

# STURBRIDGE VILLAGER

Mailed weekly to every home in Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales

Vol. 2, No. 7

COMPLIMENTARY HOME DELIVERY

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"To be loved, be lovable."

Friday, February 15, 2008

## Displaying their enterprising spirit

### TRHS SENIORS SET UP CUSTOM T-SHIRT COMPANY

BY BRUCE COULTER  
 VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — Sean Connors and Joshua Thomson-Hansen may not be appearing on "The Big Idea" on CNBC any time soon, but the enterprising Tantasqua Regional High School seniors, both 17, have already become entrepreneurs.

Last year, the pair decided to start a custom design T-shirt printing business, and more recently formed their own company, aptly named Connsen, a combination of their last names.

Both were just looking for a way to make some money on the side and "it was something to do that was fun," said Connors.

"We started a year ago," said Thomson-Hansen, "but we weren't really doing custom [shirts] back then."

About five months ago, after searching the Internet, they bought their first major piece of equipment, a heating press found on the popular auction site eBay, for \$400.

Their next decision was which brand of heat transfer paper would



Bruce Coulter photo

Sean Connors, left, and Joshua Thomson-Hansen, seniors at Tantasqua Regional High School, have started their own custom-designed T-shirt business.

Turn To T-SHIRT, page A11

## OSV could be on the rebound

### ATTRACTION HAS BEST MONTH IN DECADE

BY GUS STEEVES  
 VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — After years of sliding attendance, Old Sturbridge Village might be on the rebound.

Last month, the living history museum, which depicts a New England village of the 1820s, saw a 23 percent increase in the number of visitors over January 2007 and exceeded January attendance for every year since 1998.

"If January is any indication, this could be one of our best years of the decade," CEO James Donahue said. "To see double-digit attendance increases in January — one of our coldest and snowiest months — is an extremely good sign that we will continue attendance gains during the spring and summer, when we often have thousands of visitors in a single day."

January's visitor count exceeded 4,000, a figure that was almost 800 above that of January 2007, despite bitter cold and snowy periods, www.osv.org stated. The museum has been in existence since 1946.

Marketing Manager Pam Lozier said she believes the figures represent the beginning of a new trend sparked by a change in the way the museum does business. In

Turn To OSV, page A11

## Brook plan draws locals' ire

BY GUS STEEVES  
 VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

STURBRIDGE — A preliminary proposal to eliminate the dams on Hamant Brook drew some opposition Monday, Feb. 11 from residents who argued the town bought the land for recreational use, "not saving a habitat for fish."

The concept was proposed by Division of Fisheries and Wildlife biologist Todd Richards, who said the brook is one of the region's few cold water habitats still supporting brook

trout, a species that has been eliminated across large parts of its former range. He said eliminating several dams along the brook and restoring its flow could benefit that fish and other species "that are under-represented in the community."

"This is my first in-depth experience of a project of this nature. I'm a biologist, so I'm going to have a learning curve," Richards said. "I can't see anything we're really looking for now from the town other than, 'Yeah, good idea.'"

Several citizens in attendance didn't think it was, at least without more information.

William Muir said the small ponds there "have been there 100 years. The Public Lands Advisory Committee [PLAC] looks at that as three ponds where there is now fishing and wildlife," and that have been used for swimming, picnicking and other activities over the years.

"If I have to tell my grandkid he's

Turn To BROOK, page A14

## Holland residents KO override

### PROPOSALS EASILY DEFEATED AT BALLOT BOX

BY BRUCE COULTER  
 VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

HOLLAND — Residents overwhelmingly defeated a pair of Proposition 2 1/2 override requests by the Board of Selectmen Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Article 1 requested the tax levy limit be raised by \$475,000. Voters overruled that request by a vote of 578-237.

The second article, this one asking for a levy override of \$565,000, was defeated 639-155.

According to Town Clerk Kristin LaPlante, the turnout was higher than she's seen before.

"Roughly 50 percent (827) of our registered voters came out," she said. "It's unbelievable. I've never seen anything like it."

