

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 23, 2011**

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

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

Mr. Bernklow was absent.

Mr. Salvie called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 p.m.

Public Input

None.

Chairman's Comments

Mr. Salvie noted three upcoming events:

- Wounded Warrior benefit bike ride on August 28, in which Stow resident Cameron Kerr will ride. Cameron is an Eagle Scout and alum of Stow Troop 1 who was severely wounded while on military duty in Iraq.
- Annual Lake Boon Water Carnival August 26-29.
- Dedication of Firefighters' Memorial on the 10th anniversary of 9/11, on September 11.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Wrigley reported on the following:

- The police department has set up a Facebook page to keep the public informed of situations and events and to improve communication with residents.
- The Planning Board has decided that there is not enough time to revise the wireless overlay district bylaw by the Special Town Meeting in November.
- The parking lot expansion at the Town Building is nearing completion.
- Mr. Wrigley executed a contract with Attorney William August to assist the Cable License Advisory Committee on the Comcast cable contract. The Local Access Channel Advisory Committee is funding the work.

Meeting Minutes

July 12: Mr. Ryan moved to accept the minutes of July 12, 2011, as amended; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

July 26 open session: Mr. Ryan moved to accept the minutes of July 26, 2011 open session, as written; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

July 26 executive session: Mr. Ryan moved to accept the minutes of July 26, 2011 executive session, as written; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

Mr. Ryan moved to make the minutes of July 26, 2011 executive session public; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

Lake Boon Update

Conray Wharff, chair of the Lake Boon Commission, and Kent Seith, chair of the Lake Boon Association, visited the Board with an update on the lake.

Mr. Wharff said there were no real issues at the lake at present:

- The lake is well patrolled. There is police presence, as well, as a backup.
- Jet skis are manageable.
- Lycott Environmental is in its second year of a three-year contract for invasive plant control using Sonar. The cost of the treatments is \$15,000 per year, with Stow contributing \$10,000 (two thirds) and \$5,000 from Hudson (one third)

An unfortunate consequence of killing the plants is that algae grow to eat the nutrients. He said that the nutrient loading in the lake is from rainwater runoff, not lawn care.

Drawing down the water level is another part of total lake management. This year, the draw down will start in early October. Last year, the level was taken down one foot. It will be taken down an additional foot this year.

Mr. Seith noted that the Association continues to offer discounted septic-system pumping for lake residents to help with the water quality and to educate residents about environmentally friendly lawn care. He also “made a pitch” for the annual Lake Boon Water Carnival, which he described as a great, old-fashioned family event.

Mr. Salvie raised the issue of road care: both North Shore Drive and Pine Point Road need work. Mr. Seith said the roads are a question of priorities, with Mr. Wharff asking that, if there are funds available, they be put toward care of the dam.

They agreed to return to report in once the effects of this year’s draw down can be determined.

Larsen Apple Barn Move/Disposal of Town Property

Lew Halprin visited the Board about saving the Larsen apple barn, which is scheduled for demolition in December. One positive item of note is the possibility of moving the building across the street to Derby Ridge Farm. He said the Mikoski family is enthusiastic. At the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting, there was a discussion on using CPA funds to move, make a base, and restore the apple barn. The project appears to meet the CPA criteria and now the committee needs details to move ahead.

Which Town department “owns” the project is an open question. Until now, the project has been driven by individuals who want to save the barn. Mr. Halprin said it needs a Town department to take responsibility now, to do a Request for Bids, write a warrant article, negotiate a contract, and so on.

The funding needed totals roughly \$300,000: \$150,000 to move and \$150,000 for the remaining work. The ESBC has set December 1 as the demolition date.

Mr. Halprin answered questions from Board members and a discussion followed on how to proceed.

Robert Wilber, chair of the Community Preservation Committee, noted that Mr. Halprin had presented an outline of a proposal to move it and committee members are aware of the value of

the building at the local level. He said it is important to establish a working group now. He listed possible historical preservation restrictions that might come with the use of CPA funds, such as preserving the building façade.

There followed a variety of opinions, comments, and suggestions from the board members and from officials and residents in the audience.

Mr. Halprin concluded by asking the Board of Selectmen and Community Preservation Committee to start taking action on this as a Town project and said he appreciated the open discussion on the issue.

