AE/MS Annex Task Force Seeks Feedback From Community

By Bonny Morris
AE/MS Annex Task Force

After the March 2009 School District Meeting and the resounding vote on the warrant article for a lease for the Andover Afterschool/Five Alive Programs to use the Hamp House (now called the AE/MS Annex), the School Board established the Annex Task Force. In April 2009 a call was put out to the community asking for participants. In June 2009 the School Board appointed seven members with the task "to make recommendations to the Andover School Board regarding a long term solution to the use of the Hamp Building for the above programs and additional programs to benefit a larger population."

The task force members are Erik Anderson and Charlie McCrave representing the School Board; SAU Business Manager Robin Heins; Emily Furtkamp and Bonny Morris representing the Afterschool and Five Alive Programs; and Brian Reynolds (chair), Vicky Mishcon, and Kevin Kraft representing the community.

The Task Force has been meeting since late August. We have discussed, examined, and explored the following areas:

- current uses
- additional possibilities
- maintenance – past and future
- viable use by programs
- benefits to community
- long term lease scenarios

It is important to the Task Force that you, the people of Andover, have a voice in this discussion. Therefore we have set up an e-mail account at AnnexTaskForce@gmail.com, or you can mail a letter to AE/MS Annex Task Force, 20 School Street, Andover 03216. Please feel free to visit either place and leave us your suggestions or feedback.

The task force will be presenting a final report to the School Board on June 1. Again, it is important that we hear from you. Thank you for participating.

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East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

The mud in our driveway is thick and gooey. The roads are posted, and the lakes are starting to show open water. Spring must be on the way!

As we look forward to blackfly season, your forest fire wardens and deputy wardens will be training for the upcoming brush fire season. This year some of our training time will be spent reviewing the state laws that govern our ability to issue permits and enforce forest fire laws.

The issue for some of us seasoned (older) wardens is that for many years the laws we operated under were the same each year. That has all changed with much stricter air quality laws. Where the laws were originally written to protect the forest and lands, now we will also protect the air we breathe. The laws are not bad, just different. Knowing the rules goes a long way toward being able to comply.

First, let's discuss open burning at home. Home means that you are the landowner. If you are renting, you must have written permission from the landowner in order to be issued a permit to burn.

You need a permit to kindle a flame on the ground in the State of New Hampshire. A gas or charcoal grill is above the ground and does not require a permit. A campfire is on the ground and will need a permit, although a seasonal permit is usually issued.

Once a permit has been issued you are allowed to burn from 5 PM until 9 AM the following morning. The fire must be completely extinguished by 9 AM. If the fire towers see your smoke during the day, we will be called to put out the fire, which is not a good thing and could get costly.

If it is raining and you have been issued a permit, you may be allowed to burn during the day. As we are short-staffed during the day, there must be a steady rain, not just showers, for daytime burning.

The air quality side of the law governs what is permissible to burn. Brush less than four inches in diameter, grass, and natural forest material is permitted. Field burning is allowed, although unless you are experienced we will likely review the plan with you before issuing a permit.

Burning building material is very restricted. The homeowner is the only person allowed to burn building material. The material must be natural wood and clean of paint or any roofing shingles. Plywood or pressure-treated material is strictly prohibited. Contractors are not allowed to burn material from a job site and should consult with a Warden for better guidelines.

Towns will no longer be able to burn any building material after this year. Brush will be the only material burned at the Transfer Station. The burn pile should be under four feet high and the fire easily controllable by the permit holder. Please do not hesitate to call us if the fire grows beyond your comfort level.

To contact one of your local forest Fire Wardens call: Stephen Barton (735-5984), Chuck Ellis (735-5025), Fred Lance (735-5122), Jon Colette (735-4064), or Rene Lefebvre (934-2197).

New Fire Truck

The public hearing for the East Andover Fire Precinct was called to order by Moderator JoAnn Hicks at 7:30 on March 16. JoAnn explained to the people present that the purpose of the public hearing was to discuss the fire truck that the precinct will be asked to purchase at the precinct meeting in April.

Ed Becker explained that the precinct was being asked to borrow in excess of $100,000. This amount is to be paid off by the Precinct over seven years. Because of amount requested and the fact we need to borrow, the State requires that this public hearing take place.

Mark Perry, chairman of the truck committee, explained the specifics of the truck and possible options that would be purchased if the cost were in line with the budget. Mark also explained that the truck would be pur-

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Proctor Fire Department

By Sam Brown
Chief, Proctor Fire Department

Though without a fire engine, the Proctor Academy Fire Department (PAFD) is active once again on the Proctor campus. Chief Sam Brown (a student member of the Andover Rescue Squad) and Deputy Chief Evan Gaskin (a junior member of the Andover Fire Department) head the small group of dedicated students who meet every other week under the supervision of East Andover Fire Department Captain and Proctor staff member Jake Johnson.

Globe Fire Suits of New Hampshire graciously donated several sets of firefighting gear last spring, and since then PAFD students have been putting them to work. The PAFD occupies one bay of the fire shed building on campus. Flooding the pond, running a portable water pump, and assisting with campus fire drills are just some activities the PAFD students do regularly.

Since last spring, PAFD members have participated in a mock snowmobile accident, a patient extrication drill, and a tour of the Franklin Fire Station hosted by Steve Fecteau.