Oddly, 17 more residents voted for the override than in the presidential primary, she



James Wettlaufer

added. Just 810 residents voted in the primary.

Despite the turnout, election officials had little trouble accommodating voters at Town Hall.

"We had no problem fitting everyone in," said LaPlante.

Turn To BALLOT, page A7

### TOWN RUNNING \$50,000 SNOW/ICE DEFICIT

BY BRUCE COULTER  
 VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

HOLLAND — Following the defeat of a proposed Proposition 2 1/2 override the day before, the Board of Selectmen vowed to move forward with the business of the town during its weekly meeting Wednesday, Feb. 6.

But the business of the town could suffer in the coming months without an infusion of cash.

"You need to understand that you get what you pay for," said Chairman James Wettlaufer. "In this case, you're going to not get what you don't pay for."

The town, he said, still faces a shortage of cash for the current fiscal year.

The town's snow and ice budget, said Wettlaufer, has doubled because of heavy December snows, and is now in the red by \$50,000.

"The snow and ice account deficit has doubled what the appropriation was," he

Turn To DEFICIT, page A9



Shawn Kelley photo

### CIRCLE OF LIFE

STURBRIDGE — Jedais Matos, 3, of Worcester, gets ready to enter the circle for a dance in his Indian gear during the New England Native American Institute's annual winter powwow Saturday, Feb. 9 at Burgess Elementary School. For more photos from the event, please turn to Page A8.

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## SPORTS

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## VILLAGER TRIVIA

595,340; 559,034; 955,034.  
 Which was the 2005 population estimate of Boston?  
 Answer inside.







## POLICE LOGS



The arrests and offenses below were listed in each town's police department logs. People charged are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. This newspaper will publish dispensations of cases at the request of the accused, with proper documentation.

### ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES

#### Sunday, Feb. 3

STURBRIDGE — 9:26 a.m. — Police arrested Ronald J. Hebert, 57, of 1 River Road, on an unspecified warrant.

#### Monday, Feb. 4

STURBRIDGE — 6:56 a.m. — Police arrested Kenneth Campbell, 23, of 1615 Route 171, Woodstock, Conn., on an unspecified warrant.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 5

STURBRIDGE — 3:11 p.m. — Bruce Hedlund, 57, of 28 Farquhar Road, was put under arrest.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 6

STURBRIDGE — 10:12 a.m. — An investigation led to the arrest of Luis Zayas, 26, of 50 Pine St., Southbridge, for larceny over \$250 and conspiracy.

#### Thursday, Feb. 7

STURBRIDGE — 10:59 a.m. — A motor vehicle stop led to the arrest of David E. Soper, 22, of 6 McBride Road, Wales, for uninsured motor vehicle and revoked registration.

### LOG HIGHLIGHTS

#### Saturday, Feb. 2

STURBRIDGE — 2:24 and 7:48 p.m. — Investigated suspicious vehicles, Shepard Road and Route 49.  
STURBRIDGE — 12:11 p.m. — Aided disabled motorist, Route 20.  
STURBRIDGE — 5:21 p.m. — Responded to report of property lost/stolen, Host Hotel.

#### Sunday, Feb. 3

STURBRIDGE — 10:13 a.m. to 12:13 p.m. — Responded to three calls for suspicious activity, Fiske Hill Road, Cedar Pond Road and Route 131/20 intersection. Latter resulted in someone being taken to hospital.  
STURBRIDGE — 12:42 p.m. — Responded to car accident at Jack's Gas, giving one driver a verbal warning.  
STURBRIDGE — 6:10 and 8:04 p.m. — Investigated more suspicious activity, Main Street and Hillside Drive.

