



The Hersey Family Farm, with Tucker Mountain in the distance, creates a striking "gateway" as you enter Andover from the east. Photo: Beth McGuinn

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into account the property's importance to the community of Andover as an important scenic gateway to the town, a rural backdrop for the Northern Rail Trail, and the historical importance of the farm.

The value of the Hersey Family Farm as an historic farm property has recently been evaluated by the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources, which

found that the farm is eligible for listing on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The Division is now preparing an inventory that will be used to apply for both State and National Registry listing.

The Andover Historical Society also enthusiastically supports the preservation of this agricultural tract. They feel it is important that future generations be able to visualize our historic origins and have a feeling for

the heroic efforts of individual yeoman farmers that contributed to the development of our present and also our future community.

ASLPT, the Andover Conservation Commission, the Andover Historical Society, and a committee of local citizens will now work to complete the project. Already, individuals have stepped up with pledges for \$31,000, and the Conservation Commission will help cover project expenses. To com-

plete the project, an additional \$71,000 will need to be raised.

To learn more about the Hersey Family Farm project, stop by the staffed table at the Fourth of July celebration on the Village Green. To request a brochure, contact ASLPT at 526-6555. To make a tax deductible donation, send a check made out to ASLPT with "Hersey Family Farm" in the memo to ASLPT, PO Box 2040, New London 03257.

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dinners, voting, recreation, etc. Our anticipation is that any new facility would be used in a similar fashion.

**The Results**

Out of 120 responses, an overwhelming majority of people support delaying the renovations to combine them with expansion in order to take advantage of state building aid.

A majority also supported building a new gym/cafeteria/community center on the school grounds.

Most people who responded would also like to see the Hamp House removed and the space used for either expansion of the facility or athletic fields. If the Hamp House does need to be removed, the board is open to suggestions on how it should be removed.

In response to the question about expanding into the wetland area next to the school, most people supported protecting the wetland area.

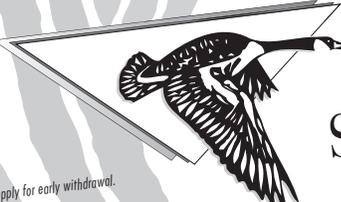
Finally, there was strong support for the School Board to plan for future growth beyond the project under present consideration.

In response, the School Board has hired Banwell Architects from Lebanon, an architectural/engineering firm, to review the needs recommended by the Facility Study completed earlier this year and to produce drawings and cost estimates of several options. Banwell is the firm that is handling the improvements at Merrimack Valley High School.

In September, a community task force will join the School Board and school personnel in looking at all the information gathered and prioritizing the school's needs. The recommendations of the task force will be presented to the public in October.

  
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