

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
April 26, 2011**

Present at the meeting that was held at the Town Building were Selectmen Stephen Dungan, Charles Kern, Thomas Ryan, James Salvie, and Laura Spear.

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

Chairman Spear called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

**Public Input**

Veterans' Graves Committee member Phil Moseley asked if the Town has considered removing the requirement that members of the Veterans' Graves Committee be veterans, in addition to the other committee requirements. He said there are fewer veterans available to serve these days, which makes finding volunteers more difficult.

**Chairman's Comments**

Ms. Spear expressed her sympathies to Detective Steve Sturtevant on the loss of his mother and to the Lynch family on their loss of Jean. She offered congratulations to Fire Chief McLaughlin on achieving special credentialing from the Commonwealth.

**Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Wrigley reported on the following:

- He received Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approval for the expanded parking at the Town Building. The construction funds have already been approved by Town Meeting so work can begin.
- He met with Rich Presti, Lower Village property owner, on the possibility of Mr. Presti providing water from his site for his own and his neighbors' use. An agreement to use Town conservation land that abuts Mr. Presti's as part of the required well radius could make this possible. Discussion continues.
- The final shutdown for the Assabet Water Company system at Harvard Acres is in progress. E,T&L is doing the physical disassembly work with DEP.

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 8:** Mr. Dungan moved to accept the March 8, 2011 minutes, as amended; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

**March 22:** Mr. Dungan moved to accept the March 22, 2011 minutes, as amended; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

**Multi-Use Track Road Committee Appointment**

The Board appointed three new members to this committee, bringing the total to four of the five members required. Barbara Myles of Wildwood Road, Rachel Persson-Ganimian of Hastings Street, and John Akers of Heather Lane were appointed this evening; Mike Kaskiewicz of White Pond Road was appointed on April 12.

Mr. Dungan moved to appoint John Akers to the Multi-Use Track Road Committee, for a three-year term, ending on June 30, 2014; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Mr. Dungan moved to appoint Barbara Myles to the Multi-Use Track Road Committee, for a two-year term, ending on June 30, 2013; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Mr. Dungan moved to appoint Rachel Persson-Ganimian to the Multi-Use Track Road Committee, for a two-year term, ending on June 30, 2013; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

#### **Bose Gift to Veterans' Graves Committee**

Veterans' Graves Committee members Phil Moseley, Chairman Jeffrey Lance, and George Veracka visited the Board with news that the Bose Corporation facility on Old Bolton Road donated a portable amplifier to the Town for the use on Memorial Day and other special Town events. For many years, the committee had borrowed equipment, often unsuitable, for the outdoor speeches on Memorial Day. Mr. Moseley, a newly appointed member of the committee, contacted Bose to request the donation and Bose generously obliged.

The Board of Selectmen is responsible for accepting gifts to the Town. Mr. Dungan moved to accept the Bose Company's gift of an L1 model I portable amplification system to the Town of Stow, with care and custody given to the Veterans' Graves Committee for use primarily at their Memorial Day activities and for other Town functions, as approved by the Committee. Mr. Ryan seconded and all voted in favor.

The Board thanked both Mr. Moseley and Bose. The Board will follow up with a written thank you to Bose, as well.

#### **Decibels Foundation One-Day Liquor License**

Mr. Dungan moved to grant Julia Dunning a one-day liquor license for the annual Decibels Foundation fundraising golf tournament on June 20, 2011 from 10 am to 8 pm at the Wedgewood Pines Country Club. Mr. Ryan seconded and all voted in favor.

Mr. Ryan questioned whether the applicant required liability insurance in order to be granted a one-day license. Ms. McLaughlin said not to her knowledge but agreed to research it.

#### **Visit from Randall Library Trustees**

Chair of the Trustees Tim Reed visited the Board to discuss the question of whether the Randall Library might move to the Pompositticut School building, as part of the re-use project, or stay in its current location. The Board also wished to decide whether the library building should become one of its priorities.

Mr. Reed said the building is "getting tired." There is no room for the staff to work; the Director's office/staff workspace is small, damp, and crowded. There are space conflicts with different groups, such as the Periodicals and Children's areas, and there are no independent meeting rooms. The water leakage problems are because of the foundation's design and cannot be corrected without major expense. He said the Trustees felt it would be irresponsible not to investigate space at Pompo.

The state will not give the Town funds to rehab this building because of the lack of parking. A town this size should have 16,000 sq ft of space. The alternatives to the Randall building are Pompo or a new building on new land. The Re-use Committee plans to bring two choices to Town Meeting, one of which would include space for the library.

Three neighboring towns recently constructed libraries: Boxborough for \$3.7 million (at \$308/sq ft), Bolton for \$5.7 million (at \$340/sq ft) and Maynard for \$6.2 million (at \$255/sq ft).

During discussion, the following options were raised:

- Look for benefactors.
- Move upstairs for more space (requires major structural improvements and addition of a full-time employee to monitor).
- Involve Sen Eldridge and Rep Hogan, both of whom are on the Board of Library Commissioners.
- Consider regionalizing the library as we have the schools.

In closing, Library Trustee John O'Keefe reinforced Mr. Reed's position that the library is a center of the community and it is the one place where, in this time of electronic media, you can browse, seeing and touching real books.

### **Appointment of New Police Chief**

Mr. Wrigley introduced the topic by providing the background and process of recommending the new chief: the formation of the search committee, the stages of evaluation, and so forth. He then spoke of Sgt Bosworth's qualifications, with a special note that with him as the union president, Stow is the envy of other communities in the relationship between management and the union.