#### Monday, Feb. 4

STURBRIDGE — 12:34 a.m. — Traced 911 call to High Street, resulting in person being taken to hospital.  
STURBRIDGE — 10 a.m. and 6:04 p.m. — Investigated suspicious activity, Boardwalk Plaza and Heritage Green.  
STURBRIDGE — 6:14 and 6:33 p.m. — Responded to suspicious vehicles, Route 148 and Route 131.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 5

STURBRIDGE — 1:52 a.m. — Investigated suspicious vehicle, Super 8 Motel.  
STURBRIDGE — 7:03 a.m. —

Responded to car accident involving pedestrian. Ambulance came, but was not needed.  
STURBRIDGE — 8:15 a.m. — Responded to disturbance, Blueberry Lane.  
STURBRIDGE — 9:14 a.m. — Responded to car accident, Fiske Hill Road. Ambulance came, but was not needed.  
STURBRIDGE — 1:17 p.m. — Motor vehicle stop on Holland Road. Citation issued.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 6

STURBRIDGE — 1:35 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop at the OSV entrance. Verbal warning issued.  
STURBRIDGE — 2:05 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop at Burger King. Warning issued.  
STURBRIDGE — 4:42 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop at the Econo Lodge. Verbal warning given.  
STURBRIDGE — 11:26 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop at Motel 6. Written warning issued.

#### Thursday, Feb. 7

STURBRIDGE — 2:30 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop on Route 148. Verbal warning issued.  
STURBRIDGE — 2:46 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop on Holland Road. Verbal warning issued.  
STURBRIDGE — 7:30 a.m. — Motor vehicle stop at Tantasqua Regional High School. Verbal warning issued.  
STURBRIDGE — 8:08 a.m. — Accident with property damage at Holland Road Golf Course was investigated.

## WHAT IS IT?



**CONTEST ENTRY FORM: Feb. 15, 2008**  
Deadline: Feb. 22, 2008

My guess for this week's photo is: \_\_\_\_\_

The answer to last week's What Is It? is ...

The statue of St. Christopher in front of St. Christopher Roman Catholic Church on Sturbridge Road in Brimfield.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your entry form to the Sturbridge Villager, 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550, attn: Editor, or drop off to the office at 25 Elm St., Southbridge. You may also fax your entry to (508) 764-8015. All photos are of sights seen in and around Sturbridge, Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Responses must identify the subject and where it can be seen. Answers will be given the following week in the Sturbridge Villager. At the end of each month, all entry forms with the correct answer will be included in a random drawing. One lucky winner will receive \$25! Good luck!

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**Stablemates** **Weekly Crossword** By Ed Canty

**Across**

- Word with bar or color
- Heart part
- Conclusion starter
- Do as directed
- Continental divide?
- Relax
- Handed-down history
- Capital of the Yukon Territory
- Society gal
- Gets the picture
- Ready
- Traffic sign
- New Year's Day game
- More than dislike
- Barnes & Noble, for one
- Pilotless plane
- Grasps
- Egg cells
- Broadcasts
- Reunion group
- Skiers' aid
- Dads
- Summer refuge
- Aesop tale
- Enter unlawfully
- Bottomless pit
- Blunders
- A three-point sound
- Dark brown
- Ringlet
- Hold title to
- Little Big Horn victor
- Complimentary
- Advance amount
- Neighborhoods
- Cybercafe patron
- Scholarship criterion
- Sen. Lott
- Make over

**Down**

- Winter woe
- Slender reed
- Barbaro, for one
- CBS logo
- "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
- Longed for
- Luau souvenirs
- Port vessel?
- Compass dir.
- Fairy tale bad guys
- Roll call reply
- Cold war inits.
- Proof word
- Doves' antitheses
- Arid
- Charged particles
- Western capital
- Cry over spilt milk
- Show flexibility
- Pipe type
- Pitt and others
- Nursery steed
- Tracks
- Skins
- Corning product
- Burn a bit
- Bar bills
- Floral display
- Go bankrupt
- Impounded
- Actress Sarandon
- Seize forcibly
- Scrutinize
- Marine eagle
- Toast topping
- Canadian tribe
- Garden intruder
- Detective Wolfe
- Sombrero, e.g.
- Bruin legend Bobby
- Stole

**Quotable Quote**

Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people.

