



Andover Village  
Improvement Society:  
Andover's Land Trust  
Founded 1894

Spring 2010  
Vol. 117, No. 1

# avis update

## Land Acquisition Report

*Susan Stott*

In 2009 AVIS received an addition of almost 12,000 square feet to the Hammond Reservation off Alison Way that will protect a vernal pool at the edge of the property. The land was given by Piotr and Dorothy Romanus. Deed preparation services were provided pro bono by the Andover law firm of Johnson and Borenstein LLC.

AVIS has had conversations with two separate landowners about opportunities to expand one reservation and create a new one. AVIS will need your support to continue to protect and expand open space in Andover.

Two articles related to open space preservation will be on the Andover Town Meeting Warrant this spring. AVIS urges its members to attend Town meeting and vote in favor of these articles.

The first warrant article is for a proposed land exchange between AVIS and the Town of Andover. In exchange for land contaminated by the Town landfill, primarily the Pettingell Reservation, which will be conveyed to the Town, AVIS will receive several important parcels, including access from the end of Heather Drive to the 10 acres purchased from the Seller's estate, the Abbot Well property, which sits between AVIS Shawsheen and Vale Reservations; and two lots on Monahan Lane, which would provide access to a possible new AVIS reservation in West Andover. The AVIS land which will be transferred to the Town will be preserved as open space following the mitigation of the arsenic contaminants. The land conveyed to AVIS will come with a Conservation Restriction. No funds will be paid by either the Town or AVIS for the land exchange.

There will be an open space bond article to fund the acquisition of 5¼ acres abutting more than 40 acres owned by the Conservation Commission on Foster's Pond. This is an important addition because the Goldsmith Woodlands (more than 130 acres of open space) are to the east and north of the Conservation Commission land. This new acquisition, with frontage on Foster's Pond, would provide parking and access from the southwest to almost 175 acres of open space. At the moment the only public access to the existing Town Conservation land is through the Goldsmith Reservation from South Main Street on the east.



*AVIS work day on Deer Jump Reservation on November 7, 2009. Volunteers worked on rerouting some sections of the trail that were badly eroded and also did some widening of the trail, cutting encroaching vegetation and general clean-up. Photo by Mike Timko.*

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The *AVIS Update* is a biannual publication of the Andover Village Improvement Society. AVIS' mission is to acquire and preserve Andover land in its natural state. More than 1,000 acres of land are managed by AVIS and are open to all for passive recreation.

Fred Snell, President  
Pam Eaton, Membership  
Sue Rice, Editor

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## AVIS Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Sustaining  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$40 Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Student & Senior

You can join or renew online at [www.avisandover.org/join.html](http://www.avisandover.org/join.html) or make check payable to "AVIS" and mail to AVIS, PO Box 5097, Andover, MA 01810.

For information about planned giving or stock donations contact [info@avisandover.org](mailto:info@avisandover.org). Contributions and dues are tax deductible to the extent permitted by federal regulations.

*Thank you!*

*Phil Dargie, founder of the Rafton x-country ski/hike, speaks to participants in the 41st annual hike this past January. Photo by John Hess.* ▶



*AVIS volunteers install beaver deceiver in the Hammond Reservation. Photo by Fred Snell.* ▼



## AVIS Calendar

Sun, April 18, 1:30pm.

**Hike at Baker's Meadow and Indian Ridge.** Meet at stone arch facing church. Led by Helen Palmer, 978-657-9153

Sat, April 24, 9:00am. - 12:00pm.

**Work party** at Baker's Meadow dam. accessed from the end of Meadow View Lane, to burn the debris, clear the dam as much as possible and add fill to the top of the dam. Led by Dave Doub, 978-470-3703.

Wed/Thurs, April 28 & 29

**Town Meeting** — Please come to support AVIS! (check [andoverma.gov](http://andoverma.gov) for additional Town Meeting information).

For additional AVIS events, see [avisandover.org](http://avisandover.org).

For AMC walks, see [amcboston.org/andover](http://amcboston.org/andover).

## From the President

*Fred Snell*

2010 opens with many opportunities for once-in-a-lifetime changes in Andover.



First, I want to encourage all of you to support both the AVIS land swap with the Town and the Conservation Commission's warrant article at Spring Town Meeting in April (see Land Acquisition Report on front page).

The Conservation Commission's article appropriates money to purchase three lots on Foster's Pond, a location between our Wilkinson Reservation and the Bessie Goldsmith Woodlands. The purchase of these lots will further protect this beautiful spot and make it accessible to all. I know that AVIS members will be in support of this but I urge you to make your friends and neighbors aware of this opportunity. We all know of the constraints of Town finances, but these kinds of opportunities come rarely and the overwhelming evidence is that open space is more cost efficient than housing on future Town finances.

The second large impact on the Town is the I-93 project near our Sanborn Reservation on the Shawsheen River. Many public hearings and meetings have already taken place. Andover residents have strongly spoken out about the need to protect the river and make sure there is plenty of open space. These hearings and meetings will continue and it is important that this message continue to be strong and come from as many voices as possible. I urge you to please follow what is going on, attend the meetings and speak up for open space and river protection.

