

AGENDA  
SELECT BOARD  
May 23, 2023  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Building & Zoom

**The public may attend the Select Board meetings in person or may participate via remote Zoom access.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83577779390?pwd=THFxZi8vZDU4V0ZzeU92MXhwLzNQZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 7777 9390

Passcode: 55313397

1. Welcome to new Board Members
2. Re-organization of the Board
3. Public Comment
4. Board Member Comments
5. Town Administrator's Report
6. Recognition:
  - o Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
  - o Mental Health Awareness Month
7. Discussion and Possible Vote
  - o Nashoba Regional High School Building Project Update
  - o Annual June 1 Appointments – Building Commissioner, Inspectors, Forest Warden
  - o Permit for 2023 Recreation Department Boating Program
  - o Annual Town Meeting debrief
8. Meeting minutes
  - o May 9, 2023
9. Correspondence
10. Adjournment

Correspondence Received:

5/10/23 from Martin and Jane Brauer; Thanks to the Board and Town Administrator  
5/17/23 from Kathy Sferra; 2023 Update to the Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan – Draft for Comments  
5/17/23 from Thomas Gibson; Notice of Acceptance of Chapter 269 of the Act of 2022  
5/15/23 from Veronika Novakova; DPU 23-41 Eversource Energy – Notice of Filing and Request for Comments  
5/17/23 Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing 6/6/23 at 7:45 p.m. - 164 Barton Road  
5/12/23 Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing 6/6/23 at 7:30 p.m. – 148-156 Great Road  
5/8/23 Board of Appeals Notice of Public Hearing 6/5/23 at 7:15 p.m. – 98 Pine Point Road  
5/11/23 from Kathy Sferra; reply to email from K Laster  
5/9/23 from Kimberly Laster; Public Notice for Chapter 91 dock permit  
5/9/23 from Shonda D Green, MA DTC; License Expiration Notice  
5/12/23 from Niall Connors of Verizon; FIOS TV LFA Notice – Living Faith HD

Posted Friday, 5/19/2023  
11:30 a.m.

# RECOGNITION

# **RECOGNITION**

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and  
Pacific Islander Heritage Month  
Mental Health Awareness Month

# **DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE**

# Nashoba Regional High School Building Project Update

## Annual June 1 Appointments:

- Building Commissioner
- Inspectors
- Forest Warden



Town of Stow  
**SELECT BOARD**

Stow Town Building  
380 Great Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

978-897-4515 selectboard@stow-ma.gov Fax 978 897-4534

On the recommendation of Building Commissioner Francis Ramsbottom, these are the annual appointments that expire on June 1, 2023, and will need reappointment for one-year terms ending May 31, 2024:

- Francis Ramsbottom, Building Commissioner
- Douglas Hyde, Local Inspector
- Robert Norton, Inspector of Wires
- Dennis Monteiro, Deputy Inspector of Wires
- Michael Norton, Deputy Inspector of Wires
- Adam Sahlberg, Plumbing & Gas Inspector
- Robert Smith, Deputy Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Also, the annual appointment of the Forest Warden expires on June 1, 2023 and will need reappointment for a one-year term ending May 31, 2024:

- Fire Chief John Paul Benoit, Forest Warden

Permit for the  
Recreation Department  
Boating Program



Town of Stow, Massachusetts

*This is to certify that the:* Stow Recreation Department

is hereby granted an Annual Commercial Use Permit bestowing permission to use watercraft for Camp Stow and to rent watercraft including, but not limited to, kayaks, canoes, and a hydrobike on the premises of the Pine Bluff Recreation Area on Lake Boon, consistent with the document submitted by the Recreation Commission dated March 21, 2023, and the approval of the Lake Boon Commission at its April 12, 2023 meeting, effective immediately.

This permit is granted in conformity with the Boating Regulations of the Lake Boon Commission, issued by the Select Board and expires on:

Saturday, December 31, 2023

May 23, 2023



Town of Stow  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
380 Great Road  
Stow, Massachusetts 01775-112  
(978) 461-1411  
FAX (978) 897-4534

March 21, 2023

Conray Wharff  
LBC Chairman  
Town of Stow  
380 Great Road  
Stow, MA 01775

Dear Conray,

I'm writing a letter requesting permission to continue our boating program at Pine Bluff Beach Area.