\*\*\* W. C. Fields

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# Sturbridge Pow-Wow

Photos by  
Shawn Kelley



Silver Bells hang from the back of an ornate dress.



Above left to right: Ryan Torres, 11, of Indian Orchard, looks over a table full of hand made Indian Crafts. Cooper Novelline, 7, of Sturbridge looks at a variety of handmade Indian crafts.



The back of Richard Callinhawk as he dances the "Crow Hop".



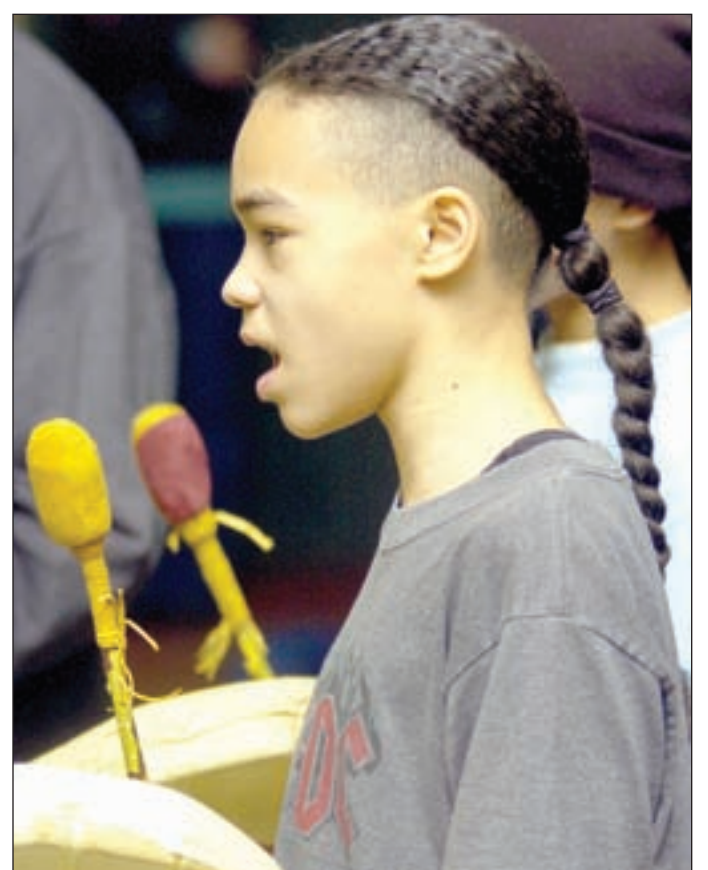
Richard Callinhawk, of Jaffrey New Hampshire, dresses in full Indian gear for the POW WOW held at Burgess Elementary School.



Anoki Mann, 10, of Webster chants a song as he beats his traditional Indian drum during the POW WOW held at the Burgess Elementary School.



Cheyenne Anderson, 10, of Sturbridge smiles with her new Indian necklace, as she leaves the POW WOW.



Nantai Mann, 11, of Webster beats a drum as he sings Indian folk songs,











# SPORTS

## Re-fueling the program

### WARRIOR GIRLS 15-1 AT JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL

BY SEAN SWEENEY  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

With all of the success of the Wells boys' basketball team down the street in Southbridge, one junior high team here in Sturbridge that is on a hot streak has laid in the weeds.

The Tantasqua Junior High girls' basketball team has won 13 straight games entering this week, taking a 15-1 record into the final week of the season.

"We came out and won our first two games and then lost our third game of the season. Since then, we haven't lost. The kids have started to gel as a team, they've gotten much better. We have two strong players in Corrie Moeller and Olivia Brooks who average in double digits. At the junior high level, that's a good foundation to carry a team," said L'il Warriors head coach Pete Casine. "Our one loss was to Auburn, and the second time we played them, we ended up beating them. We've had a good year."

Moeller and Brooks are a pair of players that teams throughout the Southern Worcester County League better be ready for: Both are eighth graders and will bring solid games across the street to the Reservation.

