



Mary Anne Broshek, Lydia Bates, and Bradford Bates were among those paying close attention to the presentations at the informational meeting about conservation easements organized by the Andover Conservation Commission. Photo: Nan Kaplan

Meeting Covers Conservation Easement Details

By Nan Kaplan

Andover Conservation Commission

The Andover Conservation Commission (ACC) met with landowners interested in learning more about conservation easements on August 27 at the Town Hall. This was the first meeting in an on-going effort of the ACC to provide information about conservation easements to Andover residents. Tina Cotton taped the session, and those videos are available in the Town Libraries and the Town Hall.

Beth McGuinn, Land Protection Specialist for the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT), outlined what conservation easements are, what the costs might be, and how taxes are affected.

A conservation easement is a legal document between a landowner and a conservation organization and is written in perpetuity, so it impacts future owners of the land. There is some flexibility in writing up an easement to accommodate the conservation values of the land and the goals of the landowner.

A conservation easement may allow uses such as forestry, hunting, agriculture, and public access for recreation. Long-term stewardship of the land is the goal, and the goals of the landowner must match the agency chosen to hold the easement, such as ASLPT, the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), the New Hampshire Audubon Society, or the Nature Conservancy.

Beth went over ASLPT's criteria for

land protection.

Questions were asked about liability and tax benefits. Costs to the landowner include legal fees, recording fees, surveying, and appraisal. Town conservation commissions are often asked to help with these costs. In Andover, 50% of the Current Use penalties go into the Conservation Fund, which can be used to assist landowners with such costs.

Mary Anne Broshek, Chair of the ACC, has granted a conservation easement on her property in Andover. She spoke to the flexibility of her conservation easement, which has had logging done according to a Forestry Management Plan. She had assistance from ASLPT and from SPNHF in completing her easements.

Jerry Hersey, former Chair of the ACC, has granted a conservation easement on his family's farmland in East Andover. He said his parents had wished for their farmland to be protected forever. That easement purchase was aided by a grant from the Farmland and Ranchland Federal program, and Jerry donated significant value without compensation. The ACC paid for the surveying and additional funds were raised through ASLPT. Beth mentioned how important it is to keep farmlands still producing, as much farmland is disappearing.

Both Mary Anne and Jerry's easements allow public access for non-motorized recreation.

The information was very well received by those in attendance.

Tucker Mountain Schoolhouse

By Donna Baker-Hartwell
Andover Historical Society

On September 7 the Tucker Mountain one-room schoolhouse was open for a delightful sing-a-long of Victorian songs. Many thanks go to Cindy Benson and Lori Cox for their musical accompaniment.

Sunday, October 12, (Columbus Day weekend) is the last scheduled open

house of the season, from 1 PM to 3 PM. Fresh apple cider pressed at Peter Zak's Highland Lake Farm will be served, and there will be guided tours to the cellar hole of the Tucker Family Farmhouse, located an easy walk across the road from the school house.

Appointments for other visits may be made by calling Donna Baker-Hartwell at 735-5586, or by e-mail at Hartwell@tds.net.

ANDOVER FISH & GAME

By Rich Gross
Andover Fish and Game Club

This year the Andover Fish and Game Club's turkey raffle will be held on Friday, October 17, at 7 PM at the clubhouse in East Andover. There will be the usual hams, turkeys, special items, etc. There will be refreshments and a free door prize.

We are also raffling a new Mossberg Over/Under Special Reserve 20 gauge shotgun with case that night. Deer pool tickets will also be available if you haven't gotten yours already.

Bring your friends and family, and have a great night out. Don't miss it. Hope to see you there. Any questions, call 735-5311.

Celebrate NH Tree Farm Day With Tours And Workshops At Proctor

By Chuck Will
Proctor Academy

Proctor is hosting the New Hampshire Tree Farm Field Day on Saturday, November 1, from 9 AM to noon. The public is invited to a morning of tours and workshops on Proctor land. This event is a state-wide celebration of Proc-

tor's award as Outstanding Community Tree Farm for 2008.

Save the date and plan to join us for a fun and informative look at the land use practices that qualified Proctor for this award. The Land Uses offices are housed in a small red building just north of North Street.

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