1. Continue our Camp Stow boating program, which includes kayaking and canoeing.
2. Continue our boat rental program that currently runs when Camp Stow is not using the boats and when the beach is open on the weekends. This would include renting kayaks, and canoes.

We currently have 5 canoes, 6 kayaks and 1 hydro bike. We have no plans to increase fleet of boats this season.

The Stow Recreation Commission would again like to thank you for taking the time to consider our request. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Laura Greenough  
Recreation Director

Approved by LBC  
Apr 12, 2023

# Annual Town Meeting Debrief

# MINUTES

Select Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
Stow Town Building & Zoom

Present in the Warren Room: Megan Birch-McMichael, Ellen Sturgis, Cortni Frecha, Ingeborg Hegemann Clark, Hector Constantzos, and Town Administrator Denise Dembkoski

Chair Birch-McMichael called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Public Comment - none**

**Board Member Comments**

Mr. Constantzos acknowledged that May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; Jewish American Heritage Month; and Mental Health Awareness Month. He encouraged everybody to become more educated about their contributions to our culture and our country.

Chair Birch- McMichael acknowledged that this is Ms. Sturgis' last meeting as a member of the Select Board and thanked her for her years on the Board and her volunteer work for the town.

**Town Administrator (TA) Report**

- The TA thanked the Highway Department for their work on the landscaping outside of the municipal buildings.
- The TA asked the Board if there is anything they would like to do to prepare for the Town Meeting on Saturday. Chair Birch-McMichael said that she would respond to any questions at Town Meeting regarding the salary adjustment for the TA.

**Recognition - Detective Christopher Kusz**

Police Chief Michael Sallese was present in the Warren Room.

The Chief has written a letter of commendation to Det. Kusz for his investigative work this spring which resulted in numerous charges and warrants against those who were involved in larceny-related crimes in Stow. Chief Sallese wanted to make sure his professionalism and dedication is recognized and that the Board knows what kind of officers we have working in Stow.

**Recognition and Appointment - Lieutenant Darren Thraen**

Lt. Darren Thraen was present in the Warren Room.

Lt. Thraen is retiring this week from the Stow Police Department after 31 years and will stay on as a Special Police Officer. He began as a dispatcher in 1991 and became a police officer in 1993. He was promoted to sergeant in 2012 and was the DARE officer for many years. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2021 and has received several commendations during his career. He was nominated for a George L. Hannah Award for Bravery after rescuing a pilot from a burning aircraft at Minuteman in 2001.

Lt. Thraen said his DARE experience was a career highlight and he is grateful that he worked in this town for his entire career. Lt. Thraen thanked his wife who made it possible for him to work nights, weekends, and holidays at the beginning of his career. He expressed his appreciation to Chief Sallese for their work together and for promoting him to Lieutenant.

*Board member Sturgis moved to approve and sign a certificate for retiring Police Lieutenant Darren Thraen. Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

*Board member Sturgis moved to appoint Darren Thraen as a Special Police Officer for the Town of Stow, effective May 12, 2023 through June 30, 2023, and subject to reappointment thereafter. Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

### **Common Victualer License for DDK Coffee Shop, 626 Great Road**

Dawn Nelsen, owner, was present in the Warren Room.

Ms. Nelsen was the manager at the Mug & Muffin at this same location and the opportunity arose for her to take over the business. DDK will be a family run business and will have coffee and assorted pastries.

*Board member Sturgis moved to approve a Common Victualer license for DDK Coffee Shop at 626 Great Road in Stow, valid through December 31, 2023. Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

### **Special Even Permit for an Ice Cream Social**

Lisa Lavina, president of the Randall Library Friends, was present in the Warren Room.

Ms. Lavina said the group is sponsoring the ice cream social on the Friday night before SpringFest, and they will have vanilla and chocolate ice cream with all the toppings. They are finalizing a few things with the Board of Health and are getting the required insurance certificate.

