

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 14, 2009**

Present at the meeting that was held at the Town Building were Chairman Thomas Ruggiero and Selectmen Stephen Dungan, Jason Robart, and Ellen Sturgis.

Selectman Kathleen Farrell was absent.

Also present were Town Administrator William Wrigley and Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin.

Chairman Ruggiero called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Public Input

None.

Chairman's Comments

Mr. Ruggiero reminded people of the April 27 Candidates' Night and the upcoming Annual Town Meeting, Town Election, and SpringFest.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Wrigley reported on the following topics:

- State and town budgets: The state budget has a \$157M shortfall in revenues and expects \$550M by the end of the year. There have been no further cuts in local aid yet. By the next meeting, he will have the final budget, showing \$235k to \$240k in unused levy capacity. At this time, the town is in good shape for next year.
- Assabet Water Co rates: On May 27, DPU will meet with Assabet Water Co and the two Harvard Acres interveners to begin talks on setting a rate.
- Kunelius case: Ms. Kunelius has appealed. The parties could not find common ground at this month's settlement session. The appeal will now go to court.

Land Use Task Force Report

Chairman Rick Lent and members Dot Spaulding and Mike Kopczynski met with the Board to present the task force's accomplishments and conclusions.

They plan to present their final report to Annual Town Meeting in May. Their activities included holding several town forums for input, inventorying Town-owned land, and holding multiple sessions to prioritize land needs and available parcels.

It was agreed the priorities change over time and are always fluid. They chose not to do an inventory of privately owned land after considering privacy issues. They delivered a process for responding to Chapter land that becomes available, which the selectmen adopted as a town policy.

The Board thanked the task force for its service and agreed that the group had completed their charge.

Appointment to the Council on Aging

Board members welcomed Ruth Delmonico and described her service to Stow as a teacher and volunteer over the years. Several thanked her for teaching their children. She said she had been volunteering with the COA and decided to apply for membership on the Council.

Mr. Dungan moved to appoint Ruth Delmonico to the Council on Aging; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor.

Stow Minutemen and the Historic Stow Musket

Members of the Stow Minutemen Rick Lawson and Jeff Needle visited the Board to report the progress in acquiring a Revolutionary War Era musket owned by the Stow family for generations. The Minutemen have been hoping to acquire the musket, which has come back onto the market since they last worked to purchase it.

The situation changed dramatically since the Stow Historical Commission and Community Preservation Committee agreed to co-sponsor a warrant article to purchase the artifact for \$13,5000 with the Minutemen and Community Preservation Fund each contributing half of the funds.

Now a resident, who wishes to remain anonymous at this time, has offered to donate the entire purchase price of \$13,5000 to the Town for the acquisition. It has been agreed that the musket would be placed in the care and custody of the Historical Commission.

The donor and Minutemen hope that the musket can be on display in the library. Former Stow resident and Minuteman Jeff Baker will custom build and donate a display case, worth between \$4,000 and \$6,000.

Appointment to and Expansion of the SpringFest Organizing Committee

Following receipt of her letter of interest, Mr. Dungan moved to appoint Penny Cushing to the SpringFest Committee; Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

Following a request from the current committee to increase the number of members from three to five and a discussion among board members, Mr. Robart moved to expand the SpringFest Committee to five members, with two-year terms; Mr. Dungan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Permit for May 9 Use of Lower Common for Town-wide Cleanup Day

Resident Marie Guiles asked the Board for permission to hand out bags and gloves on the Lower Common for a town-wide cleanup of roadside trash.

Mr. Dungan moved to authorize a permit to the organizers and volunteers for use of the Lower Common on May 9; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor.

Permit for May 15-17 Use of Public Ways for the Just Cause Breast Cancer Walk

On the recommendation of Public Safety Officer Sgt Tim Lima, Mr. Dungan moved to authorize a permit to the Just Cause Breast Cancer Walk on May 15 to 17; Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

Permit for May 16 Use of Public Ways for SpringFest Parade

Mr. Dungan moved to authorize a permit to the SpringFest parade on May 16; Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

Permit for May 17 Use of Public Ways for Stow Conservation Trust “Run for the Woods”

On the recommendation of Sgt Lima, Mr. Dungan moved to authorize a permit to SCT Run for the Woods race; on May 17; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor.

Liquor License for Nancy’s Air Field Café

Having received approval from the state on Ms. McPherson’s application for an All Alcohol liquor license, Mr. Dungan moved to issue a full liquor license to Nancy’s Air Field Café, [the fee] to be pro-rated based on her existing license; Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

The Board signed the license and Ms. McLaughlin will determine the appropriate fee for the new license.

Snow Field Recreation Facility Sign

Project Implementation Team member Bob Wilber returned to the Board to receive approval for the facility’s sign, as shown in a mock-up the Board reviewed.

Mr. Dungan moved to approve the sign to read “Stow Community Recreation Park;” Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

Selectmen’s Master Planning

Mr. Dungan said the Master Plan Committee now has a timeline and will have a draft of the Master Plan by a fall Town Meeting.

Liaison reports

MART: Mr. Ruggiero said that the Montachusett Area Regional Transit (MART) agency, from which Stow obtains some transportation services, is requesting a designated individual from the Town to manage all services and billing. COA Director Alyson Toole offered to fill this role.

It was agreed that the Board would vote on the COA taking this responsibility at its next meeting.

SpringFest: Ms. Sturgis said there were additions to the SpringFest events calendar and referred people to the Town’s website for the latest information.

At 8:30 pm, Ms. Sturgis moved to adjourn; Mr. Dungan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved as submitted, May 26, 2009