Commenting on the room full of Town employees who had joined the meeting, Mr. Wrigley said that their presence showed strong support from three Town departments – Police, Fire-Rescue, and Highway – for Sgt Bosworth's appointment.

Several selectmen noted the Town's "enviable position" of having three good internal candidates from which to choose, i.e., the three police sergeants, and thanked Mr. Wrigley for organizing the selection process.

Mr. Dungan moved to accept the Police Chief Search Committee's recommendation to appoint Sgt William Bosworth as the Stow Police Chief, subject to the successful negotiations of a contract; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

### **Permits**

This discussion was a follow-up to an earlier question of what activities should require a permit from the Board. The example was a charity walk from Stow to Concord by the Stow Women's group. The General Bylaws require the Board of Selectmen to issue permits for use of public ways and Town land. It was agreed that modifying the bylaw should be considered in the future but, for now, the Board should continue to issue permits for these activities.

### **Sustainable Communities Grant**

These state grants might provide funds for the Lower Village and the rail trail. Ms. Spear agreed to work with the Planning Board to pursue this.

### **Support of Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

The Board considered taking a position on three more Town Meeting articles:

- Article 39, National Guard/Reserve Tax Relief
- Article 40, Amend Zoning Map on Wireless Service Facility District
- Article 44, Revocable Agriculture Licenses

After discussion, it was agreed that the Board would not take positions on the articles as a body. Instead, members would vote as individuals at Town Meeting.

### **Master Plan Implementation and Priorities**

It was agreed that, in order for the newly elected selectman to participate, this topic would be taken up at the next meeting.

### **Support of House Proposal on Municipal Health Insurance Reform**

The Mass Municipal Association has informed the municipalities of a health-reform proposal from the House and encouraged them to support it. Mr. Salvie noted the 14-percent increase in municipal employee health insurance cost and said the proposal would offer municipal employees the same insurance as state employees currently have.

Mr. Salvie moved to write a letter on municipal health insurance reform to Rep Kate Hogan and Sen. James Eldridge, asking them to support the Municipal Health Insurance Reform as specified in the House budget, dated April 26, 2011, and to oppose Amendment 749; Mr. Dungan seconded; and all voted in favor. Mr. Salvie will draft a letter for the Board's review.

### **Stow Transportation Services Summary and Next Steps**

Mr. Dungan presented his findings on public transportation options for Stow residents, in particular on the needs of commuters. These findings are covered in his detailed report, dated April 18, 2010.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The state took away Acton's Dial-A-Ride funds, a "kidney punch" to the program.
- Stow's COA vans are not used before 8:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m., so there is the possibility of using them for other needs during their idle time.
- It was recommended that the Board set up a team to continue investigation on transportation services. Mr. Dungan would be willing to participate.
- The team should find out how much people are willing to pay for a shuttle service. It could be as simple as a taxi service. Someone could make it a small business.
- There are two needs: a van to South Acton and generalized transportation for those not covered by school and senior services.
- Dial-A-Ride's operational model should be reviewed.

Ms. Spear will write a committee description for the next meeting. The Board thanked Mr. Dungan for all his work on the transportation needs.

### **Liaison Reports**

**Police: Memorial Day use of rifles** -- Mr. Ryan said he spoke with Sgt. Bosworth on the Police Department's request for determination of who can use the rifles. It was decided that the Veterans' Graves Committee will give the Police a letter on who can pick up the guns.

**Police: Display of the Stow Musket** -- Mr. Ryan said that he, Daisy Dearborn, and Jeff Needle looked at the display case built and donated by the Stow Minutemen. The case builder offered to mount it. The next step is to get agreement from the Library Trustees to install it at the library. Mr. Ryan will go to the library forum to speak with Chairman Tim Reed.

**NRSD:** Mr. Salvie said the school committee approved the letter to the Town about returning custody of Pompo after it is vacated by the district. The committee also approved renewing the superintendent's contract for another five years.

**COA:** Mr. Dungan said he had been appointed an Associate member of the Council.

**Local Area Cable Advisory Committee:** Mr. Dungan said there is no requirement that a selectman be a member of the Advisory Committee. The only requirement is that the selectmen oversee the committee. He will stay as a member. The selectmen could appoint a liaison, as well.

Mr. Wrigley noted that, per the governance agreement, the Board is responsible for budget matters and liability issues. He recommended that the Board maintain close oversight of the cable TV operations.

**Historical Commission:** Ms. Spear said the commission rescinded its earlier vote not to support the Town Meeting article to preserve the Larsen apple barn and voted instead to preserve it.

**Conservation and Planning Board:** Ms. Spear said that the Conservation Commission is busy with determinations of wetland protection applicability. The Planning Board is busy submitting the CLURPA letter, getting a report on chemical use at the golf courses, and working on an agreement with Linear Retail on its signs.

**Fire-Rescue:** As liaison to the Fire-Rescue department, Mr. Ryan introduced Chief McLaughlin, who visited the Board to report on his attendance at the national conference on firefighting in Washington, D.C.

Chief McLaughlin noted the highlights of the trip:

- He met with our congress people on the importance of supporting grants to Stow.
- The Mass fire chiefs were chosen to put a wreath on the Grave of the Unknown Soldiers.
- State Fire Marshall Steve Coan, Chief McLaughlin's son (also a firefighter), and the Chief visited Cameron Kerr at Walter Reed Hospital, where Cameron is recovering from an injury sustained in Iraq. He said the visit was inspirational and every vet has a positive attitude.

At 9:25 p.m., Mr. Dungan moved to adjourn; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin  
Administrative Assistant

Approved as written, June 14, 2011