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Selectmen told at least a portion of Belmont Mill 4th flevel flooring has rotted

SELECTMEN TOLD AT LEAST A PORTION OF BELMONT MILL 4TH FLEVEL FLOORING HAS ROTTED

Published Date

BELMONT — The building inspector told selectmen last night that at least part of the fourth floor of the Belmont Mill shows signs of rotting underneath the carpet.

Selectmen approved up to \$5,750 to get a complete engineering estimate as to how much work would need to be done after Paquin gave them a preliminary engineering estimate of \$4,600.

Building inspector, Steven Paquin showed the selectmen a nearly two-foot long piece of the sub-flooring removed by Tirey & Associates Structural Engineers during their preliminary investigation last week.

"It looks like a shipwreck," said Selectman Ron Cormier.

During a conversation selectmen had last week with representatives of the Lakes Regional Community College Culinary Arts Program and the Food For Thought Cafe, program leader Patrick Hall said the carpet needed replacing and he thought there were some soft spots in the floor, especially in the southern area of the building near the bathrooms.

Paquin said engineers said it looks like the fourth floor was not replaced during the mid-1990s restoration. The Mill was built in the early 1800s and was nearly destroyed in a 1992 blaze. A restoration effort prevented the main portion of the mill from being demolished in 1995 and in 2011, the Mill was given a Preservation Award by the New England Chapter of the Victorian Society in America — one of four such awards ever given in New Hampshire.

Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin said she has been told that LRCC will contribute some labor toward the carpet removal and the town will find the least expensive way to dispose of it.

Paquin said the mill is structurally sound and the only problem appears to be the fourth floor, which he and engineers said likely sustained water damage during the fire. He said the work would not involve the kitchen and, other than noise and some isolated work areas, should not disrupt the doctor's office on the third floor.

Once the engineering is complete, Paquin has two very tentative estimates of around \$7,000 for tile or \$10,000 for carpet replacement. He said until the old carpet is completely removed, he will not have exact numbers for any new surfaces.

He said no flooring companies will give him an estimate until the extent of the sub-floor and floor damage is known.

Paquin said the town has a five-week window to complete the work while the students are on semester break.

Selectmen told Paquin and Beaudin to remove the carpet, complete the engineering, and then get a few local contractors to submit bids for flooring and finishing.

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