*Board member Sturgis moved to approve a Special Event Permit for an Ice Cream Social at Pompositticut Community Center on Friday, June 2, 2023 from 6-8:30 PM, pending receipt of all approvals, permits and a Certificate of Insurance. Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

### **Special Event Permit for Stow SpringFest 2023**

There were no members of the SpringFest Committee present.

Ms. Dembkoski said the committee is waiting for two Board of Health permits. Everything else is in order. The Building Commissioner will inspect the tents either the night before or the day of the event.

*Board member Sturgis moved to approve a Special Event Permit for Stow SpringFest, scheduled for Saturday, June 3 from 10:30 AM-3:30 PM at Center School, pending receipt of all approvals and permits. Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

### **IHRA Definition of Antisemitism**

Martin and Jane Brauer were present in the Warren Room.

Following the antisemitism incident in town last fall, Mr. Brauer, a Stow resident and member of the Combatting Antisemitism Task Force of the Congregation Beth El in Sudbury, asked that the Board come up with a definition or statement against antisemitism. Mr. Brauer was invited to attend the meeting and he requested that the Select Board adopt the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of antisemitism:

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Mr. Brauer said the definition is a way to make sure that we are all talking about the same thing, adding that the best first step in addressing a problem is to define it. Mr. Brauer requested that the Board support related education by recognizing May as Jewish-American Heritage Month and January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. At the suggestion of the Board, Mr. Brauer will reach out to them in December regarding International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

*Board member Sturgis moved to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism for the Town of Stow.*

*Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

*Board member Sturgis moved to recognize May as Jewish-American Heritage Month.*

*Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Mr. Constantzos suggested that Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Month, and Mental Health Awareness Month, be added to the next agenda so that the Board can recognize these.

### **Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Draft Statements**

The Board continued its discussion of an Anti-Hate Statement, and ultimately decided to remove the “-isms” from the statement to make it all-encompassing. The Board continued its discussion of an Anti-Racism Statement.

Abby Morgan, 20 Railroad Avenue, was present via Zoom and thanked the Board for taking on this conversation. She felt that calling out specifics is helpful, particularly for folks who are marginalized, but realizes the statements could become too long.

With a strong desire to ensure that people are being heard and acknowledged in a proper manner, the Board will seek feedback on the Anti-Racism statement before adopting it.

*Board member Sturgis moved to approve the Town of Stow Select Board Anti-Hate Statement as amended this evening.*

*Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

### **2023 Special Town Meeting and Special Town Election**

Ms. Dembkoski recommended the Special Town Meeting (STM) be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 and the Special Town Election on Saturday, September 23, 2023. (The original proposed date for the STM would have been during Rosh Hashanah). A Monday night STM is due to the time constraints of the required vote. Ms. Dembkoski reviewed the timeline, noting that citizen’s petitions are due August 18, 2023 and require 100 signatures based on the Charter.

*Board member Sturgis moved that a Special Town Meeting be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at Hale School, 55 Hartley Road.*

*Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

*Board member Sturgis moved that a Special Town Election be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at Center School, 403 Great Road.*

*Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

*Board member Sturgis moved that the Board open the 2023 Special Town Meeting warrant on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, and close the warrant on Tuesday, August 1, 2023.*

*Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

### **2023 Annual Town Meeting**

The Board did not vote on any more articles. Ms. Demboski reminded everyone that all the information, including the presentations, is on the town's website. There is also information on the Kids Town Meeting which currently has 30 children enrolled.

### **Meeting Minutes**

*Board member Sturgis moved to accept the meeting minutes of the April 25, 2023 meeting as presented. Board member Constantzos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

### **Correspondence**

Chair Birch-McMichael noted that an email received regarding the Vulnerable Road Users Laws to increase road safety was included in the correspondence.

Ms. Frecha wanted to revisit Article 50 – Kane Land Walking Path Construction. The Capital Planning Committee is not supporting this article, although they support the project. The committee feels that the funding should continue to come from Community Presentation Funds.

Chair Birch McMichael asked if the Board wanted to vote on Article 4 – General Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, especially since it has the TA's salary increase. Ms. Sturgis noted that the Board has already voted on the contract. The Board will support this at the Town Meeting.

### **Adjournment**

*At 8:29 p.m. Board member Sturgis moved to adjourn. Board member Constantzos 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.*