The Selectmen each expressed their reservations about the proposal for a variety of reasons, particularly the cost and the fact that Annual Town Meeting and voters at the polls had expressed a lack of support for preserving the structure. Mr. Salvie stated his desire that the selectmen's office staff not take a leading role in the project, but offer technical assistance only. Recognizing that the building is in fact surplus, however, Mr. Salvie said he would put the topic on the first agenda in December and that he and Ms. McLaughlin would write a first draft of a Request for Bids for the building as surplus municipal property. The Community Preservation Committee would set conditions for using CPA funds.

Capital Project Development Committee Update

Mr. Kern, the selectman on the Ad Hoc Capital Project development Committee, reported that the three members met once, hearing presentations from the three project groups.

Then Mr. Kern reported that resident Whitney Granger advised the Pompo Use Committee on an RFP for an engineering feasibility study on the existing space use.

Next, Mr. Ryan reported that he met with Mr. Kern and Chief McLaughlin on the fire departments' requirements and the "thumbnail" plans. The Chief is expecting another set of plans soon.

Last, Mr. Salvie reported that the focus of the library project is not on add/reno. The trustees are evaluating what works and what doesn't, for example, the children's books are very popular. The building has much potential. Funding will be a combination of Community Preservation Act funds, fundraising, and appropriation by Town Meeting. He advises getting the public involved and "writing down what is in Tim's [Reed, chair of the trustees] head."

Appointment to Transportation Advisory Committee

At the last Board meeting, it was agreed to appoint Mr. Dungan, the only applicant so far, to the new transportation committee.

Mr. Ryan moved to appoint Stephen Dungan to the Transportation Advisory Committee for a one-year term, ending June 30, 2012; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

Reappointment to the Affordable Housing Trust

A miscommunication in a 2009 reappointment to the Housing trust was corrected

Mr. Ryan moved to reappoint Trish Settles to the Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust for a three-year term, ending June 30, 2012; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

Reappointment of Police Officer Harrington to a One-Year Term

Mr. Wrigley recommended that the Board reappoint the newest officer to a one-year, instead of a two-year, term. The police union contract is ambiguously worded on appointment terms and he is working with the union to clarify appointment terms.

Mr. Ryan moved to rescind the August 9, 2011 vote to appoint Chris Harrington as a full-time police officer to a two-year term, ending on June 30, 2013 and to appoint Chris Harrington as a full-time police officer to a one-year term, ending June 30, 2012. Ms. Spear seconded and all voted in favor.

Changes to FY 2012 Committee Memberships and Liaison Assignments

Selectmen's Pedestrian Walkway Committee membership change

Mr. Salvie said that he is resigning as the selectmen's representative to the Pedestrian Walkway Committee now that the project was firmly established and in Phase 1 construction and he did not see the need for a selectman to be a member.

Ms. Spear moved to rescind the June 14, 2011 vote to appoint James Salvie as a member of the Pedestrian Walkways Committee for a one-year term, ending June 30, 2012; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Selectmen's Library Trustees liaison change

Another change was made to liaisons to better balance the workload on the capital projects, now that Mr. Salvie is no longer on the Walkways Committee.

Ms. Spear moved to rescind the June 14, 2011 vote to appoint Charles Kern as the selectmen's liaison to the Randall Library Trustees for a one-year term, ending June 30, 2011 and to appoint James Salvie as the selectmen's liaison to the Randall Library Trustees for a one-year term, ending June 30, 2012. Mr. Ryan seconded and all voted in favor.

Re-issuing of November 2009 Letter of Support for Pilot Grove II Project

At the request of the Stow Community Housing Corporation, the Board reissued a letter of support for the Pilot Grove II project.

Mr. Ryan moved to issue an updated letter of support for the SCHC to send to HUD for the Pilot Grove II project, re-confirming the Board's vote on October 14, 2009 to support Article 4, Plantation Apartments Supportive Housing and Pilot Grove Expansion, at the Special Town Meeting, October 19, 2009. Ms. Spear seconded and all voted in favor.

Liaison Reports

Planning Board: Will bring a zoning bylaw amendment on commercial solar installations to the November Town Meeting.

Board of Health: Mr. Ryan attended a regional health services meeting with Chair Marcia Rising. The project, funded by the Mass Department of Health, is presently doing a needs analysis of services for each town.

Pedestrian Walkways: Ms. Spear and Mr. Ryan will work with the Planning Board and Superintendent of Streets regarding a difference of opinion on the walkway through the Town Center.

Future agenda topics: Realignment of Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust appointments, to Mr. Salvie as the selectmen's representative and Ms. Spear to At Large.

The next Tri-Town meeting will be hosted by Stow and needs to be set up.

At 8:58 p.m., Ms. Spear moved to adjourn; Mr. Kern seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved as amended, September 27, 2011