

## Pownal gets donation of land along Hoosic

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POWNAL — The former Pownal Hoosic River Watershed Association gave the town approximately three acres of land off Lincoln Street near the river on Thursday.

The association, now known as the Pownal Valley Fair Association, is a local group that organizes the Pownal Valley Fair each year. The group received the land as a donation in 1990 from Sid Clayton and used it to host events, such as inner-tube races, but those grew out of control and were stopped, according to Jon Peaslee, a member of the association.

The 2.7-acre riverfront property is now only used for fishing access. "We cleared it out and used it for a boat ramp," said Peaslee.

The property taxes on the parcel had been just \$38 per year, but that sum increased to \$251 after the last appraisal. The group can no longer afford to own the property, according to association member James Winchester. The group owes \$509 in back taxes as of Jan. 1, 2007, according to last year's town report.

"It's a nice piece of land," said Winchester.

The Select Board accepted the donation, which means the property will no longer be taxed. "It would go along with our recreation plans at the Strobridge Memorial Park (in North Pownal)," said Select Board member Stephen Kauppi.

Also at Thursday's board meeting, Kauppi requested that Road Foreman Casey Mattison continue work on creating a 35 mph speed limit on town roads, unless otherwise posted. Mattison said he had spoken with state officials about it but needs to research Vermont statutes to legally make the move.

A townwide speed limit would reduce the number of signs legally required on town roads.