

Roof from page 1

In addition to the temporary reinforcing, the snow load on the roof must be limited to no more than 20 pounds per square foot. The challenge is to find a reliable method of measuring the weight of the snow and of snow removal.

Question And Discussion

The second hour of the meeting was taken up by questions and discussion. Several members of the public expressed grave concern over the safety of the students and staff members and suggested immediate replacement of the roof. Questions came up regarding school closure when the snow season begins.

Other members of the public suggested a variety of permanent repairs including installation of a metal roof to decrease snow loads. Several questions came up concerning costs of temporary repairs versus permanent repairs versus roof replacement.

A second School Board Meeting was held on September 19 as a work session to determine what action should be taken on the hip roof. The Board voted to go ahead with temporary repairs and snow removal to keep the roof intact for the short term until a permanent solution can be found. The Board will be exploring repair options to decrease the snow load which were suggested at the September 12 meeting. In the event that the old section of the building is unoccupied during the winter months, the building and its assets (like the boiler, for example) must still be protected.

The Task Force for Building Renovation and Expansion has just finished its second session and will be helping the Board come up with an action plan to include the roof on the original building. As of this writing, the Board will be meeting again on September 26 to discuss possible relocation of classrooms and administrative offices.

Ballot Flap Strikes Two Andover Candidates

Two Andover residents, both candidates for office in the September 12 primaries, were stricken from the ballot at the last minute. The following is condensed from the story that the Concord Monitor ran on Saturday, September 9, about the incident. - Editor

**By Lisa Arsenault
Concord Monitor staff**

September 9 - Eight House candidates with questionable registration status will not be allowed to have their names on the ballot in Tuesday's primary, the state Ballot Law Commission ruled yesterday. With the election just days away, their names will be removed from thousands of ballots using marker or adhesive tape, said Dave Scanlan, deputy secretary of state.

Tests of a new statewide voter database done by the Secretary of State's Office this summer revealed that eight candidates for the House were not registered voters of the political party they were running with in the primary. Members of the Ballot Law Commission said yesterday that state law is clear: That means those candidates can not be on the ballot.

Just because their names won't appear on the ballots doesn't mean they won't be able to run for office, Scanlan said. They will be able to run a write-in campaign Tuesday in which they must garner the majority vote for their seat with at least 10 write-in votes. If that seat is still open after the primary, their party can still nominate them for the seat, Scanlan said.

Representative James Danforth of Andover, who has served one term as a Republican and is seeking re-election to the Legislature, was so outraged by the

commission's decision that he abruptly left the hearing during final deliberations. Danforth was often heated during his testimony. The commission stenographer asked him to lower his voice and speak slower several times.

"I'm just really upset," Danforth said. "I wasn't a closet Republican. Everyone knows I'm a Republican."

He presented two documents with the state seal that were mailed to him by the secretary of state confirming his election as a Republican in the previous House race, but members of the commission said that wasn't enough.

In 2004, Danforth voted in the Democratic presidential primary and was never told he would have to change his status back in order to be considered a registered Republican again. In the presidential election that same year, he voted with an absentee ballot for the Republican party, but it was never counted, most likely because of party registration issues. Commissioners and Danforth agreed that he should have been notified about the problem. Danforth said he was never told his absentee ballot didn't count until he started looking into his registration status this week.

Representative Ken Weyler, a Republican from Kingston who is the deputy speaker of the House, testified in favor of allowing Danforth to remain on the ballot. He argued that the commission should not make it more difficult for a hard-working representative like Danforth to run for office and donate his time to the state. Andover town Moderator Edward Becker also testified on Danforth's behalf.

The vote to remove Danforth from the ballot was 3 to 2, after more than an hour of discussion.

"This is as close a case as I've ever seen," said commission member Steve Duprey, a Republican from Concord.

Danforth and Maureen Baxley, also from Andover, were the only two of the eight candidates who showed up for yesterday's hearing to contest their status.

Both complained that they did not receive enough notice to prepare. Danforth said he would not have known about the meeting in time if he hadn't dropped in the secretary of state's office earlier this week about another matter. Otherwise, he said, a notice sent in the mail would have arrived too late for him to cancel a business trip to Virginia.

Five others were stricken from the ballot without any discussion for failing to show up for the hearing. The eighth candidate, who was in Maine leading a church youth group trip and could not be present, was represented by Sen. Peter Burling, a Democrat from Cornish who is also a lawyer. The commission unanimously struck that candidate as well.

Baxley, who was also defended by Burling, testified that she has been a life-long Democrat even though the state's voter database says she is an undeclared independent. She votes in the Democratic primary and attends the Democratic convention, she told the commission.

The mix-up in her party came a year and a half ago when she moved from Epsom to Andover, she said. At the time, the Andover town clerk's office was crowded and she was told to rush through the paperwork registering her vehicle and to vote. She said that the town clerk must have typed in the wrong party on her form. She failed to double-

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ANDOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR WINTER ROOF CLEARING SERVICES

Andover School District is seeking winter roof clearing services for Andover Elementary/Middle School. Previous snow loads have been sufficient to warrant periodically clearing the roof of the original building. Other roof areas of the building complex may also need to be cleared. We have established that a baseline of four (4) inches of snow will be allowed to accumulate before clearing is required.

The service for clearing will need to be flexible based on weather conditions. As a result, interested parties will need to meet with us to review our needs for snow removal prior to submitting a proposal. Please contact Robin Heins at 603-753-6561 in Penacook to discuss your interest and to set up a meeting date and time.

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