

Minutes  
**STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Pre-Town Meeting**  
May 2, 2011  
6:00 PM  
Town Building  
**Approved**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Gary Bernklow called the meeting to order at 6:17pm. Present were,  
*Members:* Rick Connelly, Christopher Sarno, Ann Deluty, and Peter McManus  
*Associates:* Patricia Heron, Rick Rollins and Eric Sears  
*Secretary:* Elizabeth Tobey  
Guest: John Whitten, Charles Kern, Fred Dodge, Roy Dudley, Kathleen Willis and Ernie Dodd

**Review and Vote Articles**

Article 40 – Amend Zoning Map on Wireless Service Facility District

John Whitten explained that the origin of the article is from T-Mobile to build a tower at the Butternut Country Club. The Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously voted it down. It was suggested they try a zoning change to get in by right or a change of use. There was an application petition to stay the Federal litigation pending the outcome of the Town Meeting to see if the town will approve the expansion. If they do the litigation will go away.

The Planning Boards opinion is it's not needed. A consultant confirmed that they don't need this site for coverage and they have not proved they need this site for coverage. The bylaw maintains not over 35' towers in overlay districts and the Zoning Board of Appeals cannot issue use variances.

The payment to the country club for the tower placement is unknown. The plaintiff is the tower company.

Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 40- Amend Zoning Map on Wireless Service Facility District.

Peter McManus seconded the motion.

The motion failed unanimously 5 (Bernklow, Sarno, Deluty, Connelly and McManus)

Discussion: This article is not benefiting anyone local. It is not going to keep the golf course open and the golf course is not contacting anyone or making a case on it.

Article 39 – National Guard Reserve Tax Relief

Discussion: The state legislation was actually written this way. There are still some questions involved. It ends with the fiscal year if no one applies. It will be yearly.

Christopher Sarno moved to recommend approval of Article 39- National Guard Reserve Tax Relief. Rick Connelly seconded the motion

The motion carried unanimously 5 (Bernklow, Sarno, Deluty, Connelly and McManus)

Article 44 – Revocable Agriculture License

Discussion: They want to issue lengthier licenses. One or two years doesn't give them enough time. It allows the Conservation Commission to lease the same amount of time for their land leases.

Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 44- Revocable Agriculture License. Peter McManus seconded the motion

The motion carried

For	4 (Bernklow, Deluty, Connelly and McManus)
Opposed	1 (Sarno)

**Capital Requests**

Item 2 – Cemetery – Land Purchase - \$200,000

Discussion: The land was appraised from \$207,500 - \$255,00. The initial offer was over 3 year ago at \$275,000. The price has come down over the years. Another piece of land would be on the other side of town. We only have to break a 6-foot stonewall to access this land and have a new cemetery section. This will give the town 1361 plots x 6 cremations. The land was assessed at \$207k and he asked for \$200k. Only Stow residents can be buried in our cemeteries.

Christopher Sarno moved to rescind the previous recommendation of \$180k for the cemetery land. Ann Deluty seconded the motion  
The motion carried unanimously 5 (Bernklow, Sarno, Deluty, Connelly and McManus)

Christopher Sarno moved to approve Article 37-Item 2 – Cemetery Land Purchase in the amount of \$200k. Rick Connelly seconded the motion  
The motion carried unanimously 5 (Bernklow, Sarno, Deluty, Connelly and McManus)

Recess 6:55pm to Town Meeting

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ann Deluty at 11:07pm. Rick Connelly seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Connelly, Sarno, Deluty and McManus).

**Future meetings:**

May 24, 2011  
June 07, 2011  
June 21, 2011

Action Items:

Reorganize Finance Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,  
Secretary