoom.

Books will be accepted until March 31st in the Randall Library vestibule or the bin at Pompo. The Friends are looking for volunteers to help sort books, for sale preparation, and for the days of the sale. Contact Carol at [cjstoltz@comcast.net](mailto:cjstoltz@comcast.net) to volunteer or if you have a large amount of books to donate. Proceeds will go to the Friends to support programs and to the Randall Library renovation (if it is passed at Town Meeting).

*Board member Burns moved to approve a permit for the Randall Library Friends used book sale, to be held at the Pompositticut Community Center from Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24, 2022. Board member Salvie seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.*

### **NRSD (Nashoba Regional School District) Hartley Road Widening Project**

Patricia Marone, NRSD Business and Operations Manager, was present via Zoom. Police Chief Michael Sallese, Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Chair, was present via Zoom.

The project would add an approximately 500-foot staging lane for parent drop-off and pick-up to alleviate traffic congestion and allow for two-way free flowing traffic. Currently cars enter the Center School loop off Hartley Road and traffic backs up on to Hartley Road, blocking one travel lane.

During the pandemic there was an increase in parents driving students to and from school instead of the students using the school bus. Chief Sallese said the back-up issue is not due to COVID; this issue had been discussed prior to the pandemic. He said this can easily be resolved with the road widening. It will also add more parking, and will benefit Hale School.

The Highway Department may be able to do some of this work and the amount might come in lower than the \$42,000 estimate.

*Board member Burns moved to approve \$42,000 of ARPA funding for the NRSD Hartley Road widening project as presented at this meeting. Board member Salvie seconded the motion and it passed 3-1 on a roll call vote. Salvie -aye; Burns -aye; Birch-McMichael -aye; Sturgis -no.*

### **Fire Department Cistern Project**

Fire Chief JP Benoit and Captain Barry Evers were present via Zoom.

Representative Kate Hogan secured \$300,000 in ARPA funds for new cisterns in Stow.

Chief Benoit said cisterns are static water sources that are easy to maintain and allow for firefighter safety. The department works with developers and the Planning Board to install cisterns and there are currently 27 on the outskirts of town. All new developments since 1998 have had cisterns installed.

Captain Evers said of the twelve proposed locations, the initial focus will be on six critical areas where there is no water dedicated for fire suppression. A cistern holds 30,000 gallons of water and one will be located at the Fire Station on Great Road and specifically designed so it can also be used for training. When water in a cistern is used it is actively refilled, it does not recharge by groundwater. Each cistern has a service manhole to allow access for repairs and can be used as a back-up to get water out.

After the funding comes through and the RFPs (Request for Proposals) are done, the first cistern will be started by the end of May or the beginning of June, and the entire process should take about a year.

### **Diversity Discussion – Next Steps**

Member Birch-McMichael wanted to make sure that all Select Board members had a chance to add to the conversation. Member Burns asked how the Board would pivot to think about diversity more broadly. Chair Sturgis hopes that residents will bring requests for recognition of issues to the Board.

**Meeting Minutes**

*Board member Birch-McMichael moved to accept the meeting minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting as drafted. Board member Salvie seconded the motion and it passed 3-0-1 on a roll call vote with Board member Burns abstaining. Salvie-aye; Burns-abstain; Birch-McMichael-aye; Sturgis-aye.*

**Correspondence**

Chair Sturgis will have an email regarding a Master Plan update from Town Planner Jesse Steadman included in the packet for the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

*At 8:02 p.m. Board member Burns moved to adjourn. Board member Salvie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

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.*