



Left: Mt. Kearsarge, half hidden in clouds, makes a beautiful picture behind Highland Lake from Artist's Ledge. Right: The hikers. Photos: Laura Condon

Group Hikes To Possible Cell Tower Site On Artist's Ledge

By Laura Condon
For the Beacon

There was a great turnout for the public open house and walk to the Artist's Ledge on the Fulton hilltop off Emery Road on Saturday, October 13. All had been invited to come walk together, to see and learn of this historic and scenic treasure in our own backyard. The crowd was a wonderful representation of the passionate and kindly citizens in this community.

Under the deep blue sky of this crisp autumn day, we marched up the road and into the field. Brian Shaw was on hand to share his history of tending to that lovely, green hilltop. Chris Norris gave a tremendous presentation on the variety of stone walls present. We all now know the difference between a crib wall and a lace wall. Do you? For a display of Chris's passion, treat your-

self to a drive up Emery Road and then up Marston Hill Road. He is a talented man indeed.

Nancy Fulton was joined by Ed Hiller in a fine presentation on the historic value of this site and the nationally known artist, Mary Bartlett Pillsbury Weston, who used this vantage point for some of her art work. Peter Miner was prepared with a notebook of charts, pictures, and information.

I did my best to explain the process before us of the consideration of a cell phone tower on this site, and noted everyone involved had significant concerns and input that should be shared. Jerry Hersey emphasized that this was a significant ridgeline that warranted protection. In addition, he suggested a Town-owned site might be more appropriate so the Town could collect lease revenues to offset property taxes. Tina

Cotton assured us of televised coverage of all public meetings to ensure everyone was informed.

The beauty of the site so engaged us that it was difficult to leave, even as the clouds gathered and wind picked up to create quite a chill. Standing on the granite outcroppings and gazing out at a splendid view of Highland Lake, Taunton Hill, beyond to Mount Kearsarge, off to Ragged Mountain, and then leaning back to visually scale the tremendous grandfather pines, we were spellbound.

It is no wonder that Lester and Marion Fulton's ashes have dusted this site. We were blessed to share their special spot.

After some time, we began to force ourselves from the Artist's Ledge to head down the hill where we were greeted with cider and doughnuts provided by Marcia Condon. It gave us an opportunity to further share thoughts about the preservation of such sites and gather information given by Marilyn Pike.

Those who are following this matter should be aware that for now Verizon has withdrawn their application to place

a cell phone tower on this site, but reserve the right to return with their request. We have become aware of how aggressive cell phone companies will be in pursuit of sites in this area.

It is important that we continue to work together in a pro-active fashion to preserve our historic and scenic treasures. Paul Currier, Master Plan Update Committee Co-chair, invites you to attend their meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 PM in the Town Hall to participate in the update process.

The Master Plan is the authoritative basis for land use decisions (such as cell tower siting) by the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and others. Preserving viewsheds has been identified as one of the core elements of Andover's revised Master Plan vision statement. This committee needs your help building on the good work of the Conservation Commission to get a solid, defensible viewshed section in the Master Plan. Again, please mark your calendars for the fourth Monday of the month to be part of this important effort.

Andover Fish And Game Club

By Rich Gross

Andover Fish and Game Club

Next year will be the 75th anniversary of the Andover Fish and Game Club, so we have been pushing to get the clubhouse on Channel Road all fixed up by next spring. We just finished putting up new siding this month. Most of it was done by volunteers from the club, though we paid a few guys to do the very high spots.

Most of the materials were bought by the club with money from our big

fundraisers – the beef barbecue and the turkey raffles – that we have each year. The siding should last 30 to 40 years.

The building is well over 100 years old, and it used to be a grain business. We are going to paint the inside walls and refinish the hardwood floors this winter. If anyone out there has a couple of large sanders we could use, some white inside paint, or some sealer for the floor, that would be fantastic. If anyone would like to donate their time or something else, that would be great, too.

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