

School District Meeting Info Packet

The 2011 Andover School District Meeting information packet will be available by Tuesday, February 15. It includes the proposed budget; a description of budget sections; historical background; and other information.

You can pick one up at:

- AE/MS
- the Town Hall
- either Post Office
- the Transfer Station
- Jake's Market
- Circle K

Please pick up a copy to read prior to the annual School District Meeting on Tuesday, March 1. An informed voter makes good choices.



Deb Guinard (middle) is the newest member of the team at the Transfer Station, joining Alan Wesoja (l) and supervisor Reggie Roy on Saturdays, when the facility is busiest. Photo: Charlie Darling

Warrant Article Seeks 10 Building Permits In Final Year Of Growth Ordinance

By Eric Johnson
Andover Planning Board.

For the past several years, the Andover Planning Board has practiced what has become an annual January ritual. Each Board member selects one or two neighboring towns and calls to find out about the number of new residential building permits issued in that town during the previous year. This year we will do this as well – but this year there will be a twist.

At Town Meeting this March, the Planning Board is proposing a change to Article XI of the Andover Zoning Ordinance, which deals with the Temporary Residential Growth Limitation (which can be read in its entirety at AndoverNHus.com/uploads/25/zoning_ordinance.pdf). The Planning Board would like to make a minimum of 10 building permits available in 2011 for new residential construction. This would only be in effect for 2011, as the Temporary Residential Growth Limitation article of the Zoning Ordinance is set to expire at Town Meeting in 2012. (Using the formula spelled out in the ordinance, three permits were available in 2010.)

The Temporary Residential Growth Limitation was first passed in 2001 and then extended in 2006. There was concern at the time that the rapid increase in Andover's population would result in a strain on town services, especially the population of students at Andover Elementary/Middle School. If the population continued to increase at the rates seen between 1998-2002, the fear was that Andover residents would be faced with the need to upgrade town facilities, including more classroom space, more Transfer Station hours, and more police and fire services. In order to help avoid a drastic increase in property taxes, the Planning Board proposed to limit the number of building permits for new residential units.

The Temporary Residential Growth Limitation was designed to allow Andover time to update its Master Plan,

which is now nearing its final version. Hopefully, the updated Master Plan will provide guidance and tools that will allow Andover to grow its population at a manageable rate.

Many of the factors that were present at the adoption and subsequent extension of the Temporary Residential Growth Limitation are no longer significant issues. The school population at AE/MS has declined by nearly 30 students, and looking several years down the road, the population is expected to move by 10 or so students on either side of where it is now. Additional strains on town services also appeared to have eased.

It is with this in mind that the Andover Planning Board is proposing a warrant article at the 2011 Town Meeting to alter the formula which has set the total number of available building permits for new residential construction each year. The minimum of 10 new residential permits will hopefully allow for managed growth in 2011 as we head toward adoption of a new Master Plan.

THE 15TH!!!!
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