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G R E A T N E W S !

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Mountain home community design in Thornton introduced by ABODE.

On the ride down Tenney Mountain Highway a regular traveler can easily see that things are changing. One structure that stands out traveling west toward the rotary is the newly built green shingled, red trimmed ABODE building. Partners Jack McBride and Bob Wildes are anticipating the grand opening of ABODE Builders of New England, Inc. this spring.

McBride said, "Our sales center includes a room we call the inspiration room. The room is designed to offer our customers the opportunity to build their dream house. We want it to be fun, and we want to take the stress out of the process of buying a home. It is all very well organized so that our customers can enjoy the experience and feel confident that we are going to work very hard for them and deliver what they want. We view the design center here as the center for Central and Northern, N.H. and the Lakes Region."

The development project now in the works is their **Barron Mountain Club**, a proposed mountain home community in Thornton encompassing a proposed 67 lots that abuts the National Forest. The design is being developed with the principles of sustainable or green development.

McBride and Wildes' Commons Development Group is the developer. Since 1954 Robert Homes, predecessor of Commons Development Group, has been developing and building residential communities in New England including condominiums, apartments and single family neighborhoods.

Wildes added, "We have come up with simplified ways to build a better product. Over the years we have brought new systems into our production. This company was created around the way to build a better house. We committed ourselves and spent a lot of time, not just building a better product, but learning how to be green, install the technology and create a green community and home. We cover the entire spectrum, custom homes that are built affordably, strong and tight to their specification."



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Commons Development created a plan for **Barron Mountain Club** preserving more than two thirds of the site in its natural state and further protecting the property with conservation restrictions and covenants. Nationally known for his work on conservation land planning, site planner, Randall Arndt, worked closely with project consultants, SE Group of Burlington, Vt, and civil engineering firm SFC, of Manchester, on development of the project.

According to McBride future owners are likely to be second home buyers, retirees and telecommuters looking for a quiet, scenic, location that is convenient to the highway and golf, skiing and other recreational opportunities. With that in mind, the project has been designed around a number of amenities including a skating pond, sledding hill, community building, walking and ski trails, stream-side camping and picnic areas. McBride and Wildes agree that in their experience certain components should be built in a controlled environment.

Wildes adds, "We've been in business for over twenty years and spent a lot of money fixing problems in the field. December of 2007 had 44.5 inches of snow and broke the record made in 1870. Our building has gone up in 6 weeks. Rule of thumb is 8 to 12 weeks from the date the purchase agreement is signed and we clear the lot and set in the septic. By that time all the components will arrive. These are not modular homes, some components are used. All are architecturally designed and there's on-site custom work, so you can add another 6 weeks to completion. That's the average timeline. We build strong, green, energy efficient homes to your specification."

Wildes and McBride and the ABODE design team, assembled in 2006, reviewed zoning ordinances for the Town of Thornton and continued to refine the plan, seeking to balance the built and natural environments by responding to feedback from the community.

McBride continued, "The Barron Mountain Club Development & Design Team is striving through a collaborative effort with local officials, boards and neighbors to create a community that is a source of pride in the Town of Thornton. We have a good relationship with the local selectmen and have been well received in terms of quality. Customer satisfaction drives us and we are here to stay."

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