

## Board Of Selectmen

By Jake Johnson  
Board of Selectmen

In *The Andover Beacon* last month, hopefully you read about the Selectmen meetings being videotaped and aired on Comcast Cable Channel 8 and on the Town Web site at AndoverNHus.com. I also hope you checked it out. I don't think the content is for the whole family to grab a bowl of popcorn and huddle around the TV set. It's more for informational viewing and for you to see what is going on in your town government.

"Knowledge is Power," and this is very true for town government. If the Board of Selectmen doesn't get information to the taxpayers and voters throughout the year, then when Town Meeting assembles in March, taxpayers and voters will not have the best information to make decisions. Who can read and understand the whole Town Report in the week prior to Town Meeting?

This article, and broadcasting the Selectmen meetings, is this board's at-

tempt to get more information to you. We hope that when Town Meeting rolls around, you will have more knowledge of what's happening in your town government and, ultimately, the power to make informed decisions.

### Town Meeting 2011

In the next few months, the Board of Selectmen will be working on next year's Town budget and warrant articles for Town Meeting. Once we have hammered out the details, all our work goes to the Andover Budget Committee for review, discussion, and public hearings.

I encourage anyone who has time or is curious about the process to check the Town's Web site or contact the Town Office to get an agenda of when the Budget Committee meets. More importantly, try to get to the public hearing that the Budget Committee holds for each Town budget department (the Town, the school district, the Village District, and the two fire precincts). All the information you need, and more, is discussed at these meetings.

## Construction Begins Soon On Building At Blackwater Park

By Alan Hanscom  
Andover Recreation Committee

After many years of planning and fundraising, plans are being finalized for construction of the multi-use recreation building at Blackwater Park. In late September, meetings with local contractors were scheduled to determine who will be able to help with its construction.

The history of the building goes back about a decade. Since that time, nearly \$30,000 has been raised through donations. Many promises of materials and services have also been received.

The 2009 purchase from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation of a half-acre parcel of land that contains the existing parking lot and driveway provided the remaining land necessary for the building and its septic system.

The building plan includes space

for one or two bathrooms, a mechanical room, a snack bar/kitchen area, and a storage area for sports equipment. The basic building material will be an architectural concrete block similar to that used at Webster Beach in Franklin.

The building plan received Andover Planning Board approval in August. The proposed septic system received New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services construction approval in September. A building permit is the final step in the approval process.

A groundbreaking ceremony is tentatively planned for October 16. Construction is expected to commence soon thereafter. We hope to have the building weather-tight by winter. Completion of the building and landscaping would take place next spring.

Watch Channel 8 and the AE/MS newsletter for additional information.

## Public Hearings Coming For Master Plan Updates

By Eric Johnson  
Andover Planning Board

The Andover Planning Board is about to dive back into the Master Plan update process.

Over the past several years, the bulk of the hard work of preparing a draft Master Plan has been undertaken by the Master Plan Update Committee. This committee, headed up by the tireless Paul Currier, did a commendable job to create a draft document that was passed on to the full Andover Planning Board in December 2009. The proverbial "ball" is now in our court.

The Andover Planning Board is now in the process of going through the various chapters of the draft Master Plan and doing some final tweaking before we schedule public hearings on the adoption of the Plan. New Hampshire law provides the Planning Board with several different options for adopting the Master Plan. Over the next few

months, the Board will be discussing and holding public hearings on the various chapters of the Master Plan. After each section has been presented to the public at these well-publicized hearings, the Board will then vote on whether or not to adopt that particular section.

The goal of the Planning Board in this process is to provide opportunities for the public to comment on the individual chapters that will eventually make up the final, adopted Master Plan. As with all Planning Board meetings, they are open to the public, regardless of whether we have a public hearing or not.

The Planning Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 PM, downstairs in the Town Hall. Please help us do our due diligence with this process. The eventual outcome will be a Master Plan document that will reflect the wisdom and vision of the citizens of Andover.



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