Moeller is the eighth-grade younger sister of current Tantasqua freshman Nicole Moeller, the heir apparent to Chelsea Blair. That said, one could consider the younger Moeller to be next in line.

"She's an aggressive player," Casine said of Moeller. "She's great down in the post, but she can catch the ball away from the basket and take the ball to the hoop, as well. She's left-handed, so that gets kids to bite right away; her going in the opposite direction than most kids are used to playing helps. She rebounds well, she's a strong kid for her age. You don't see many eighth graders playing the minutes that she plays and she's able to get up and down the court. She's the whole package."

Casine noted that with Moeller being nearly six feet tall, there haven't been many girls on other teams that can match up with her.

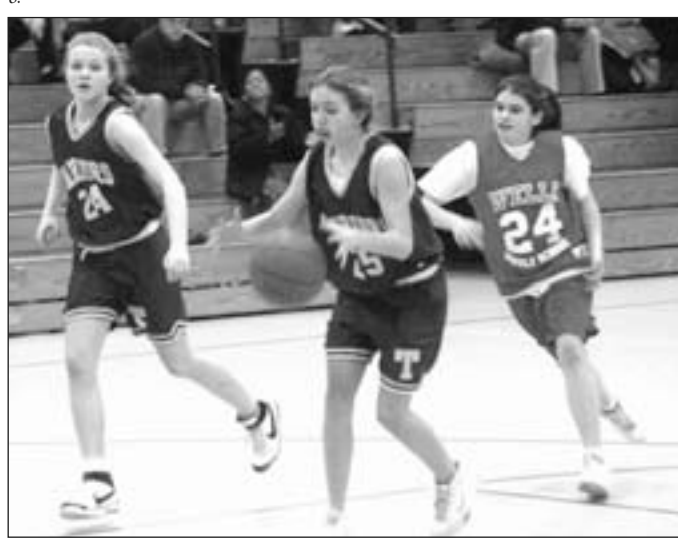
"Oxford had a couple of big kids who were able to give her a challenge, but no one has been able to shut her down," he said.

Brooks is a multi-sport athlete who is very basketball-oriented.

"She is a kid who is totally into her basketball," Casine said. "She'll e-mail you, she's talk to you in the offseason, she's at the camps. But she's not only a basketball player — she's also a softball player, a soccer player. We take advantage of her athletic ability; she throws the baseball pass, she can cover kids, she can shoot, she can take the ball to the hoop. She's just a very athletic player. She can shoot off the dribble, which you don't find very much in kids this age. And she's a big kid, too: she's not the prototypical junior high point guard that's going to get knocked around. She has the ability to finish."

Rounding out the starting five are Allie DeFazio, Alyx Darger and Melissa Frio.

"(DeFazio) is one of our most aggressive players; she hit the game-winning shot against Charlton for us with four seconds to go, so it's not just Olivia and Corrie that get it done," Casine said. "(Darger) is our big post player and she has made huge strides. She hasn't played bas-



ketball very long, but she's a good rebounder for us, and she's a good free-throw shooter, so when she does get fouled down low, she is able to make her free throws.

"And Melissa is another all-around athlete. She's a very smart basketball player. She gets our fast break going, she makes good decisions, and she's a tough kid."

The Warriors are also a deep team with a strong bench of Devinne Aquadro, Amanda Volpe, Kylie Lowe, Leanne Wentzel and Ashley Fogwill.

"We have a whole other group that we can send out there and feel confident with them playing at any time," Casine said.

If Moeller is second in line, Fogwill, a seventh grader, may just be third: she is a near-six footer that is working on becoming a polished product.

"We've been working with her to get her basketball skill down, but she's an athletic kid for her size," Casine said of Fogwill.

Jessica Frio, Emily Boltz and Casey Mantyla round out the roster. "We mix them in and we play kids at more than one position," said Casine.

Casine says he gets a great deal of advice and input from Tom Goyette, the Tantasqua varsity head coach.

