

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 13, 2012**

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

Selectman Laura Spear was absent.

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

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

Public Input

None.

Chair's Comments

Mr. Salvie commented on the following:

- There was a work shut down at the Center School site, due to an incident where a backhoe hit electrical and gas lines running from the road going to the building. There will be a federal OSHA investigation to determine how this occurred.
- The Stow Conservation Trust is kicking off an agriculture program, beginning with raising backyard chickens on March 31 at Mistletoe Farm.

Town Administrator's Activities Report

Mr. Wrigley reported on the following:

- At Mr. Salvie's request for information on the municipal use of solar power, he contacted his energy working group and four of the five members are interested in researching this. Mr. Salvie will let the group know specifically what information he would like.
- He sent a letter of support on the MAPC/MAGIC grant application for a regional agriculture planning program. The state will be seeking in-kind matches from the towns.
- He provided information to help the Board decide whether to debt exclude the cost of the NRSD athletic field project. The school committee will vote on whether to proceed with the project this week. To meet the state deadline for ballot questions, the Board must vote at the March 27 meeting to put the debt exclusion question on the ballot.

Meeting Minutes

December 13: Mr. Ryan moved to accept the minutes of December 13, 2011, as amended; Mr. Kern seconded; and all voted in favor.

January 17: Mr. Ryan moved to accept the minutes of January 17, 2012, as written; Mr. Kern seconded; and all voted in favor.

January 24: Mr. Ryan moved to accept the minutes of January 24, 2012, as written; Mr. Kern seconded; and all voted in favor.

February 14: Mr. Ryan moved to accept the minutes of February 14, 2012, as amended; Mr. Kern seconded; and all voted in favor

Recognition of Eagle Scout

The Board recognized Eagle Scout John “Jack” Slattery on the occasion of his upcoming Court of Honor. His Eagle Scout project was the production of a video on the history of the West School.

Jack researched the history, wrote the video script, directed (the actors were friends), and worked with a professional videographer (a Stow resident) to produce the video. It was shown at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Stow Historical Society and included in its 50-year time capsule. He was the first Stow Troop One Eagle to win 1st prize from the Knox Trail Council for Eagle Scout Service Awards.

Mr. Ryan moved to recognize John P. Slattery III for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and to present him with a citation and letter; Mr. Bernklow seconded; and all voted in favor.

Mr. Salvie presented Jack with a Certificate of Recognition, signed by the Board and dated March 13, 2012, which reads as follows:

*Be it known that the Stow Board of Selectmen
hereby extends its warmest congratulations to
John P. Slattery III
in recognition of his induction into the
Eagle Court of Honor
and be it further known that the Stow
Selectmen extend best wishes for future success.*

Ways to Encourage Volunteerism

Mr. Salvie presented suggestions by resident Melissa Rollins on ways to enlist more residents for membership in Town committees. The challenge is to appeal to busy people. Suggestions included promoting volunteerism with banners and advertisements.

During discussion, the following points were made:

- There are too many committees and board in town.
- The lack of volunteers is a universal problem.
- The “atmosphere” for committee membership and volunteers is getting more rigid, for example, with the new statutes and training requirements on Ethics.

It was agreed that Mr. Salvie would contact Beth Tobey about adding non-profits to the website and changing the content policy from having only Town government information to permit non-profits. However, it was then noted that the website cannot advertise non-profits because it is paid for with Town government funds. At this point, the topic was tabled.

Appointment to Cultural Council

Nancy Maldari of Gates Lane visited the Board to accept a second term on the Council. Mr. Ryan moved to reappoint Nancy Maldari to the Stow Cultural Council to serve a three-year term, ending on November 30, 2014; Mr. Bernklow seconded; and all voted in favor.

Class II/Used Car Sales License

Gerald “Jay” Looney, having recently purchased Hudson Road Automotive from long-time owner George Veracka, visited the Board to request a Class II/Used Car Sales license.

Following introductions and discussion, Mr. Ryan moved to issue a Class II Used Car sales License to Gerald Looney, owner of Hudson Road Automotive at 383 Hudson Road, to expire on

December 30, 2012, with the condition that he fulfill all requirements set by the Fire Chief or his designees. Mr. Kern seconded and all voted in favor. The Board signed the license.

