Belmont Library named to National Register of Historic Places

By Donna Rhodes

Belmont — As the bell above the historic Belmont Mill rang out through the Thursday evening, trustees, town officials, and residents gathered on the lawn of the Belmont Public Library for the unveiling of a bronze plaque proclaiming the building’s distinction of being included on the National Register of Historic Places.

The plaque was a gift of the Belmont Heritage Commission to honor of its significance in the town’s history.

The Belmont Library dates back to the 1890’s, when their book collection was housed in a few different locations over its initial years, including a room that sat above the town’s former fire department on Main Street.

The completed library was formally dedicated 86 years ago on Feb. 4, 1928 with a catalog of nearly 4,000 books. Since that day the library has grown to nearly 16,000 volumes along with numerous audio books and other services available to the public.

“Denis Carignan displayed her newly painted wood encased timepiece,” said Local clock maker Denis Carignan was joined by local resident and artist, Polly Murphy, for the Belmont Library’s listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

“Thank you for the plaque,” said Library Trustee chair Mary Frawley.

The plaque was a gift from the Heritage Commission who, “thought this would be a good time to restore it,” she said.

The historic, 100-year-old clock inside the building, is also getting a makeover that will completed in the near future. “The whole time I was growing up, this clock hasn’t run,” said Carignan.

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