"Tom let's us run it the way we want to run it, and we choose to run his system. From top to bottom, we feel the same things are important. He played 10-deep, so we have to have kids ready to feed that program. He's very involved in the try-out process here and everything. And we know the type of player he's looking for," Casine said.

And with the success that the junior high team is having this

year — coupled with the varsity team's 13th consecutive appearance in the Central Mass. Tournament — the program spilling out of the wig-wam should be secure for years to come.

"We think the program is solid from top to bottom. We don't have any huge classes, like we're not going to graduate seven or eight kids at a time. We see it just turning over; running the same system. Seeing the

success that Tantasqua has, it makes kids want to play over here. There are 36 spots across the street, so kids want to be in the program," Casine said.

Sean Sweeney is the sports editor of Stonebridge Press. Dial him directly at 508-909-4133, or via e-mail at [ssweeney@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:ssweeney@stonebridgepress.com).

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# Recreation Committee considering three areas for athletic fields

**BROOK**  
continued from page 1

not going to be able to catch a 2.5-pound bass, you're going to have a hard sell," Muir said.

Since about 1929, the core area in question has been known as Camp Robinson Crusoe, a village of cabins and related buildings off Shattuck Road that was built as a facility for youth education and recreation, according to town historian Robert Briere. The camp was eventually obtained by Old Sturbridge Village and has been abandoned for many years. OSV sold it to Sturbridge as part of an 800-plus-acre parcel about two years ago, and the town finished demolishing the camp's collapsing buildings in December.

According to PLAC Chairman Dale Favreau, the brook is a cold-water habitat because of two permanent springs that are currently hidden by the small ponds. Those springs also enable the brook to keep flowing in the driest periods and attract beavers, fishers, geese,

ducks and other species, he said.

If Sturbridge were to follow Richards' recommendation, Favreau argued, "We're essentially going to take 10 acres and drain it. We'll lose a lot of habitat and you'll have a hard sell."

Richards said removing the dams could eliminate a "potential public safety risk" because they're old and in need of repair already. That's not unusual in Massachusetts — the state has around 3,000 dams 6 feet high or larger, with 33 of them in Sturbridge, and many of them date back to the 1850s.

It's not clear, however, whether these particular dams are actually subject to state oversight; one woman present, who did not identify herself, said they aren't on the state's GIS map.

Richards said he was proposing the concept as one that could help improve the overall diversity of fish species in the Quinebaug River basin. He aimed it at this location because of the brook trout presence, but also because "we have a lot of ponds, but don't have a lot of free-

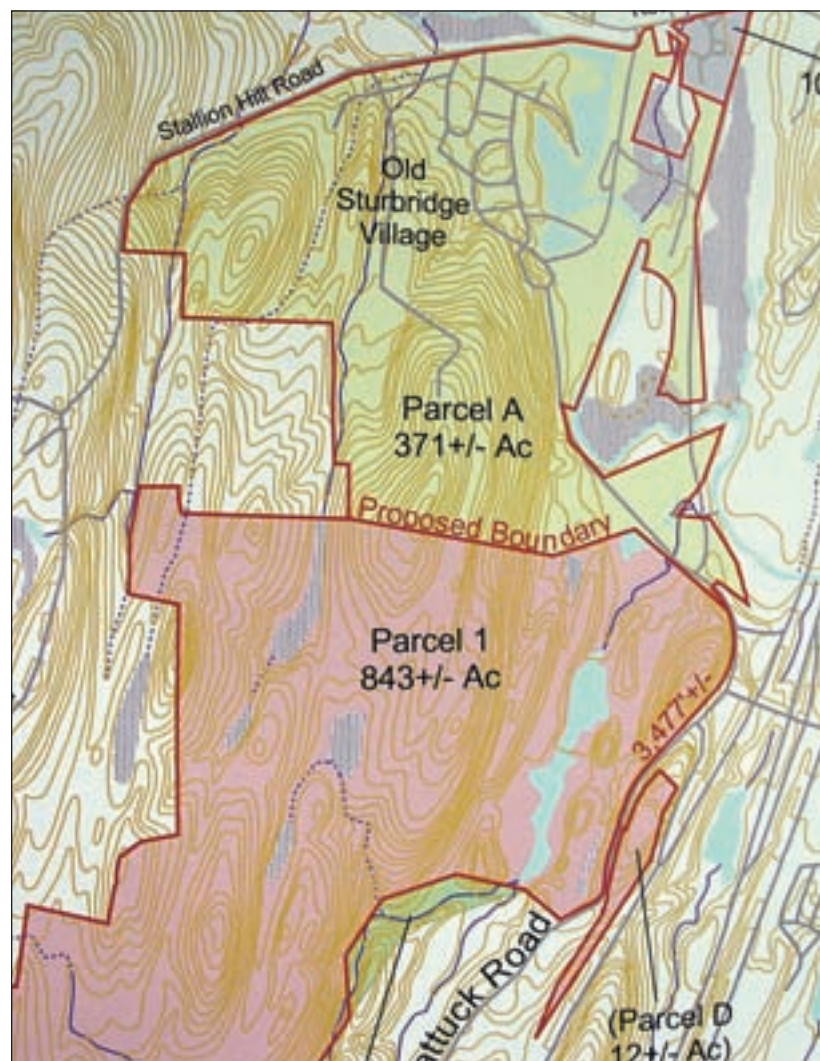
flowing streams."

