

ASLPT Completes Roger Hersey Farm Conservation Easement

By Beth McGuinn
ASLPT

The landscape surrounding the historic barns and buildings of the Roger Hersey Farm, on the south side of Route 11, has been protected with a conservation easement held by the Ausbon

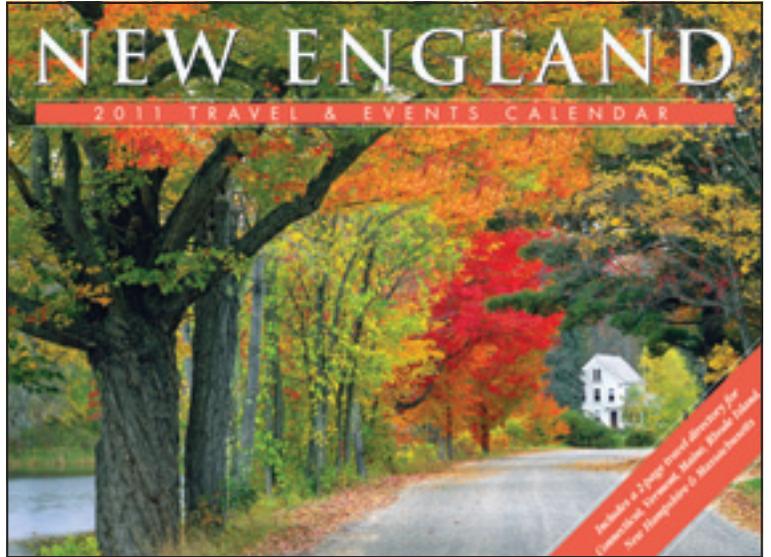
The interest in conserving this property was initiated by Andover residents, and townspeople gave generously to raise the funds to protect the farm. The Andover Conservation Commission and Andover Historical Society joined in to raise funds, and both organizations contributed funds to the project. ASLPT secured grants from the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program and the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, and Roger Hersey sold the conservation easement at a bargain price.

The Roger Hersey Farm is a scenic gateway to Andover, with well-known views from Route 11 looking southerly across open hay fields and pastureland to the forested hills beyond. The farm landscape and its associated buildings with the red doors are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and represent part of the Hersey Farms Historic District – a resource very important to

Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT). The easement ensures that these historic farm fields will remain open without development – forever – and the land remains in private ownership and on the tax roles.

the Andover Historical Society and to those who pass by on Route 11.

The 54.25-acre property is predominantly farmland used for hay and pasture, with some forested land. The farm has been managed by the Hersey family

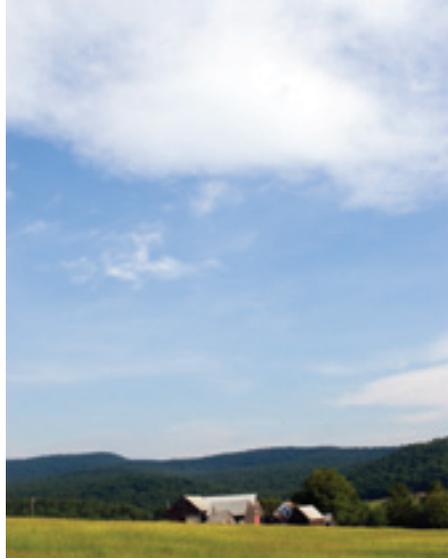


The 2011 New England Travel and Events Calendar features a beautiful photo of East Andover's Channel Road in autumn. The image is used on the cover as well as on the calendar page for the month of October. The calendar retails at \$12.99 and can be found at bookstores or at Shearson Publishing's Web site, ECoolSites.net.

for over 100 years and currently produces Hereford breeding stock, beef cattle, and high quality hay. It lies adjacent to Jerry Hersey's 238-acre Hersey Family Farm, which was conserved by ASLPT in 2007. Both properties are managed as one farm.

The Roger Hersey farm includes soils of "Prime Agricultural" and "Statewide and Local" significance, making it important to keep the property available for farming. The forested land is used primarily as shade for the cattle.

Running along much of the eastern boundary is 1,300 feet of a perennial brook, referred to as the Dyers Crossing Brook. The fields are identified in the 2005 New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan as among the highest ranked habitats for wildlife in the biological region – providing important grassland habitat for a wide variety of species including migrating birds, hawks and owls, reptiles and amphibians. There are many reasons why this property was so important to conserve.



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