

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

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

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

Chairman Dungan called the meeting to order at approximately 7 p.m.

Public Input

None.

Chairman's Comments

None.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Wrigley reported the following:

- Master Plan: Ms. Spear, Ms. Farrell, and Mr. Wrigley have the task of developing a Master Plan Implementation Plan, a working document that considers all of the identified projects and programs in the Master Plan and provides a process for making actionable decisions on implementation. They began by reviewing MGL C. 42, s. 81D to establish the general direction of their efforts.
- Assabet Water: At 4:00 p.m., Mr. Wrigley received news from the Dept of Public Utilities that a settlement had been reached between the Assabet Water Co. and the two Harvard Acres interveners, Jack Mileski and Amy Barnes, regarding a new water rate. This is good news for all concerned and most likely closes the matter.
- He, Mr. Clayton and Mr. Martin are moving forward with the parking lot expansion at the Town Building and Mr. Martin has begun the conference room expansion of the third floor.

Meeting Minutes

July 14: Ms. Sturgis moved to accept the July 14, 2009 minutes, as submitted; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

Recognition of Employees and Volunteers

Mr. Dungan introduced the Board's desire to recognize individuals for their contributions to the Town and the community. The Board presented certificates of appreciation to four people, as follows:

Dick Bonetti: "Dick Bonetti has been a Stow Lion for 35 years, during which he has given generously of his time and resources. He has served at the local level as Club President and the Club Secretary seven times. At the district level, he has served as Zone Chairman four times, Region Chairman four times, Cabinet Secretary Treasurer, and District Governor. Throughout this time, he has chaired dozens of projects, served on numerous committees, and sponsored many new Lions.

“In recognition of Dick’s service, the Stow Board of Selectmen is pleased to present this citation on this the 28th day of July 2009.”

Mr. Bonetti responded that no one does this alone and the Stow Lions supported him 100 percent. Lion Jon French expressed his appreciation to the Board for its recognition of Dick.

Charlie Saari: “Charlie Saari has retired this year, having served the Town of Stow as Wiring Inspector from 1970 to 2009.

“In recognition of Charlie’s 39 years of service, the Stow Board of Selectmen and Building Commissioner are pleased to present this citation on this the 28th day of July 2009.”

Ken Desmond: “Ken Desmond began his service to the Town of Stow as Stow’s first wiring inspector, a position he held from, 1963 to 1970. From 1973 to 2008, he served as Deputy Wiring Inspector. Ken was also Stow’s first Building Inspector, from 1966 to 1970. He served the Fire Department in several roles: as a Firefighter from 1965 to 1982, as a Fire Engineer from 1972 to 1982, and as the Deputy Fire Chief from 1974 to 1982. From 1963 to 1966, Ken was a member of the Fire-Police Station Building Committee.

“In recognition of Ken’s 46 years of service, the Stow Board of Selectmen and Building Commissioner are pleased to present this citation on this the 28th day of July 2009.”

Building Commissioner Martin thanked the Board for recognizing his department’s retiring employees for their contributions to the Town.

Frank Milak: “Frank Milak has retired this year from the Veterans Graves Committee, having faithfully served the Town of Stow and Stow’s veterans. He was a firefighter from 1969 to 1974 and a standby firefighter from 1975 to 1978. He served on the Cemetery Committee from 1968 to 1985 and on the Veterans Graves Committee from 1984 to 2009.

“In recognition of Frank’s 51 years of service, the Stow Board of Selectmen is pleased to present this citation on this the 28th day of July 2009.”

Historical Commission Appointment

Ralph Fuller visited the Board for his appointment to the Historical Commission. Mr. Dungan introduced him as a member of the Ancient Documents and Assabet River Rail Trail committees and as the author for a Stow Independent series on interesting historical facts about Stow.

Ms. Sturgis moved that the Board appoint Ralph Fuller to the Historical Commission, for a three-year term, ending on June 30, 2012; Ms. Farrell seconded; and all voted in favor.

As he departed, Mr. Fuller joked that all his Town and community services began with a visit to Small Farm, just to buy some corn for dinner.

Appointment to Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

Ms. Spear moved that the Board appoint Donna Jacobs to the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, for a two-year term, ending on June 30, 2011; Mr. Ruggiero seconded. During discussion, Ms Sturgis raised the issue of appointees visiting the Board prior to appointment. Board members and Ms. McLaughlin discussed the process and it was agreed that the Board would decide which

appointees must be present to be appointed. Following discussion, four members voted in favor (Dungan, Farrell, Ruggiero, and Spear) and one abstained (Sturgis). The motion carried.

Re-appointment to Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

Ms. Sturgis moved that the Board re-appoint Constantine Papanastassiou to the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, for a two-year term, ending on June 30, 2011; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

Re-appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Spear moved that the Board re-appoint Lee Heron to the Zoning Board of Appeals, as an associate member, for a five-year term, ending on June 30, 2014; Mr. Ruggiero seconded. Four members voted in favor (Dungan, Farrell, Ruggiero, and Spear) and one abstained (Sturgis). The motion carried.

