

Barn:

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rebuild the barn that they can document back to 1833.

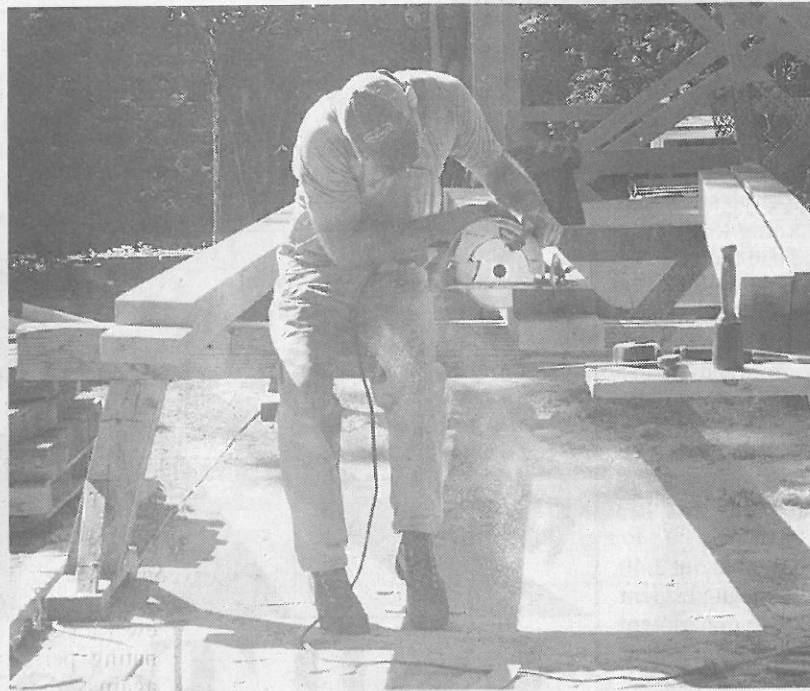
The old, red barn in front of their home acted as a landmark for the neighborhood and Mrs. Laird and her husband were used to telling people, 'We're the white house behind the red barn.'

"Everyone is so used to having that red barn there," she said. "Half the neighborhood uses it as a direction mark. It won't be quite the same as the old barn, but we're trying."

Earlier this week, woodworker Todd Mendes of Prospect and his crew began erecting the framework of the new barn. A crane was used to lift the beams into place before they were held together by wooden pegs.

The goal all along has been to incorporate as much of the original elements of the barn as possible, but many of the beams and timbers were too damaged for a complete restoration. However, some of what was salvaged will be incorporated into the loft, stairs and window frames, and the barn's original cow stanchions have been kept intact.

"And as John Laird would say, 'Those offending trees are not getting



Cristina Commendatore

Woodworker Todd Mendes saws one of the beams that will be included in the barn's framework.

off that easily," Cohen explained, adding the four trees that demolished the barn have been saved and ripped on site with a portable mill to be repurposed as part of the roof.

The barn's original fieldstone foundation has also been reinforced, and the team's intent is to recreate as close to the original timber-framed

barn as possible. Cohen hopes the project will be wrapped up by Thanksgiving.

"The interest by the community and everybody's desire to have this thing come back and look the way it did before is really motivating everyone here to have it look the way it did before," Cohen said, adding there

will be a few new bells and whistles, including a cupola on top this time around.

The second raising

The barn on the Lairds' property on Canoe Hill Road will be the second raising in town, according to Janet Lindstrom, executive director of the New Canaan Historical Society. In March 2011, a property on White Oak Shade Road had three barns on it; two that appear to date to the 1950s, and one that was built around 1800. The antique barn was damaged when a tree fell on it in the March storm of 2009, and the owner was unable to salvage it.

The White Oak Shade Farm was known as the "Fish Farm" and had one of the longest continuous histories as a farm of any in town, Lindstrom said.

"When William Fish purchased it in 1856 it was known as 'Church Farm' because it had been willed to the Episcopal Church," Lindstrom told the *Advertiser* in 2011. "It was some 125 acres with two houses, barns and outbuildings."

When bought by Fish, he bred horses there and often had as many as 100 horses, she said. By 1890, Charles Fish, son of William, entered into the dairy business and the farm became known as White Oak Shade Farm. It was taken over by Dr. A. C. Hexamer, a brother-in-law who dis-

continued the dairy and horse farm, but continued to plow, plant and hay. All farming was discontinued in 1952.

The Lairds' barn on Canoe Hill Road is an English three-bay, eave-entry bank barn and is one of about 8,000 barns in the state listed on the Historic Barns of Connecticut registry. It is the one remaining barn from a complex of three, which were arranged in a horseshoe facing the road, according to the registry's site, ConnecticutBarns.org.

The barn, which was 30-by-40 feet, will be restored to its original size. According to the state registry, the middle bay was used for threshing, which is separating the seed from the stalk in wheat and oats by beating the stalks with a flail, and the flanking bays were used for animals and hay storage.

According to town records, James Wilson Lockwood owned the Laird's property and the Lockwood family also owned the land across the street. Ownership of that property by the Lockwoods dates back to as early as 1790, Lindstrom said.

"Barn raising and building is so important to keeping the character that is New Canaan and remembrance of our town as a rural farming community," Lindstrom said.

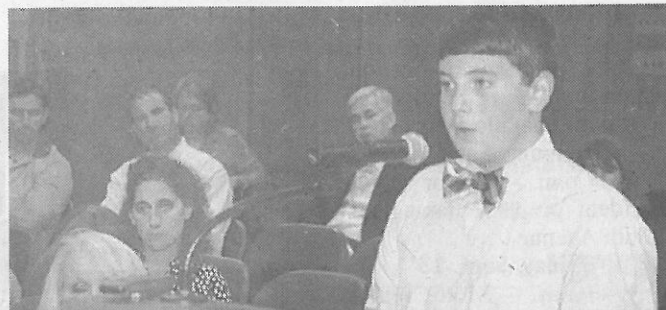
Bullying:

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In the wake of last month's suicide of 15-year-old Greenwich High School sophomore Bart Palosz, Greenwich

Alex insisted that "suicide is never the answer," but said he identified with the feelings of despair, isolation, loneliness and pain that he imagined Bart must have felt.

"He must have felt that the only way to stop the abuse would be to disappear and the only way to disappear was to end his life," Alex said.



Kolek said is constantly reviewed by educators at the school and district level. Asked how bullying is monitored within the schools, Kolek said educators first focus on positive behavior and then go from there.

"Are students kind and caring and connected with each other?" she asked. "Teachers

working sites and said much of that activity occurs after school hours. She mentioned an event New Canaan Cares is offering concerning the responsibilities and technical knowledge required to skillfully parent the cyber generation. Cares is partnering with Katie Koestner, a national expert on student safety and