

Stow Planning Board Meeting May 11, 2026

Attendance: Tony Higgins, Ashley Hannan, Sarah Shute, Jim Luongo (chairman), Cindy Butters

Tony Higgins acting as secretary for tonight's meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m.

No notes from prior planning board meeting(s)

Sarah: Roads rapidly (?) Locked at our roads because of prices for pavement, 113 B and Fryeburg end (Stow portion of road between North Fryeburg and NH state line heading toward South Chatham NH?). Both are done with reclaim and good to go until getting paved.

Union Hill Road, there are two culverts that need to be replaced and also need some grade work.

Probably getting bids this year for paving next year. Having the 2 roads prepped for being paved at same time will save the town some money and be within the budget (\$200,00/year) and still be on target for the 5-year plan. Lake Road is from grant money.

Selectmen met with budget committee – position (open?)

Town office is closed this week due to health issues.

Jim Luongo: Questions about signs, should we update? Any type of signs in yards, ordinance does cover signs, page 13 Section J 1-6. Following provisions about signs to sell goods or services not to exceed 10 square feet and not more than two per premises. Signs relating to trespassing or hunting are not to be more than 2 square feet in area.

Cindy: What does the state say about signs?

Jim; Person wants it to be a bigger sign

Sarah. Sign limit, out of public right of way, maximum height of 25 feet above road level. Lovell generally adheres to state requirements and also needs a sign permit. Signs must be within 1000 feet of business and no higher than 25 feet above ground or 10 feet above roof if mounted on building.

Sign lights??

Jim: Signs on residential properties (name not owners 2 square feet)

Sarah: No flashing lights, does not apply to flags

Ashley: found average 20 to 150 square feet in nearby towns ordinances (Lovell, Denmark and Stoneham)

Jim; Denmark billboards are prohibited. Signs not to be confused with 20-foot height or lower, more than 3 feet from property lines, only 2 signs per premises. We should add the 2-foot square area and only 2 per premises for residential. (we already have) Commercial 1 sign lettered on two sides not to exceed 16 square feet per side. 10 X 10 square feet per side is small for commercial, so might move to the 16 square feet.

Look at additional town ordinances for signage for the next meeting.

Sarah: Anderson's sign close to road

Jim; No sign more than 10 feet above ground illuminated unless only by shielding and no flashing lights. No Hunting signs are not bigger than 2 square feet; rental of premises signs are not more than 6 square feet. If they want to exceed 16 square feet, then they need to have approval by the planning board. I will modify this for the next meeting and submit it to everyone to look at it.

Sarah: We have no one for Code Enforcement Officer for the town of Stow.

Tony: Just to recap about signs: 2 feet square: hunting and trespassing, residential: 6 feet square sale, rental, lease, commercial: 16 square feet maximum for goods or services sold on premises, planning board approval needed if business wants to go larger

Ashley; Comprehensive Plan needs to be done, what involvement does planning board have in that?

Jim; Southern Maine Planning (fee?) is \$ 30,000 to have this done with us helping to get the data

Ashley: Comprehensive Plan need to get done so be able to get grants?

Jim: may have been able to get about \$ 10,000 in grant money, we have \$ 15,000 set aside for Comprehensive Plan, this year the \$ 5,000 that would have gone towards this went into the roads. Comprehensive Plan must be in line with our ordinances. Though the state says this has to be done every 10 years, the state isn't too strict about the timeline.

Jim: Ashley is an alternate; Mike is done with being on the board; we are still missing an alternate. Ashley took position vacated by Melvin Peterson.

Meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.