

Belmont Selectmen discuss use of Belmont Mill

By BOB MARTIN | Aug 26, 2014

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BOB MARTIN/CITIZEN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Jeanne Beaudin and the Board of Selectmen discussed a feasibility study regarding repairing the existing structure, and potentially using it for town offices in the future.

BELMONT — The Belmont Board of Selectmen discussed a feasibility study for repairing the Belmont Mill during its meeting on Monday evening.

Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin explained that during the Aug. 6 meeting they reviewed a draft from Bonnette, Page and Stone — which is a construction company based out of Laconia — that outlined the initial cost to renovate the Belmont Mill to use it for the town hall. She explained that the fourth floor is currently vacant, as it has not been usable for a full-year, and in order to repair

the fourth floor, the third floor tenant would need to be moved out for mechanical work.

“They estimate those costs alone will be about \$1.4 million to repair the existing structure,” said Beaudin.

Selectman Ruth Mooney said that by meeting with Bonnette, Page and Stone they took a look at the scope of the building, came up with a game plan and a figure. She said that \$2.7 million is the estimate for the complete renovation for the specific use of the town hall.

She added that they are currently paying for repairs that act as band-aids to keep the current tenants safe. Selectman Jon Pike said that they are looking at a “50 year building,” noting that they want a building where they don’t have to continuously dump upwards of \$100,000 into it.

Mooney said that a space needs study led to her feeling that the building could accommodate town offices for the next 50 years, as well as a senior center, with a plan to have room for activity expansion within the building.

Beaudin said that the town has also looked at other opportunities for available public funding, and has reached out to USDA Rural Development. She said that there is a community facilities loan program that offers a 30-year term with an

interest rate of 4.25 percent, which Beaudin said is excellent for 30 years. The town is also eligible for a 15 percent grant program, where the town has an 85 percent match.

Mooney and Pike both agreed that they will need to sit down with Bonnette, Page and Stone again for a brainstorming session.

“We want to have our ducks in a row before we start moving forward,” Mooney said.

The Belmont Selectmen will meet again on Sept. 8 at 5 p.m.

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