Appointment of Veterans' Services Officer

With prior agreement of current VSO Brian Stearns, Mr. Ryan moved to reappoint Brian Stearns as Stow's Veterans Services Officer, for a one year term ending on March 30, 2013. Mr. Kern seconded and all voted in favor.

Permit for Earth Day Use of Lower Village Common

Sandy and Tara Taft of Red Acre Road visited the Board to request a permit for use of the Lower Village Common as a staging area for the annual Stow town-wide cleanup. On the first Saturday of April every year, a group of volunteers organizes the clean up. The Police Department provides yellow trash bags. Ace Hardware in Stow donates gloves for the workers. On the following Monday, the Highway Department picks up the yellow bags on roadsides throughout town.

The project began in 2009, with 150 people collecting 220 bags of trash. In 2010, 160 people collected 128 bags. And in 2011, 165 people collected 222 bags. The Tafts said they are hoping to get businesses involved this year.

Mr. Bernklow moved to permit Sandy Taft and the Earth Day Clean-Up organizers to use the Lower Common on Saturday, April 7, from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm, as the check-in and supplies area for the 4th Annual Earth Day Clean Up; Mr. Kern seconded; and all voted in favor.

Board of Selectmen's Annual Report

Mr. Ryan moved to accept the Board of Selectmen's 2011 annual report, dated March 9, 2012, for inclusion in the 2011 Town of Stow Report, with his amendments; Mr. Kern seconded; and all voted in favor.

Mr. Salvie thanked Ms. McLaughlin for writing the report.

Town Administrator's Performance Review

Mr. Salvie, saying that Mr. Wrigley had a very good year, read the combined scores of the Board for each evaluation category, with "4" being the highest score:

- Work quality: 4
- Responsiveness: 4
- Problem Solving Skills: 4
- Reliability: 4
- Initiative: 3.875
- Management Skills: 3.875
- Overall Score: 4

Mr. Salvie recapped Mr. Wrigley's achievements. Then the Board and Mr. Wrigley signed the review. At 8:25 p.m., Mr. Wrigley left the meeting.

Liaison Reports

Nashoba Regional School Committee: The Committee met on March 1, approving a \$46,000,000 budget for Fiscal Year 2013, setting a cap of 96 on school choice students, applying for an MSBA loan for science and lab rooms, and evaluating all-day kindergarten. They will vote on the athletic complex on March 15.

Local Access Channel Advisory Committee: The next contract meeting will be March 30

Community Preservation Committee: Voted to fund a position of affordable housing coordinator for 10 hours a month at \$60 per hour to support the Stow Affordable Housing Trust.

Tri-Town Meeting: Announced that Stow would debt exclude the athletic complex.

Multi-Use Track Road Committee: Officials from several committees, including the Conservation Commission and Selectmen, walked Track Road to view the extent of the wetlands. It is not a foregone conclusion that paving the trail will hit wetlands. The committee will spend from \$10,000 to \$12,000 to investigate whether paving is doable, as there are advocates for paving the road. Mr. Kern asked what incremental utility the town would get based on the amount being spent. Mr. Salvie said it would be good to have the committee come in.

Stow Municipal Affordable Housing Trust (SMAHT): The \$7,200 for a consultant to network with non-profit developers was discussed again.

Library Building Committee: Received eight proposals, three of which did not meet the minimum submission criteria. So five are being evaluated and will be narrowed to three finalists.

Elementary School Building Committee: The temporary occupancy permit will soon be permanent. The committee received a letter from the MSBA saying they would run out of funds at the rate the architect and owner's project manager are spending. The owner's project manager says this is incorrect. According to the architect, the Green Building practices that were used can be verified with paperwork from the general contractor. This has been requested as soon as possible.

Capital Planning Committee: Continues to review capital requests for FY 2013.

Community Center Building Committee: Will meet tomorrow to review the 13 proposals received.

Fire Station Building Committee: Will have reviewed the 17 responses it received by the end of the month.

At 9:00 p.m., Mr. Ryan moved to adjourn; Mr. Kern seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved May 29, 2012