

Master Plan Update Committee **NEWS FROM THE TOWN OFFICE**

By Paul Currier

Master Plan Update Committee

The core of the updated Master Plan is ten guiding principles from the town-wide survey and visioning session. The draft language for Guiding Principle 1 is in the paragraphs that follow. Read it and see what you think. Look for more guiding principles in future *Beacon* articles.

We need comments! You can e-mail your comments to committee chair Paul Currier at PCurrier@tds.net.

Guiding Principle 1: Maintain Andover's small town, rural character – village centers with generally open spaces elsewhere.

Small town, rural character is the attribute most valued by people who live in Andover today. The importance of maintaining rural character has been consistent through three master plans and for more than thirty years of Andover's recent history.

It is somewhat difficult to define just what rural character is; but in general, it includes compact, walkable village areas with shops and services and lots of open space in between as well as farms or forests with scattered houses and out-buildings that are not too visible.

On the social side, it includes a "sense of community" where there is opportunity for involvement in school activities, civic and cultural events, and town or village-oriented social occasions. New buildings should be on the same scale as existing buildings and in a compatible style.

What is a village area? It is a compact area of small retail shops and service vendors, residences, multi-family units, schools, places of public assembly, such as town halls or churches, and similar activities. It is generally an area where a person might be able to find goods and services and living arrangements all within walking distance of each other.

Andover has three significant village areas: Andover village, East Andover village, and Cilleyville.

Andover village is a well-developed village area. In 2008, a person can get gas at the convenience store, then park, go to a bank, go to a doctor, get a cup of coffee, have a pizza for lunch, mail letters, register a car at the town office, and drop a kid off at school or karate lessons, all by walking around.

East Andover village is not as well developed. A person can get coffee, buy basic groceries, mail a letter, and go to church by walking around, but it's not as compact or complete as Andover village.

Cilleyville, on the other hand, does not show much character of a village area today; it is primarily a residential area.

West Andover, a fourth village area identified in the zoning ordinance, has no village characteristics in 2008.

In general, the village character of the three significant village areas should be enhanced, and the open, rural character of other areas should be maintained, especially avoiding strip

development along main roads. Businesses and services should be small and accessible. New development in village areas should not overwhelm the rural and historical character of the town.

Action Items

- The Andover village district should be enlarged to provide adequate opportunity for growth with continued maintenance of the character of the village area.

- The Cilleyville village area should be enlarged. The town, with full participation of neighborhood residents, should create a plan for growing the village character of this existing village district.

- The West Andover village district should cease to exist, because there is not even the vestige of a village there now.

- East Andover village is about the right size on the existing zoning map. The town, with full participation of neighborhood residents, should create a plan for East Andover village district to encourage growth that preserves and enhances the village character.

- Permitted uses in the village districts should be reviewed and modified to maintain and enhance the village character. The language of the current zoning ordinance that includes uses permitted in other districts in the village area should be changed so that only appropriate village uses are allowed.

- Permitted housing types in the village should be reviewed to assure a balanced mix of affordable housing for young and old, rich and poor, seniors and young families with children.



AE/MS Nov 4 8-7

By Dana Hadley
Andover Town Administrator

The days draw shorter, the nights colder, and the leaves are falling. We all know what is ahead.

Here at the Town Office the talk is of winter plow routes, plow drivers, and snow, sand, and salt. Mailboxes are always a concern. Please know that plow drivers try very hard not to damage mailboxes, but from time to time accidents happen. Please be sure that your mailbox is placed so that it is not vulnerable to accidents.

The Town's policy is not to replace mailboxes damaged by plowing. I know how frustrating this can be, so we appreciate your help by placing your mailbox out of harm's way.

There was also a move a few years ago, sponsored by New Hampshire Department of Transportation, which I am going to mention: do not crowd the plows. Please give plows a lot of room so that

they can do their job and keep us all safe.

We are moving into the 2009 budget preparation season. The Budget Committee has set their agenda for the season. I would encourage anyone interested to attend these meetings. They will give you all the background that makes up the compilation of the budget.

The Budget Committee's schedule is posted at the Town Office, at the Andover Post Office, and the East Andover Post Office.

As you may be aware, after careful consideration, the Maple Street paving project was postponed until 2009. We did replace the culvert in front of the East Andover Fire House. Next year the plan is to complete that paving project.

The Highland Dam replacement is drawing to a close. We are still waiting for final sign-off from the engineers so that we can pursue the FEMA funds, and the work continues to resolve the hazard classification.

Andover Recreation Comm.

By Alan Hanscom
Andover Recreation Committee

Exciting times are ahead for Blackwater Park. Or at least that is the hope of many people involved with Andover's youth sports. Planners are getting into the finer details of plans to build a multipurpose building. We are not picking out wallpaper patterns or sofa materials yet, but we are checking out basic building materials to determine an accurate building cost estimate to present to Town Meeting in the spring. The building will contain a bathroom, snack counter and equipment storage.

If the committee is successful, construction could proceed through next summer. We are in contact with the NHDOT Bureau of Rail & Transit to complete the purchase of land next to the park that was approved at this year's meeting.

We are weighing options for the upcoming basketball season, including joining the Franklin league. Watch for basketball and ski season sign-up information in your child's AE/MS newsletter.

The soccer season was exciting for all involved. Look for articles about a specific team elsewhere in the Beacon. The regular season ended in early October, but Andover's fifth and sixth grade teams have been invited to a tournament in Penacook with Boscawen, Salisbury, Webster and Loudon on October 25.

Please come to our meetings to share your ideas on improving youth sports in Andover.

DONATE ONLINE!
 Visit AndoverBeacon.com and click the Click to Give button. Thank you!

Are you responsible for the care of someone elderly?

Have you settled for Assisted Living Care fearing the cost of Nursing Care?

Then you have probably never heard of

PEABODY HOME

In business since 1942, we are a small, not-for-profit, private pay, home of superior reputation. We have a nurse in the building 24 hours a day and our rates for quality Nursing Care actually rivals the rates for Assisted Living Care in other local facilities. In these hard economic times, why would you pay so much money and not actually receive the services and care that our elderly need and deserve? Our Nursing Rates start at only \$149.00/day.

Sleep peacefully at night knowing your loved one is receiving the level of care they need in a highly respected resident-focused home

Peabody Home...
where we proudly care for our elders
 603-934-3718
 In Central New Hampshire