Permit for West School Parking Lot Use

Ms. Sturgis moved that the Board permit Vin Antil of Hiley Brook Road to use the West School parking lot on Saturday, September 19 (alternate date – Saturday, September 26) for the purpose of overflow parking for a private event; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

Closing Date for Fall Town Meeting warrant

Ms. Sturgis moved that the Board set the closing date for the October Town Meeting warrant as Friday, September 11, 2009; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

The Board briefly discussed the timing of the Special Town meeting relative to the Mass School Building Authority timeline for project approvals. It will probably be a tight fit. Members also discussed some of the advantages and disadvantages of printing the warrant in the newspaper (especially for a small warrant) versus printing and mailing individual warrants to every household.

Restructuring the Cable License Advisory Committee

Following a discussion with the three members of the current Cable Licensing Advisory Committee (CLAC) – Chair Lew Halprin and members Army Buckman and Bob Mong – the Board reconstituted the committee as follows:

- 1) Ms. Sturgis moved that the Board disband the current Cable Licensing Advisory Committee, effective immediately; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.
- 2) Ms. Sturgis moved that the Board form a new Cable License Advisory Committee, consisting of three members, for terms of three years, and to set staggered terms of the first appointments of one member for three years, one member for two years, and one member for one year. Ms. Spear seconded and all voted in favor.

Letters to State Legislators on Verizon's Licensing Proposal

CLAC Chair Lew Halprin explained how proposed legislation that Verizon is trying to get the state to pass (S 1531/H 3765) would restrict the Town's ability to control our cable licenses. The legislation would impose a 95-day start-to-finish licensing process, too short a time for adequate due diligence and negotiations. He requested that the Board send letters of concern to Sen. Eldridge and Rep. Hogan.

Ms. Farrell moved that the Board send these letters on new cable licensing legislation, as recommended by the Cable License Advisory Committee, to Sen. Jaime Eldridge and Rep Kate Hogan; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

Wildlife Woods Open Space Parcels

Following up on the Board's July 14 discussion, Ms. Spear reported that Town Counsel had advised the Planning Board that Planning and the Selectmen have overlapping jurisdiction, with the Selectmen having custody, including maintenance costs, and the Planning Board having authority to approve the parcels' use. Furthermore, the Zoning Bylaw for PCDs implies passive recreation but does not explicitly address the question.

Members agreed to wait to hear back from the Planning Board before taking further action and that the two boards should work together to agree on use.

Anthony Parinello, an abutter on Whispering Way, asked the Board several questions about the issue. Bill Byron, of Gleasondale Road, noted that the "use" questions were avoidable if the land had been left with the landowners instead of accepted by the Town.

Members agreed to more thoroughly investigate the background and conditions on land parcels before accepting them for the Town.

Town of Easton Values and Ethics Statements

Following up on the Board's July 14 discussion, Ms. Spear presented a slightly revised version of the Town of Easton Selectmen's Statement of Ethics for the Board's consideration.

Following discussion, Ms. Spear moved to accept this Statement of Ethics; Ms. Farrell seconded; and all voted in favor.

Update on Assabet River Dam Study

Mr. Dungan reported that the Army Corps of Engineers would have its report on the Assabet River water study available for public review shortly.

Liaison Reports

Master Plan: Mr. Dungan said the Master Plan Committee needs an additional month to provide a draft for Ms. Farrell, Ms. Spear, and Mr. Wrigley to use to begin an implementation plan.

Recreation and Public Safety: Mr. Ruggiero reported that the Conservation Commission was looking into a resident complaint the Board received regarding water at Stow Acres.

MAPC: Ms. Spear briefed the Board on two pieces of legislation on zoning reform that MAPC is looking into: LUPA (Land Use Partnership Act) and CPA II.

Planning Board: Ms. Spear reported that "sidewalks are hot," there being a big resident response to the new Sidewalk Committee posting. She also said she will help Karen Kelleher write the Town's Commonwealth Capital application to the state.

ESBC: Ms. Sturgis reported that the school building project was moving quickly. The ESBC met with DEP on water and septic and, per DEP, Hale, Center, and the fire station all must be clustered (designed and managed as a group). The Town will not have to do a wastewater treatment plant and might need water from Assabet Water's line to Lower Village.

Capital Planning, Conservation, ARRT, and Tri-Town: Ms. Farrell said there was no news to report in these areas.

Municipal Affordable Housing Trust: Mr. Dungan said the Trust would bring its Housing Production Plan to the September 1 Board meeting for discussion.

At 8:40 p.m., Ms. Farrell moved to adjourn; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved as submitted, September 1, 2009