Belmont extends construction offer for Mill

By AMANDA NEWMAN@citizen.com | Dec 02, 2013

BELMONT — Though the project won’t break ground for at least five years, the Belmont Board of Selectmen have settled on an architecture bid regarding the renovation of the Belmont Mill.

The Board of Selectmen has notified Bonnet Page & Stone Corp. of Laconia and PortOne Architects of Portsmouth of its decision to accept the two companies’ combined proposal bid, but have not yet heard back from either company, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudoin said.

The two firms were chosen from a handful of applicants who expressed interest in spearheading the renovation of the town-owned Mill. Currently, space within the building is rented out, but the town is looking to renovate the space for use as town offices, according to Beaudoin.

Despite the project being years away, Beaudoin said the town wanted to start early to “ensure the space is viable for use” and to “obtain options for design.” Additionally, Beaudoin said the town sought to settle early on a firm to “establish a relatively long-term relationship” that would “bring the project from start to finish.”

Interviews of the firms were held during a recent selectmen meeting, and notices were sent out to the applicants earlier this week, Beaudoin said. She noted that though the town has reached out to the two companies, nothing is set in stone just yet.

“We have not made a contract,” Beaudoin said, “but we hope to work with BPS and PortOne.”