

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 28, 2009**

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

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 upcoming Town Meeting and election and asked them to attend.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Wrigley reported the following:

- FY 2010 budget: The House budget is \$57k less than the Governor's budget, on which his current budget is based. He has \$252k in unused levy capacity now. Given upcoming debt, he will use \$200k from Free Cash for the ambulance. There is only a 1.2-percent increase in his FY 2010 budget.
- Lake Boon Drawdown: The Lake Boon Commission filed an appeal in Superior Court and with the Dept of Environmental Protection in response to the Conservation Commission's denial of the proposed lake drawdown for weed control. Town Counsel has filed the Conservation Commission's response for the Town.
- Assabet Water Co: The Conservation Commission held a public hearing on wetlands along the route of the proposed Lower Village water supply. Regarding the rate setting, the dept of Public Utilities (DPU) requested Assabet Water to respond to 14 questions by May 5; with a working session on May 27. There may be a DPU adjudicatory decision between July 1 and 6. Mr. Wrigley confirmed that the Harvard Acres interveners have been active in the process so far.

Public Hearing on Pole Locations

At 7:10 pm, Chairman Ruggiero opened the hearing by reading the legal notice and certifying that abutters had received notice.

Hudson Light & Power engineer Jim Kennedy explained the purpose of the additional poles along Sudbury Road was to increase reliability of service in the area by linking State Road and Gleasondale. HL&P is using the minimum number of poles to save the maximum number of trees.

Mr. Kennedy walked the identified section of roadway with Tree Warden Bruce Fletcher and Superintendent of Streets Mike Clayton and both officials support granting the petition. Mr. Fletcher has already held the tree hearing.

Following questions from the Board, Mr. Dungan moved to close the hearing; Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

Mr. Dungan then moved to approve HL&P's request to locate 20 new poles alongside Sudbury Road, as described in the HL&P petition; Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

The full Board signed the Order for Pole Locations, which is forwarded to the Town Clerk for processing.

Meeting Minutes

March 10: Mr. Dungan moved to accept the March 10, 2009 minutes, as submitted; Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

March 24: Mr. Dungan moved to accept the March 24, 2009 minutes, as submitted; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor.

Acceptance of Gift Funds for Stow Musket

As required by the Town Charter, the Board voted to accept funds to be used to purchase the historic Stow musket, as described by the Stow Minutemen at the April 14 meeting. An anonymous donor is giving the money to the Town.

Mr. Robart moved that the Board vote to accept a check for \$13,500, and read the donor's letter, dated April 28, 2009, as follows; Mr. Dungan seconded; and all voted in favor.

"I would be pleased to present the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Stow with a check for \$13,500 for the purchase of an Improved 1766 French Charleville military musket, also known as the "Stow musket," owned by the Estate of Thomas Wolfe, and identified by Littlefield Antiques, LLC of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, in a letter dated July 15, 2008.

It is my wish that the musket be placed under the care and custody of the Stow Historical Commission, with the following understanding:

- *It be securely displayed in a publicly accessible area designated by the Board of Selectmen, with a plaque that would read:*

*Donated to the Town of Stow
By [donor's name]
In Loving Memory of [a spouse]
April 28, 2009*
- *It may be used by the Stow Minutemen, in a responsible manner, on Patriot's Day, at SpringFest, and on Memorial Day.*
- *It may occasionally be used in other events for the public benefit, with the approval of the Historical Commission by a majority vote of the Commission.*
- *These are my only expectations regarding this donation."*

Ms. McLaughlin will submit the check to the Town Accountant for acceptance and continue to work with the donor, Historical Commission, and the Minutemen to arrange the Town's acquisition of the musket.

Appointment to SpringFest Organizing Committee

Due to a posting error, Ms. Sturgis's appointment to the committee had to be postponed until a new posting period expired. She was already active in the event planning and no other candidates had come forth.

Mr. Wrigley advised that the Board could appoint her to a voting position "temporarily," and make the position permanent at the end of the new posting period. The Board agreed to do so.

Mr. Dungan moved to appoint Ellen Sturgis to the SpringFest Organizing Committee as a temporary member, to be made permanent on Wednesday, May 13; Ms. Farrell seconded; and all voted in favor.

Designation of COA Director as MART Business Signatory

In response to a request for a designated signatory for the Town from the Montachusett Regional transit Authority (MART) administrator, the Board agreed to name COA Executive Director Alyson Toole. At present, the COA is the only Town department using MART services, so this is the practical solution. If this changes, for example if the Town wants to expand the transportation services, the MART designee will be reconsidered.

Mr. Robart moved that the Selectmen's Office appoint and designate Alyson Toole to submit all billing information to MART; Mr. Dungan seconded; and all voted in favor.

One-Day Liquor License for Decibel's Foundation

Ms. Farrell moved to issue a one-day liquor license to the Decibels Foundation for their June 22 event; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor. The Board then signed the license.

Permit for "Positive Spin" ALS Ride

On the recommendation of Public Safety Officer Sgt Lima, Mr. Dungan moved to approve the Positive Spin bike ride through Stow on June 22; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor.

Liaison Reports

Master Plan: Mr. Dungan said the committee is continuing its work and publishing updates in The Stow Independent.

Public Safety: Mr. Ruggiero reported that Fire Chief McLaughlin had taken the lead in managing the Town's response to Swine Flu. The chief held a meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, teleconferenced with Mass Dept of Public Health, and was in contact with the Center for Disease Control. He continues to monitor the situation. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of the flu in Massachusetts or New England.

At 7:40 pm, Mr. Dungan moved to adjourn; Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved as submitted, May 26, 2009