

Highland Lake Inn, Andover Barn Heavily Impacted by COVID Crisis

Haven't had a guest since March 13

Pecco Beaufays

Highland Lake Inn and Andover Barn

It was the beginning of March 2020, and our world was about to change. Remember, we didn't expect anything to happen to us.

On March 6, our State Representatives Ken Wells (D) and JC Allard (R), together with Andover resident Dr. Sooze Hodgson and myself, organized the first "Andover Dialogue," a formal get-together of stakeholders for the development of a German-style, employer-financed Vocational School and Apprenticeship concept for New Hampshire.

Over 30 guests representing the New Hampshire State House and Senate, New Hampshire Education Department, United States Labor Department, the Community College System of New Hampshire, small and mid-size business owners, the City of Franklin, and others came to listen to a presentation by the Consul General of Germany

and the German American Chamber of Commerce in New York City at the Highland Lake Inn.

There were no worries about COVID-19 at this time.

By March 10, I was feeling somewhat uncomfortable about attending our Town Meeting due to increasing



Pecco and Gail Beaufays own the Highland Lake Inn and the Andover Barn in East Andover.

signs of COVID-19 in the media. We also had received the first cancellation from Proctor parents for reservations made for the beginning of April.

By March 11, all future reservations

through May were cancelled. One professional snowboarder from Colorado, who had stayed with us a couple of times before, stayed with us on March 13. That was the last guest we have seen.

Looking into the future, depending on our guests' wishes, we are ready to reschedule reserved wedding events to a later date this year or to 2021. We have lost all spring business, especially due to the closure of Proctor Academy, which represents 90% of our business in the spring.

As far as the summer of 2020 is concerned, we usually host many scientist attendees of the Gordon Research Conferences at Proctor Academy, and most have been cancelled. We have not yet been notified if Camp Kenwood-Evergreen will be in session this year for us to host visiting parents. Hosting Proctor parents, Gordon Researchers, and Kenwood-Evergreen parents makes our business a lot of fun.

At the moment, we do not see the end of the tunnel.

However, thanks to the great support of our bank, Bank of New Hampshire, we were able to defer all mortgage payments till October 31. Certain support

designed to help small businesses from the government has not yet and might never reach us, since small business is defined by the government as companies with up to 500 employees. We shall see.

Our United States House Representative, Annie Kuster (D), has been trying to help as best as she can. Representative Kuster calls small business owners in her district personally and listens to our problems. She keeps us updated with the progress they are making in Washington DC, but how much help can one expect? It is tough.

Now we are using our time to work on different programs we are involved with. As a result of our March 6 Andover Dialogue, the City of Franklin is planning to go ahead with the development of the employer-financed Vocational School/Apprenticeship program. Also, we are involved in a foundation, Granite Foundation, to raise money in support of students of the New Hampshire Community College System, and this needs more attention for alternative means to raise funds since all fund-raising events for the summer have been cancelled.

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WE'RE WILD ABOUT THE 4TH OF JULY!

The Andover Fourth of July Committee has been tirelessly working on preparations for the upcoming celebration. The students at Andover Elementary Middle School have voted on the theme "We're Wild About the Fourth of July." We have bands and floats booked for the parade, raffle prizes are ready and the fireworks are secured. In addition, the committee has added a few new touches to this iconic day. With the recent concerns of Covid-19, we are making preparations for the possibility of Andover's first ever virtual celebration while remaining hopeful that the Green will be bustling on the first Saturday of July.

THEN

STAY TUNED AS THE DATE GETS CLOSER FOR MORE DETAILS.
ALSO, thank you to the community for your support.

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