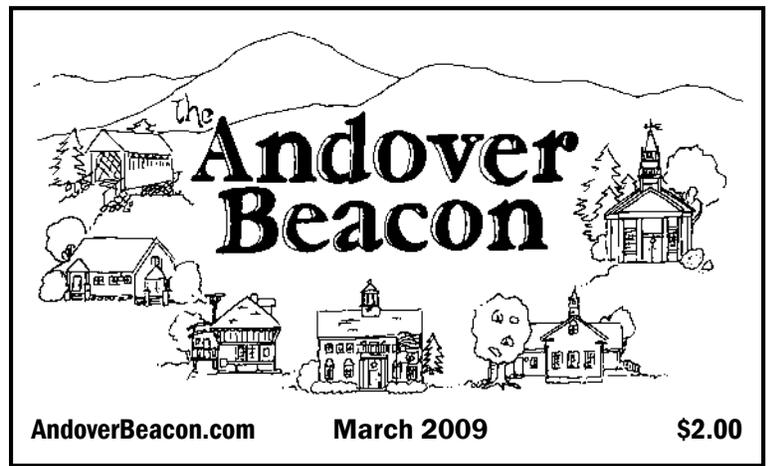




Chase Davis adjusts his tip-up rig at the Willis Nowell Memorial Kids' Ice Fishing Derby put on by the Andover Fish and Game Club at Eagle Pond last month. Staff photo: Bob Bussey



Master Plan Update Chapters Ready For Public's Comments

By Paul Currier
Master Plan Update Committee

After almost five years of work, including a town-wide survey in 2007, the Introduction and Vision chapters of the new Master Plan are ready for public comment.

The Master Plan Update Committee expects to have copies of these draft chapters available at Town Meeting. All comments are welcome. In fact, the committee can't really do a good job finalizing the plan without feedback from Andover residents.

The survey and visioning session results have been distilled into ten guiding principles which are the heart of the new plan:

- 1) Maintain Andover's small town, rural character
- 2) Encourage commercial activity that builds on the regional recreation and tourism economy
- 3) Promote and preserve farming and forestry
- 4) Create specific zones for light industry and commercial activities
- 5) Preserve views, especially along

- 6) Conserve natural resources
- 7) Provide choices in housing types
- 8) Preserve Andover's historical places and assets
- 9) Partner with Proctor to integrate their plans for the future with the town's plans
- 10) Develop community infrastructure in the Village areas

The Introduction and Vision chapters explain the Master Plan process and summarize the major elements of a vision for Andover's future landscape. The committee wants to make this a plan that really reflects the ideas of town residents for Andover's future, but *we need your help!*

Anyone interested in commenting on the draft chapters can get copies at the Town Office or from chairperson Paul Currier at 735-5280 or PCurrier@tds.net.

The committee usually meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The public is always invited, and more committee members are needed.

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2009 Budgets Set For Annual Meetings

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Budgets for 2009 for the Andover School District, the Town, and the Fire Departments have been finalized by the Budget Committee and will be presented to voters at the annual meetings. The finalized budgets are the same as discussed in detail in the front-page article in the February issue of the *Beacon*. [Every issue of the *Beacon* ever published can be read online at AndoverBeacon.com.]

Andover School District Budget

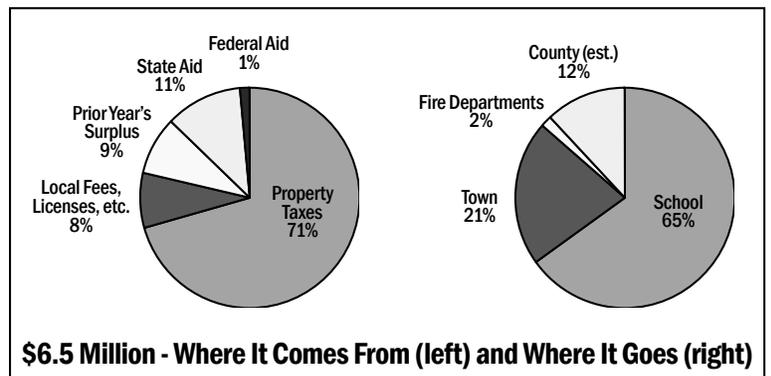
The proposed 2009 budget (net of any pass-through items that don't impact this year's tax rate) for the Andover School District is for a to-

tal appropriation of \$4.237 million.

This proposed 2009 budget represents an increase of nearly \$206,000 over the net appropriation of \$4.031 million voted for 2008. When expected revenues to offset taxes are taken into account, it is estimated that the tax rate (per thousand dollars of assessed value) for the school portion of the tax bill will go up from \$10.93 in 2008 to \$11.73 in 2009, an increase of 7.3%. This represents nearly 70% of the estimated 2009 total tax bill.

Ed Hiller of the Andover Budget Committee has this to say about the importance of the school budget:

"The school budget is a subject in See Budgets on page 8



Hamp House Debate Moves To School District Meeting

By Meg Heckman
Concord Monitor staff

From the February 21 *Concord Monitor*

The future of the building that houses Andover's after-school program is a sore subject in town these days, one that's sure to come up at the district's annual meeting [on Monday, March 2].

At issue is Hamp House, a home next to the elementary school that has long been leased to the after-school program, which is a private organization run by volunteers. Most members of the school board want to evict the program when its lease expires in June. Reasons cited

include the building's safety and plans to eventually expand the elementary school.

The after-school program's organizers, however, say the board is being unfair. Two engineers' reports and a recent fire inspection showed that Hamp House is safe, they say, and they're willing to pay for some upgrades. Andover, they say, is unlikely to expand its elementary school anytime soon. A construction bond failed a few years ago, and another one is unlikely to surface soon.

See Hamp House on page 19

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