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Belmont municipal buildings in disrepair

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WALLACE RHODES, of the Belmont Historical Society, stands with the recently unveiled New Hampshire Historical Highway Marker commemorating the efforts to save the Belmont Mill. The sign was erected on Route 140, just over the Tioga River Bridge. Also participating in the unveiling on Monday afternoon were Heritage Commission Chair Linda Frawley, as well as Belmont Selectmen Ruth Mooney, Jon Pike and Ron Cormier. **MARK WILLETT/CITIZEN**

BELMONT — Due to a lack of routine maintenance, many town-owned buildings in Belmont are rapidly crumbling and should be vacated as soon as possible, according to an ongoing report requested by the Board of Selectmen.

A plan to migrate town operations to the Belmont Mill is under way, starting with the Parks and Recreation Department, but it will take time to fully complete.

At its meeting Monday night, the board heard testimony from Steve Paquin, town code enforcement officer and building inspector. He had chaired a property assessment committee tasked with examining town-owned buildings to determine their usability and any efforts needed to bring them up to code.

The immediate impact of the study, which is still ongoing, will be to try and move Parks and Recreation from its current home in the dilapidated Winnisquam Fire Station to an office on the second floor of the Belmont Mill. A larger move is afoot to relocate all of the town government offices to the Mill.