

# LET'S GO CAMPING

## LOCAL BROTHERS SEEK TO FILL A NEED

By Bill Price

Two brothers born in Sandisfield and now living in Winsted are planning to build an area for tent camping on the west side of the Farmington River to host Hanging Mountain climbers and Clam River hikers. Plus anyone else who would like to stop awhile in Town and camp out.

The Sandisfield property, owned by brothers Willard and Robert Platt, has been in their family since the 1940s. Located on the far side of the Clark Street Bridge off Roosterville Road, it is the former home of their father, Willard Platt II, and is the only house over there.

They have a good idea. Several Hanging Mountain climbers have told the brothers that they'd like a place to camp overnight when they visit Sandisfield. Many of the climbers cannot afford the New Boston Inn or an air bnb and most would prefer to camp out anyway. Hikers on the now completed Yanner Park/Clam River trail combinations may also enjoy access to overnight camping.

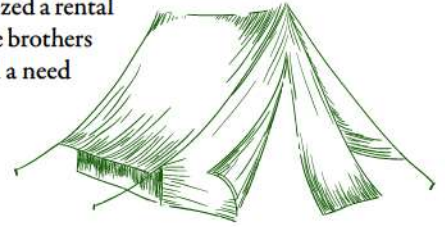
Remembering that their father had organized a rental camp site on the property in the 1970s, the brothers decided to follow in his footsteps and fill a need for today.

To help the Platt's accomplish their goal, the Planning Board, under the chairmanship of Barbara Cormier, held a Community Outreach Night on July 21, open to full-time residents and second-home owners alike.

The Board, concerned that a special permit issued to the Platt brothers could encourage a large professional camping business to assemble a few large properties and build a campground covering several acres with minimal supervision, felt obliged to draw up a bylaw in order to regulate public campsites.

About thirty people attended, along with the full Select and Planning Boards and representatives from the Conservation Committee. They discussed concerns that were outlined by the Board, including sanitation requirements, firepits, driveway configuration, parking, lighting and noise, record keeping, and enforcement, among others.

The Planning Board made extensive notes of residents' concerns and said they would schedule another hearing after reviewing them and also learning how neighboring towns handle tent-camping permits. They plan to present a bylaw draft at the Annual Town Meeting in May. 🇺🇸



## Nuisance Weeds

*What weeds are these creeping over Cold Spring Road?*

*They thrive on the gravel sides of sunny paved roads where, at least along Cold Spring Road, they are spreading like, well, weeds.*

*The Times needs help identifying them. The wall of weeds is up to six feet high and threatening to take over a lane of the road, maybe both lanes eventually. Next spring, they could be blooming and spreading along all our paved roads.*

*Photo: Bill Price*



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