



PHOTO BY ERIN PLUMMER

Friends and family of Diane Kline launch sky lanterns in a field at Moulton Farm.

Skyborne wishes in memory of a local woman

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MEREDITH — Wishes were launched over a snowy field and into the air by friends and family of a local woman who passed away last July.

Around 100 people collected in a small section of field at Moulton Farm on Saturday overlooking a hill, each carrying a sky lantern with a wish written on it. Volunteers then lit the lanterns, the flames filling them with hot air. Some rose up in the cold air slowly, while some shot off like small rockets. After a few minutes, a cloud

of glowing lanterns flew over the trees and into the sky until they were gone from view.

The Launch-a-Wish event was held in memory of Diane Kline, a resident of Center Harbor and a teacher who passed away in July of 2010 after a battle with cancer.

Friends and family came to Moulton Farm to launch the sky lanterns, some coming from as far away as Connecticut, New York, and Florida.

“It’s my hope and my family’s hope that the wishes you make for the special people in your life — past, present, and future — all come true,” Diane’s husband Duke Kline said to the group.

The event was also held to

support the Diane K. Kline Memorial Scholarship Fund, a scholarship fund to support the educational pursuits of young people in the Lakes Region. Donations of \$25 were requested for the fund.

Diane’s son Derek Kline said his mother flew sky lanterns with the family last year.

“It just dawned on me this might be a great way to honor Diane’s memory,” Duke Kline said, saying a friend suggested that the lanterns be launched to make a wish for friends and loved ones.

Duke Kline said organizers asked John Moulton for use of his land for the event.

Moulton cleared a path and a small section of his field on top of a hill for the launching.

“Without John Moulton’s help, and support we’d never be able to have it as I envisioned,” Duke Kline said,

calling Moulton “a special friend.”

Diane Kline’s mother, siblings, and a number of other relatives attended along with family friends, students, fellow teachers, classmates from Belknap College, and other members of the community.

pretty large for the area.

Board members discussed possibly delaying the amendment for a year when more time has been given to review it, especially as the concern only came up recently.

Selectman’s representative Ed Charest said further delaying any decisions could create some problems.

Charest said proliferation might be a problem if 1,000 houses were for rent in town, but “that’s not going to happen.”

“If a person wants to sell their home or if they want to rent it for a season they have that right,” Charest said. “Once it was brought to our attention, the genie’s out of the box.”

“I can see the argument on both sides of this,” said Board member Peter Jensen. “I just think we ought to give a little more consideration than we have so far.”

Board of Selectmen Chair Joel Mudgett said he thinks the ordinance does need to be fixed.

“I don’t think we’re going to see that many new signs in the neighborhood,” Mudgett said.

After extensive discussion, board members came

to a general consensus that, as sales, rentals, and other transactions are all considered real estate; the original wording of that section of the ordinance could be kept with some changes. The changes included striking out language specifically related to For Sale property so the wording would fit all types of real estate.

The board unanimously approved the proposed amendment.

The hearing was originally scheduled for Wednesday, but the snowstorm resulted in the closure of town hall and cancellation of all meetings. King said the board was advised by the town attorney that it was legal to hold the meeting the next day with as much notice as possible. Several residents challenged that decision, saying a hearing needed at least 24 hours notice and questioned the legality of Thursday’s hearing.

A second hearing was initially scheduled for Feb. 1, the last day to make any changes to amendments before they have to be turned in. After discussions, another hearing was scheduled for Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. in the Land Use office.

Holly Burrows and Marcy Weeks of Moultonboro were friends of Diane’s.

“She loved family and she loved friends and she loved being together with a lot of people,” Weeks said. “She would be thrilled today.”

“It also reflects her positive spirit too, sending off the wish lanterns,” Burrows said.

Rondi Pike of Rumney went to Belknap College with Kline and was a fellow teacher at Plymouth Elementary School. Pike remarked on the number of people that turned out for the launching.

“We walked in and there were all these people here who loved Diane,” Pike said. “It’s just a wonderful thing to do, be a part of and come to be with family and friends.”

Carolyn Varin, the school nurse at Plymouth Elementary, said she was amazed when she saw the lanterns floating in the sky.

“When I came around the corner and saw that I was amazed,” said Varin, who also worked with Kline. “She would have loved it.”

Kline’s husband and two children said they were thrilled with the turnout and said they hope to make this an annual event.

“It was a good mix of people, I felt there was a lot of support for my family and my mom and a lot of support from people,” said Kline’s daughter Danae Kline.

“She would have really loved to see that many go up, all those wishes and hope that they come true,” Derek Kline said.