

**Ragged from page 6**

About 25 new trails would be added.

Pins said lodging is the key to boosting the mountain's skier base. On a snowy Saturday in the winter, the parking lot can be half empty because people don't want to dare snowy roads to get to the mountain. If they were able to wake up in a new hotel or a slopeside condominium, they wouldn't have to.

"What Ragged lacks is a captive audience to help level off the peaks and valleys of a New England winter," Pins said.

In 2004, [Danbury] had fewer than 700 housing units, according to state data. While growth has picked up in recent years, it has mostly been incremental, with regular requests to subdivide one parcel into two or three, Wilson said.

Ragged Mountain is the only major commercial property in Danbury, where most people commute to work and the nearest major grocery store. The resort is the town's largest employer and largest taxpayer.

Wilson said the town has worked to protect its timber harvesting and family farms, but it has struggled over the years in finding ways to grow local jobs. "In a sense, we are a little pocket of the North

Country closer to Concord," she said.

Danbury is updating its master plan, and the resort proposal has gotten residents talking about what they want to see in it. Wilson said it's too early to pinpoint any particular challenges the expansion plan may pose.

Resort officials hope to have the construction projects approved all at once to avoid adjustments for future changes in zoning regulations, Pins said.

The [Danbury] planning board voted to classify the project as one with regional impact because the resort property abuts the towns of Andover and Hill and shares a road system with Wilmot. Wilson said the board plans to work with the Lakes Region Planning Commission.

Phelps, whose family has lived on the mountain's access road for more than 130 years, said he sees the expansion as a possible economic boon for the town, where the tax base is low and property taxes are high. The 2005 tax rate was \$27.99 per \$1,000 assessed value [more than double Andover's 2005 tax rate of \$13.32].

"We recognize that any development up there is going to change the town," he said. "But the town is already changing." Copyright © 2006 Concord Monitor

## Webster, Highland Lakes Watershed Partnership

By Don Gould  
Andover Planning Board

The Webster-Highland Lakes Watershed Partnership listening session held July 18 at the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym was attended by Andover and Franklin residents anxious to provide comment and local observations and to learn about water quality conditions in the lakes and the affect of watershed activities.

This listening session, and one previously held at the Franklin Public Library, were part of a project to develop a watershed management plan that recommends various measures to control phosphorus inputs and improve water quality in Webster and Highland Lakes.

The two lakes share watersheds in the town of Andover, and both are experiencing similar water quality issues. Increased phosphate levels, lower oxygen concentration, and increased weed growth have been observed in Highland Lake and are being watched carefully by volunteers of the Highland Lake Protective Association.

Deteriorating water quality in Webster Lake resulted in the closing of the city beach a couple of years ago because of the blooming of toxic blue-green algae. This was the result of a temporary increase in phosphate concentration and other factors.

Funding for this project was obtained by the City of Franklin through a \$50,000 grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' Watershed Management Assistance Program, to be matched by \$20,000 in

municipal and volunteer efforts.

Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) members from the Highland Lake Protective Association and the Webster Lake Association are providing historical water quality testing data and the increased testing information required. At its annual meeting on July 15, the Highland Lake Protective Association approved funds for additional testing (\$180) and a share of Web site development costs (\$50). The Web site was created to facilitate partnership communications.

The consulting team of:

- Bill Arcieri, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., Bedford
- Mark Hutchins, Hutchins Consulting Services, Salisbury
- Michele Tremblay, Naturesource Communications, Boscawen

will present draft findings and a draft watershed management plan at Franklin Public Library on August 22 at 7 PM. A meeting to present the drafts is expected in Andover, but no date has been set. The final report is to be issued by year end.

It is expected that the watershed management plan developed through this project will benefit Highland Lake and the residents of Andover.

### Listening Session

Background information and findings presented at the July 18 listening session at AE/MS included:

- Webster Lake is experiencing more frequent and greater algal blooms, as well as reduced water clarity and a

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# 10TH ANNUAL ANDOVER LIONS LOBSTER BAKE

Saturday, August 12  
4 to 6:30 PM



Indoor or Outdoor  
Seating

Rain or Shine

Proctor Academy Field House, Route 4, Andover

## Dinner Menu

*Steamed Lobster  
or  
Rib Eye Steak  
Red Bliss Potatoes  
Sweet Corn  
Cole Slaw & Rolls  
Iced Tea or Lemonade  
Dessert  
\$20.00*

*Special Children's Menu  
Hamburger or Hot Dog  
Chips, Drink, & Dessert  
\$5.00*

**CHINESE AUCTION AT 7 PM! Prizes Galore!**  
**You don't have to be present to win.**

Buy Dinner Tickets From:

- any Andover Lion
  - Danbury General Store
  - Bowie's Market, East Andover
  - Lake Sunapee Bank, Andover
  - Blackwater Junction Restaurant, Andover
- For more info, call 735-5331 or 735-5590

**Join Us For A Fun Family Evening!**

No alcoholic beverages will be served or allowed.