



Roger Laro of the Recreation Committee speaks to the warrant article to purchase land at Blackwater Park. The article passed. Photo: Bob Bussey

Town Meeting Scrutinizes Budget, Dam Project

By Chelsea Conaboy
Concord Monitor staff
 Condensed from the *Concord Monitor*
 Originally published March 12

Andover residents last night expressed frustration at the slow progress of repairs to the Highland Lake Dam, which was damaged in the Mothers Day flood of 2006, but agreed to the selectmen's request to spend \$42,500 more on the project.

Voters approved the amendment, along with \$32,500 to cover overruns on winter road maintenance, but residents who live in the area – and who have had to drive 15 minutes out of their way to

bypass the closed road – were angry about what some said were blunders in planning and construction.

[Dennis] Fenton, chairman of the selectmen, said the issue has been “a pressure cooker for a lot of people,” but the town had no choice except to raise the money to pay for the dam or to take the money out of other department budgets.

Voters approved a \$1.3 million budget. That spending included two other dam-related amendments. First, they passed \$5,000 for the temporary [opening of Maple Street over] the dam so

See Scrutiny on page 3



AndoverBeacon.com

April 2008

\$2.00

Selectmen Hire New Town Administrator

By Andover Board of Selectmen

“Ready on Day One.” Opinions of the slogan may vary, but the idea itself was central to the search and recruitment process for a new town administrator.

With incumbent Mark Stetson's departure set for April 1, the heat was on. The selectmen reached out promptly, advertising on the New Hampshire Local Government Center employment Web site and in the *Concord Monitor*. We were rewarded with 15 applications from candidates as close as Andover to one in Florida.

Our goal, as stated in last month's *Beacon*, was finding a professionally qualified person familiar with the work, to minimize problems in the change-over. We were fortunate in having several such applicants.

Andover's new town administrator is Dana Hadley. Dana spent 12 years as assistant town administrator of Peterbor-

ough and, more recently, three years as town administrator of Canaan, just 23 miles up Route 4. Canaan is similar in many ways to Andover, even to a private school which is the town's biggest employer, and that kind of relevance is important. And more than that, he comes highly recommended by people who've known and worked with him.

Dana is a family man with three children, two grown and gone and the last on the edge of the nest, and he anticipates moving to Andover with his wife as soon as the housing market permits. He will be in his new office at the beginning of April, and townspeople are welcome to drop in to meet him, particularly those on boards which interface with the selectmen. We are lucky to have him.

See pages 6 and 7 for interviews with Mark and Dana.

THE BEACON NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT IN 2008!

We're almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way there. But we still need **87 more** Andover households to show they value the Beacon!

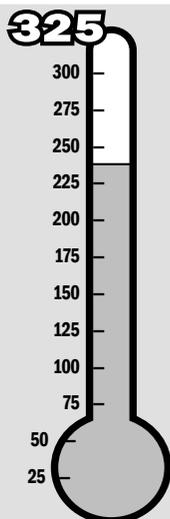
Please! Use the form on page 2 and make a donation today!

Do **325** households in Andover (out of 1,130) value the *Beacon*?

Please help us reach our goal!

Households donating so far to help support the *Beacon* in 2008:

238



By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Construction work at the Highland Lake dam has stopped for now. The workers have finished all their work on the underground parts of the dam

so, thanks to money added to the town budget at Town Meeting, they have re-opened Maple Street to traffic. It's not paved at the dam, of course, but it is passable.

The road across the dam should remain open until the ground thaws and

dries out, at which point it will be closed again for a week or two when workers return to grade and pave the road, install a guardrail, erect fences, and loam and seed the disturbed areas.

About the lake ... several stop logs are back in the spillway, which means the lake is rising. The current plan is to bring it back to somewhere below its normal winter level for now. That will allow some extra water storage capacity in the lake in case we have a heavy rain, a sudden melt, or both.

Andover Beacon
 PO Box 149
 Andover NH
 03216-0149

Prsrt Std
 ECRWSS
 US Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 5
 Andover NH

POSTAL CUSTOMER