Favreau said Richards should also look at the impact of removing only the blockages caused by fallen trees or one or two of the dams, rather than all three. He noted the town also needs to be concerned about at least two other dams upstream on private land (one of which was recently subject of a Planning Board discussion because it's under a state order to be repaired).

Conservation Commission Chairman David Barnicle agreed, describing the situation as "a classic confrontation of recreation vs. the improvement of a species." He said he needs to see the benefits of various uses "before I can stand up at



Division of Fisheries and Wildlife biologist Todd Richards.



Gus Steeves photos

ABOVE: This map shows the section of Hamant Brook near the former Camp Robinson Crusoe (on right side of the ponds).

Town Meeting and say "Yes, this is something we need."

If the project happens, it would be at least partly funded by a grant from Millennium Power Partners, which runs a power plant off Route 169 in Charlton. According to Plant Manager Mark Winne, the company agreed to spend \$1 million for environmental studies in the river basin and \$3 million to restore aquatic habitat as part of its permit to operate.

Richards said those funds are being divided between the Massachusetts and Connecticut sections of the river basin.

"While I work well with my colleagues in Connecticut, I don't want to give them all the money and want to find a quality project here," he said.

Selectman Harold White noted, "This is not the end of our discussion, it's the beginning," with quite a bit more work to do before it's ready to go to the voters.

the end of New Boston Road Extension, and part of OSV's land for athletic fields.

The selectmen agreed to hire CME to do an engineering study of the former land and get a quote for the highway barn parcel, and the committee said they'd talk to OSV. In the highway barn land's case, using it would require a Town Meeting transfer from the school department, to whom it was transferred years ago as a potential new school site.

Committee Chairman Al Jones said his board favors the Shepard site because of its flatness, central location, easy accessibility and size (about 11 acres). He noted the three parcels could be connected by a footbridge over the Quinebaug River and path under Interstate 84.

Such new fields are necessary, he said, because the existing ones have become so popular the Recreation Department cannot take any out of use for repairs or to change them to make them regulation size.

"Sports are a bigger thing for kids now than years before," with the popularity of winning major teams and the interest in soccer, lacrosse, and other games, he said. "It's the best thing in the world, other than education, of course."

Gus Steeves may be reached at (508) 909-4135, or by e-mail at [gsteeves@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:gsteeves@stonebridgepress.com).

### ATHLETIC FIELDS

The Hamant Brook presentation was also just the beginning of the selectmen's business. The board also heard from the Recreation Committee, which proposed investigating the use of the Shepard parcel on Route 15, land behind the highway barn at

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