



## An Old-Fashioned Barn Raising

By Nelson Lebo  
For the Beacon

After a weekend of record rainfall and considerable local flooding, the potential for any outdoor work on Columbus Day may have appeared slim. But the upper stretches of Old College Road held together, and Tilton Brook did not wash out its culvert. The cars and trucks began rolling in around 1 PM, and months of horizontal work would soon go vertical. With chili on the wood stove, beers in the cooler, and a box full of work gloves, the stage was set for an old-fashioned community event: a barn raising.

While some would consider the 16-foot by 24-foot structure a shed, it proved to be a large enough challenge for a first-time timber framer. Using a combination of reclaimed timbers from a centuries-old house torn down two years ago and my own hand-hewn beams, the structure would best be described as a hybrid frame.

The four 16-foot bents consist of 8x8s joined traditionally with mortises and tenons. (All the pegs used were col-

lected from the aforementioned frame.) The girts, however, are milled 2x8s lagged into the outside of each post and set into joist hangers on the inside.

The stacks of barn boards nearby consist of roughly 1,000 board feet of my own rough-cut white pine and another 1,000 board feet of salvaged wood. Second-hand windows and doors also litter the yard. The barn will be covered with a new metal roof.

Thank you to all 40 of you who participated in this fun event! Many hands made light work. Special thanks to Martin Fairall for his backhoe work, Everett Jones for the use of the Woodmizer, Jake Johnson for the loan of tools, and Rick Estes and Toby Locke for offering advice and answering questions. Especially special thanks to Charlie and Mary Lou McCrave for allowing me to salvage the timbers from the "little red house." And, finally, a big shout out to Jake Mazonson: helper, apprentice, and friend.

Watch for scenes from Nelson's barn raising on Andover's Cable Channel 8.

## Conservation Commission

October 12

Condensed from draft minutes

**Present:** Jerry Hersey, Bob Ward, Tina Cotton, Nan Kaplan, Mary Anne Broshek, Sandra Graves, Peter Southworth

New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) sent a notification of wetland impact of a road change on Hoyt Road off Route 11.

Permit granted to NHDOT for wetland impact (location unknown) along Route 11. Mary Anne will call about the locale.

Notification from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) of timber harvest activities on Buswell Ridge at Ragged Mountain Fish and Game Club.

**Old Business**

Appointment of Sandra Graves to the Conservation Commission.

Northern Rail Trail. The resurfacing begins this week on October 14 and the opening ceremony is October 29.

Highland Lake drawdown. The work has been completed and the rains have replenished much of the lake.

Discussed Andover Master Plan

Update.

Discussed NHDOT's 10-year plan for US Route 4, NH Route 11, and the overpass on Route 11 at Potter Place.

**New Business**

A major subdivision of 27 house lots at Fenvale. The original subdivision of 37 house lots was approved in 1989, and there are now 10 lots with road access. Bob Bell of New London has a sales agreement on the property and is looking for revision of the lot lines, roads, and house placement. There are questions of what regulations apply to this subdivision.

NHDOT surplus land may be available to towns for conservation. Bob will check for other NHDOT land in Andover.

**Other Business**

Don Gould brought the Jelleme property proposal to the meeting in order to discuss the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions. The status is a non-buildable lot that creates a small residential subdivision with shared common land. Discussion regarding a conservation easement followed.

The Planning Board approved the Jelleme subdivision. Tina will contact the Jelleme to suggest a conservation easement.



Linda Varnum (l) of East Andover and her friend Jean Christensen of South Newbury walked 39.3 miles through New York City as part of the Avon Walk For Breast Cancer. About 2,700 walkers raised nearly \$7 million during the two-day event in early October. Linda raised \$7,400 of the total. Linda and Jean plan to walk for breast cancer again in Boston in the spring.

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