

The **Andover Beacon**  
Our Hometown Newspaper

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The sweet smell of maple syrup hung in the air inside the sugarhouse at Ragged View farm during an Andover Institute "space exploration" on March 17. Here, as fascinated visitors watch, owner Mark Cowdrey checks on the performance of his evaporator, which concentrates the watery maple sap into Grade A maple syrup. Cowdrey's syrup is for sale at his farm, at 111 Bradley Lake Road. Photo: Larry Chase

## Andover Town Meeting Held During "Nor'easter"

### Voters decrease budget by \$25,000

Steve Foley

As the weather forecast began predicting that a "nor'easter would hit the region on the annual Town Meeting Day in New Hampshire, the state Attorney General and Secretary of State were quick to remind towns that it is against the law to postpone town meetings due to weather.

The polls opened at 11 AM and voting was reportedly very brisk during the first few hours with folks trying to get in and vote before road conditions got too bad.

The turnout for voting was good with over 475 people turning out, but the attendance at the Town Meeting, which began at 7 PM was lighter than usual according to Town Manager, Marj Roy. During a hand vote on one article, only 90 hands were counted. Whether the absence of many voters who usually do attend affected the outcome is anybody's guess.

At the polls, voters elected town officials (see results in sidebar on page 2) and voted on 5 articles that by law required a ballot vote. Most of these were changes in the zoning ordinances. Article two had to do with buildings that are not on a permanent foundation. The

amendment would change the requirement to obtain a building permit for such structures, but would require that they be registered with the town Zoning Administrator. The article passed with 25 in favor and 196 opposed.

Article Three amends the zoning ordinance to allow building permits to be issued for so called "tiny houses" except in Village and Forest Agriculture districts. This article passed with 253 in favor and 174 opposed.

Articles four and five also pertained to the zoning ordinance and were "housekeeping" measures to bring the towns zoning ordinance into compliance with current state laws. Article four passed with 274 in favor and 156 opposed. Article five passed with 262 in favor and 174 opposed.

Article six was the final zoning amendment which does away with a requirement for the Planning Board to find a site to be appropriate for a proposed use before a special exception can be approved. It also changes the wording involving the criteria for special exceptions. This article passed with 281 in favor and 215 opposed.

The operating budget for the town was considered in Article seven. There were lots of questions posed to the select board about how funds were being

See Town Mtg. on page 7



Work is now underway on the improvements for the Andover Elementary and Middle School as approved by the voters at last year's School District Meeting. On the East side of the school, workers have begun installing a foundation for an addition. Photo: Steve Foley

## Town Meetings Vote to Increase Net Appropriations by 2.9% over 2017

Ed Hiller, Budget Committee

The 2018 annual meetings of the Town of Andover, the Andover School District and the Andover Fire District voted to raise and appropriate their budgets for the coming year. The total appropriations (net of pass-throughs) are \$7,735,311, up \$220,126 over last year, an increase of 2.9%.

The Town expects to receive reimbursement from the State of 80% of the \$620,000 that was appropriated in 2017 for rebuilding the Morrill Hill Road Bridge. This reimbursement is \$496,000. The amount that can be used to offset taxes will be determined by NH-DRA guidelines regarding maintaining a prudent General Fund balance.

Andover School District Meeting

The Andover School District Meeting approved the Budget Committee's recommended budget of \$5,476,537, up 2.6% over last year. This included approval of a new three-year teachers' contract for increases in salaries and benefits of \$34,860 each of the three years.

Dept.	Net Appropriations			
	2017	2018	Change	Percent
Schools	\$5,335,215	\$5,476,537	\$141,322	2.6%
Town	\$2,046,894	\$2,124,103	\$77,209	3.8%
Fire	\$133,076	\$134,671	\$1,595	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,515,185</b>	<b>\$7,735,311</b>	<b>\$220,126</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

Andover Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting voted to reduce the 2018 Operating Budget. See Budget on page 7



Under the guidance of the New London-based Tiger Mountain Shotokan Karate School, participants in the "Karate at the Andover Hub" classes currently under way in the Hub's dance studio go through their moves. The classes are held on Monday afternoons and early evenings for children of ages six to eight, and separately for ages nine through adult. For more information, contact Gayle Fleming at 477-3174.

The Andover Hub, a new name for Andover's old town hall, is located at 157 Main Street in Andover Village. Photo: Larry Chase

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