

# Letters

**Y**our opinion matters! Please send a letter to the *Beacon* expressing your thoughts on any local matters. Our readers want and need to hear your voice!

## Elbow Pond Washout

The engineers for the proposed Elbow Pond Road culvert repair met with the Andover Conservation Commission on October 3. Select Board member Vicky Mishcon was present along with several residents of the road.

The project is to repair the washed out so-called east culvert which is 69 yards west of the Mountain Brook Bridge and 71 yards east of the so-called west culvert. Water under both culverts and the bridge flows into Elbow Pond. The section of road between the two culverts washed out previously in 2005 and then cost more than \$50,000 to repair.

Plans for the new project were displayed. Vicky Mishcon explained the Select Board was asking for quick Conservation Commission approval of the plans so that an emergency wetlands permit could be submitted to the state. This permit should bring approval within 30 days so that construction

could proceed this fall. The Commission voted to approve the plans.

At the time of this writing, the engineering firm tells us the cost estimate for the project if done by an outside contractor is \$193,000. The Select Board believes the cost will be much lower if the work is done by the town, but no actual estimate has been calculated. Almost \$20,000 additional has already been spent for design and fees.

A flood relief grant application for the work has been submitted to FEMA, and the town believes \$61,000 has been approved.

Questions arise:

- 1) Why the rush to do the work?
- 2) While the Select Board has the authority to spend this money, is it proper or appropriate for them to spend an amount equal to 10 percent of the annual town budget on this small project without the voters' approval?
- 3) Is the repair really necessary?

Our comments about the questions follow:

Where is the emergency? The road has been closed for a year. So far as we know, no one has suffered.

Would not work on this wet project go better in a warmer, drier season than in the high water and freeze ups of late fall?

Looking at costs, the future also needs to be considered. The west culvert is exactly the same construction as the washed out east culvert. Some future flood likely will wash it out. Repair of this would cost just as much as the east one will now.

Also, the Mountain Brook Bridge needs repairs or replacement. The new Morrill Hill Road Bridge over the Elbow Pond outlet cost more than \$600,000. How many hundreds of thousands of dollars will a new Mountain Brook bridge cost?

Complaints have been heard about the creation of two dead end roads. But Andover already has more than 40. Why would two more be such a problem?

Also, there are at least 10 of these now dead end roads in Andover and 5 more running into other towns, that could be reestablished as through roads by upgrading class VI connections.

Some of these would be unrealistic projects and many would be opposed by the present residents who like their quieter, safer, more secure dead ends - just like most of our Elbow Pond Road neighbors do now.

All these previous through roads became dead ends when maintenance of uninhabited portions became too costly

relative to their usefulness. Is not Elbow Pond Road now in exactly this same situation?

Some say all this doesn't matter because we have FEMA money. Some call FEMA money "free" money. But should we call federal dollars free? Doesn't Washington raise its money by taxation?

We hope the people who would like the culvert repaired are not those who favor low taxes and small government.

Is this hurry-up project maybe a government boondoggle?

Here we have the town ready to spend \$100,000 or more with the strong possibility that many more hundreds of thousands will need to be spent in the not too distant future, all this on 150 yards of dirt road that most of the road's residents would prefer be kept closed. Please think about it.

*Bill Bardsley  
Andy Prokosch*

## Vote for Natalie Wells

To Citizens of Warner, Webster, Salisbury, Danbury and Andover, I urge you to vote for Natalie Wells for State Representative on November 6.

She has proven to be a responsive representative and concerned with her constituents problems and seeks solu-

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The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The *Beacon* reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.



**Andover Area Democrats, Progressives & Independents enthusiastically support**

**Ken Wells for State Representative District 1  
David Karrick for State Representative District 25  
Mason Donovan for State Senate District 7**

*This team of Democratic candidates will work hard on behalf of local residents to:*

- ★ Prioritize lowering property taxes;
- ★ Protect Medicaid expansion that has already helped more than 50,000 NH families;
- ★ Keep our local public schools strong by not giving away taxpayer dollars to private schools;
- ★ Work with towns to improve roads and bridges and expand high-speed internet in rural towns;
- ★ Move NH toward a sustainable future, supporting renewable energy, local farms and local forestry.

***We, the undersigned, encourage voters to join us in voting on November 6 for the entire slate of Democratic candidates.***

Christiane Andrews	Kait Armstrong	Bill & Betty Bardsley	Dean Barker	Linda Barnes	Pecco & Gail Beaufays
Alex Bernhard	Janet & Jerry Bliss	Peg Boyles	Robin & Jay Boynton	Peter Brankman	Mary Anne Broshek
Lorna Carlisle	Larry & Susan Chase	Karin Clough	Dan Coolidge	Duncan Coolidge	Mark Cowdrey
Lynette & Paul Currier	Gisela & Steve Darling	Jeff Dickinson	Donna Duclos	Artelia Lynn Ellis	Edibeth Farrington
Tim Gallagher	Jeff Goodrich	Pat Goodwin	Nicolette Gala Grano	Kent Hackmann	Brad Hartwell
Donna Baker Hartwell	George Heaton	Gail Henry	Jerry Hersey	Jim Hersey	Chuck & Ginny Higgins
Ed & Becky Hiller	Mary-Lou & Don Hinman	John & Sooze Hodgson	Sue Houston	Donna Hudson	Paul Hynes
Marcus Johnson	Nan Kaplan	Lea Lafave	Ellen Langlais	Teresa & Bob LeClerc	Sarah Lester
Eileen Mackey	Tom Mackey	Samantha Mackey	Lois Magenau	Betty Manahan	Claudio Marcus
Myra Mayman	Pat & Jim McCarthy	Ethney McMahon	Carmelita Moe	Janet Moore	Chuck Motta
Caroline Moulton	Marie Nardino	Chris & Kit Norris	Suzy & Tim Norris	Kevin & Nan O'Neill	Cynthia Owen
Patty Pond	Joe & Joan Ponti	Bill Radzelovage	Mario Ratzki	Brian Reynolds	Nancy Robart
Joe Schmidl	Amy Schneider	Bette Soloway	Shauna Turnbull	Art Urie	Stacey & Eric Viandier
Joan Wallen	Linda Wilson	Peter Zak	Charles & Mary Lou McCrave		Barbara & Donovan Freeman