



The LAW Brief



Volume I Issue 5

LAND ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

November, 2001

Upcoming Meetings

- Planning Board Public Hearing, Lane Application, 7 p.m., Tuesday December 4, Prescott School
- Public Hearing on the Discontinuance of Merrifield Road, 7 p.m., Tuesday, December 11, Bryant Room
- Public Meeting to discuss Abuse of ATVs on Town Roads and private property, 7 p.m., Wednesday, December 12, Prescott School
- LAW raffle drawing, 7 p.m., Thursday, December 13, Bryant Room
- *LAW is looking for people to be road captains to inform your neighbors about important town issues. Please call 845-2648 to help.*

Hot Air

In an effort to determine how its 66-foot-tall asphalt silo would mar the rural landscape, Lane floated a special balloon over the site, then took some grainy photos from the road. The company didn't bother telling townsfolk about the balloon. Asked if they could put it up again so we might see for ourselves, they replied: "It popped."

Lane Drain Continues

Lane's application has already cost the town thousands of dollars in legal and consulting fees. Our ordinance allows us to bill the applicant for those expenses ... but months later, the Planning Board has not yet done so. Selectman Grinnell told the Board that time is running out: if Lane doesn't pay by Dec. 31, we face a serious budget crunch.

Expert to Lane: Not So Fast!

The expert's report is finally in ... and it confirms what thoughtful citizens have long suspected: Lane's application for a strip mine and industrial plant in our farm and forest district fails to meet the standards of our ordinance. But don't take our word for it; here's just one paragraph of the unbiased report, prepared by geologist Carol White: "The applicant has submitted no technical materials with which to characterize the groundwater in the site; no materials with which to evaluate hydraulic interconnections among bedrock aquifers in the site and private water wells and surface

streams; no materials with which to evaluate the physical, chemical or biological effects of the proposed use on groundwater or surface waters in and adjacent to the site."

Our ordinance states clearly that such factors must be considered before granting a permit. LAW recognized this lack of required evidence from the very beginning, when we urged the Planning Board and code enforcement officer to reject the Lane application as incomplete.

So what happens next?

For starters, Lane will assemble a proposal for a hydrogeologic study (there are several ways to do it), which Carol White &

Associates will review. At that point we hope the Planning Board will order Lane to conduct a full study of the site and adjacent areas ... but that's not clear yet.

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

Lane continues to run a portable asphalt plant and rock crusher with no permit at its Route 220 site. On Nov. 13, LAW president Robert Marks requested that the code enforcement officer issue a stop-work order for this illegal activity. He refused, but LAW will continue to pursue enforcement of our ordinance at this noisy, nonconforming industrial site.

Industrial Use the Subject of Next Hearing

The Dec. 4 public hearing will address Lane's proposal to include a rock crusher, concrete plant and asphalt plant at its Vanner farm site. Lane will attempt to explain why it should be allowed to bring prohibited manufacturing uses into the farm and forest district. LAW president

Robert Marks will argue for enforcement of our ordinance, which is designed to maintain the fields and forests of our landscape. We expect the Planning Board will publicly resolve the accessory use question after argument is completed.

Don't miss this hearing! We don't know how many chances we'll get to be heard. At the Nov. 15 workshop meeting, Planning Board member Mitch Garnett proposed that this hearing be the last! Fortunately his motion was shot down, but it's clear we are fighting an uphill battle to be heard.

Buy Christmas Trees to Save Our Farms and Forests

Mention LAW when you buy your Christmas Tree from Davis Stream Christmas Tree Farm, and the owner will

donate \$5 of the purchase price to save our farmland and forests. The farm is open weekends after Thanksgiving, but you can

reserve your tree in advance. Call 845-2544 for more information. The farm is on Hopkins Road in Washington.

'Tis the Season for LAW Holiday Cards!

Now you can send season's greetings that support LAW's efforts to protect our farm and forest land. Holiday cards with the distinctive LAW logo (in a new winter setting) are now available from our tireless fund-raising committee. Prices are \$1.50 for one card, \$5.00 for five or \$18.75 for 25. The cards have a "Peace on Earth" greeting inside and come with envelopes. They can be purchased by contacting Paulette Oboyski at 845-3045 or Paula Green at 845-2406 and will be for sale at LAW meetings and at hearings.

There's still time to buy raffle tickets before the Dec. 13 drawing at the LAW holiday celebration. (That's at 7:00 in the Bryant Room; come and

bring a dessert to share.) Each ticket is a chance to win one of nine prizes being donated: \$100 cash, \$100 of legal services, a hand-woven wool rug worth \$75, a \$50 gift certificate for Peagreen cards, prints and shirts, a handmade afghan worth \$50, a free therapeutic massage by Kathleen Ocean (\$45), a beautiful holiday wreath worth \$30, a LAW tee shirt (\$20) and a Hannibal's Restaurant gift certificate for \$25. Tickets are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for 6 tickets.

Meanwhile, Zola Coogan continues her efforts to obtain tax-exempt status for LAW. All the paperwork has been submitted. Three holiday cheers for our fund-raising team!



Yes! I want to help LAW make sure our ordinances are enforced. Enclosed is my donation for:

\$5 \$10 \$15 \$25 \$50
 \$75 \$100 Other: _____

Please put me on LAW's contact list.

I want a "Lane, Lane, Go Away!" sign for my lawn.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

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Peace on Earth

Proceeds from the purchase of this card help protect the farm and forest lands of Washington, Maine

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