

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
January 27, 2009**

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

Also present was Town Administrator William Wrigley.

Chairman Thomas Ruggiero and Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin were absent.

Acting Chairman Farrell called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**Public Input**

None.

**Chairman's Comments**

Ms. Farrell briefly reviewed the agenda.

**Visitors**

Alex and Nick Papanastassiou were present along with Laura Greenough, Recreation Director and Megan Foley of Habitat for Humanity. Alex and Nick organized another "Gobbler Race" this past Thanksgiving Day, and the event raised approximately \$9000. They had already donated half of this amount to the Stow Community Chest, and this evening, they presented a check for the balance to Ms. Foley. She lauded Alex and Nick for their initiative and hard work. Alex and Nick also acknowledged the help and support they received from Ms. Greenough.

**Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Wrigley covered the following:

- He is close to completing a contract with RAD Sports to construct the athletic field on the Snow property.
- Our new fire truck is under construction and he expects delivery this spring.
- He met with State Representative Kate Hogan to review the projects Stow submitted for potential new federal funding.
- His projected 10% reduction in local aid is in line with the reductions proposed by Gov. Patrick at the recent MMA meeting in Boston.
- He has started his review of the departmental FY '10 budget submissions and plans to give the Selectmen a preliminary report on Feb. 10. He will conduct the annual Town Administrator's joint boards budget meeting on Feb. 24. At the meeting on Mar. 24, he will present his budget recommendations to the Selectmen.

**Meeting Minutes**

None available.

**Public Hearing for Liquor License Alteration of Premises/Change of Location**

Ms. Farrell opened the hearing at 7:17 p.m. by reading the legal notice that was published in the *Stow Independent* on Jan. 14, 2009. Robert Page LLC has requested a liquor license to reflect the

expansion of their lounge to the second floor. Their former license covered only the lounge on the first floor, and that license expired at the end of 2008.

Mr. David Page was present, and he outlined the expansion plans. He also informed the Board that he had asked the Assessors for a list of abutters. He received only two names: the Stow Conservation Commission and Page LLC.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., Ms. Sturgis moved to close the hearing and Mr. Robart seconded the motion. Ms. Sturgis moved to approve the application and Mr. Robart seconded. Both motions were approved by unanimous vote.

#### **Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, May 2009**

Mr. Robart moved to open the warrant on Jan. 27, 2009 and to close it on Mar. 13, 2009. Ms. Sturgis seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous vote. The closing date is subject to further review by the Town Clerk and the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Robart stressed the need to have all articles in complete form by the deadline. Articles will be deemed incomplete if they lack dollar amounts and funding sources.

#### **Community Development Planner Position**

Mr. Dungan reminded the Board that members supported a recommendation made by Mr. Robart during the meeting on Sept. 9, 2008. At that time, we agreed to defer any decisions about the need for this position, its title, and responsibilities pending receipt of reports from both the Land Use Task Force and the Master Plan Committee.

Mr. Dungan reported that the Master Plan would not be available by the May Annual Town meeting. A review of the current draft by the consultant revealed substantially more work remaining. In addition, the Master Plan Committee spent a lot of time recently on the public survey. Mr. Dungan said it should still be possible to identify the likely key recommendations in time to make a decision on this position and its impact on the FY '10 budget. He noted that the Master Plan should be complete by the fall in time for approval at a potential Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Kopczynski, speaking from the audience, asked if the Board would consider input from other sources on this matter. Mr. Dungan urged Mr. Kopczynski to send a note directly to the Board, and that no particular format was required.

#### **Lake Boon Drawdown**

Ms. Farrell stated the Conservation Commission was performing due diligence on this matter as it relates to the Notice of Intent for the drawdown. She does not believe the Board has enough information to take a position at this time. She also stated that the Conservation Commission is responsible for the final decision. She has learned that the Board of Health is not in favor of the drawdown.

The Conservation Commission's hearing has been taped, and the hearing has been continued to Feb. 3.

A member of the audience, Mr. William Byron, stated his opinion that the Selectmen really have final say in this matter. He based his statement on a review of the deed that appears to give the Board control over the lake. Mr. Wrigley said that provisions of the deed notwithstanding, he sees overlapping jurisdictions. For example, Ch. 90 gives authority to the Department of

Environmental Management to regulate “great ponds”. The local Conservation Commission also clearly has a role. Mr. Wrigley said that before a decision is reached, multiple boards and committees would be involved.

**Selectmen’s Master Planning**

Mr. Dungan reported that he had nothing further to add to his earlier remarks.

**Liaison Reports**

**Tri Town Meeting:** Ms. Sturgis noted that the next Tri Town meeting has been rescheduled to Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. in Lancaster in order to avoid a conflict with the Master Plan Committee’s public forum on Feb. 4.

**ESBC:** Ms. Sturgis said the work of the ESBC is proceeding, and that the next significant step was a meeting with the MSBA’s Design Review Board.

**Land Use Task Force:** Mr. Robart reported that the Land Use Task Force will meet this coming Thursday to begin discussing land needs priorities. The group is also considering a public forum focused on this subject.

Mr. Dungan moved to adjourn at approximately 8 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robart and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen M. Dungan  
Acting Clerk, Board of Selectmen

Approved as submitted, February 10, 2009