The final issue that will have a large impact this year is the proposed removal of three dams on the Shawsheen. The ultimate decision about removal rests with the owners of the dams, but there will be many meetings and hearings to learn more and speak up about this project and its impact on the river and surrounding areas.

## Acknowledgements

- Thanks to the Boston Foundation for an annual grant of \$5,000 from the Bessie P. Goldsmith Fund.
- Thanks to Heather Holman and Nuala Boness for real estate advice.
- Thanks to Marta Hornidge for her service as an AVIS Trustees. Welcome to new Trustees Emily Trespas and Laura Ciampa.
- Thanks to Sue Rice, editor of Spring Update.

[www.avisandover.org](http://www.avisandover.org)

## I 93 Project: Why AVIS Cares

*Alix Driscoll*

AVIS's Sanborn Reservation and the Shawsheen River abut the project. Mass Highway is proposing to widen I93 by a lane each way from the North Reading line to Route 495, and to build a new interchange between exits 41 and 42. This interchange will unlock access to 700 acres in Andover, Tewksbury and Wilmington on both sides of the highway for development.

Andover wants this new interchange to ameliorate traffic in Ballardvale and local roads, to promote high tech development and to protect open space. On the west side, about 90 acres, including AVIS's Sanborn Reservation, there are habitats of endangered and rare species, and a meandering river with large floodplain and oxbows, and extensive wetlands and vernal pools. At the January open "charette" meeting, Andover participants gave overwhelming support for protecting the Andover land on the west side and for generous trails on the east side. AVIS Board of Trustees and the Andover Conservation Commission have recently voted to encourage permanent protection of the whole west side parcel with appropriate compensation for landowners.

For five years, the Tri-town Task Force of officials from Andover, Tewksbury and Wilmington have been meeting monthly to plan for the proposed new interchange. AECOM of Concord will have a preferred alternative to show publicly in the summer 2010. The Cecil Group has divided up the 700 acres into commercial/retail parcels and VHB consultants are currently writing overlay zoning for the three towns, although Andover, Tewksbury and Wilmington have different visions of their needs and desired developments. The Andover land is now Industrial-zoned. A new overlay called Form-Based Zoning (FBZ) would guide development: size of buildings, "look and feel" of areas, footprints on the land and density. FBZ will go to the three Town Meetings in October for approval. Stay tuned.

## New AVIS Brochure

AVIS is proud to have a new brochure that was printed in time for the October 17, 2009 Andover Days. Look for it at key town events, Old Town Hall, Memorial Hall Library and other sites around town.

## Welcome to our new members!

Stephen Anderson  
Janice Bader  
Richard Barry  
Bruce Beckwith  
Joan Browne  
Edward Crowley  
Robert Dalton  
Thomas Dumas  
Karen and Ted English  
Tom Fedak  
Melissa Harmon-Belliard  
Joni Hendrixson  
Mary Kernan  
Craig Liversidge

Dave and Debbie McCarthy  
Diane McGary  
David McGrath  
Amber Meservey  
Sherry Peterson  
Laura Richane  
Donna Sewall  
Michael Sherman  
Anders Sparre  
Warren and Virginia Stone  
Gary and Carol Wenzel  
David Yachnin  
John Zielin



Hikers on AVIS Hammond Reservation, led by warden Dennis Crispo on October 4, 2009. Photo by David Williamson.



Skug River Reservation hike led by Fred Snell on October 11, 2009. This was a "hike & history" event cosponsored by the Andover Historical Society. Jane Cairns from the AHS talked about the history of the area. Photo by Peggy Kruse.

## AVIS Finances

2009

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Total Income              | \$ 151,281 |
| Total Operating Expenses  | \$ 35,122  |
| Land Acquisition Expenses | \$ 98,400  |

Thank you to our donors and members for your continued support of our efforts to preserve land in Andover.

## AVIS Annual Dinner

AVIS held its Annual Meeting and Dinner on March 10, 2010 at the North Andover Country Club. In addition to socializing and hearing about AVIS activities over the past year attendees elected two new Trustees (Laura Ciampa and Emily Trespas). The over 100 attendees heard a very enlightening presentation about the abundance of deer in Eastern Mass., particularly in suburban areas, where deer are eating plants in backyards and where there is worry that more cases of Lyme Disease could result from the increasing number of ticks that come with the deer. The presenter, Sonja Christensen, is the Deer/Moose Project Leader for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife. Some experts are advocating for more deer hunting to control the population and reduce the chances of Lyme Disease.

## Andover Trails Guide

The third edition (2003) of *The Andover Trail Guide* is available at Andover Bookstore, Moor & Mountain and Rocky's Ace Hardware or from the Andover Trails Committee by mail. Send a check for \$10.95 to:

Andover Trails Committee, c/o Alan French  
17 Moreland Road, Andover, MA 01810

## Welcome to our new wardens

**Shawsheen Road Reservation:** Bruce & Lyle Baker  
**North Main Street Land:** Craig Liversidge  
**Lupine Road Reservation:** Bob Dalton  
**Indian Ridge Reservation:** Nate Combs  
**Highland Road:** Shawn Burke & Monica Schnitger  
**Deer Jump Reservation, Launching Road downstream to town land:** Bob Kurchian (co-warden)

For a complete list of current Reservation wardens go to [www.avisandover.org](http://www.avisandover.org).

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