Work on Belmont’s new Tioga Pavilion progressing; Sunday celebration will focus bandstand restoration

BY GAIL OBER
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN
BELMONT — The final touches on a portion of the Village Restoration Project are well underway as Tioga Pavilion construction continues during the recent nice stretch of weather. Across Mill Street, a master craftsman works on the newly restored Village Bandstand roof, carefully recreating the patterns determined by restorers to be the same as the original.

The bandstand restoration and the Tioga Pavilion construction are part of the multi-phase village project that has revamped Main Street, allowed for two new parks, and replaced much of the sewer and water system throughout the center of town.

The pavilion and the footbridge moved from Dover, are being funded by a $99,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and between $10,000 and $15,000 a town capital reserve fund.

The pavilion will be 26-feet by 80-feet and built on a 4-inch cement slab. It is right next to the Belmont Mill and will be used for outdoor functions, concerts, and community events.

It will have two bathrooms and enclosed storage area and will have electricity available to it.

Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin described it as an open carriage-house design. With the construction engineer hailing from Gilford and one of the design partners coming from Belmont, she said it’s a really local effort.

The final restoration stages of the Village Bandstand are ongoing and Historic Preservation Specialist J.R. Graton of Northfield is replacing the shingles in the original diamond pattern.

“All of those shingles has to be handcut,” said Land Use Technician Rick Ball.

On Sunday local leaders, state officials and members of the preservation community will salute restoration of the historic Belmont Bandstand at 1:30 p.m. ceremony.

Second District Executive Councilor Colin Van Ostern, Plymouth State University faculty member and retired State Architectural Historian James Garvin are among participants, with representatives from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

The family-friendly and free event features combined choirs of the Canterbury Elementary and Belmont Middle Schools directed by Carlos Martinez, with seasonal refreshments including specialties from the Student Hospitality Club of Lakes Region Community College Culinary Arts Program.

Restoration of the 1908 Bandstand began last October and continued this year, with funding for repainting and a new cedar shake roof supported by an LCHIP matching grant. Historical restoration specialist J.R. Graton of Northfield, painter John Thompson of Alexandria, architectural conservator Brian Powell of Building Conservation Associates, and traditional stonewall builder Kevin Fife of Canterbury — with initial help from Cullen Concrete of Tilton and Bushby Contractors of Atkinson has comprised “a first rate team for the project” according to Heritage Commission chairman Linda Frawley.

OPI Gwen Stefani collection of nail colors has just arrived and is now available at Voila! For Hair and More.

Belmont Bandstand restoration will be saluted Sunday

BELMONT — Local leaders, state officials and members of the preservation community will salute restoration of the historic Belmont Bandstand this Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Second District Executive Councilor Colin Van Ostern, Plymouth State University faculty member and retired State Architectural Historian James Garvin are among participants, with representatives from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

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A vintage granite foundation stone, carefully selected and hand-chiseled by Kevin Fife (standing), was set this week as the first step for the Belmont community landmark. JR Graton assisted with placement. (Courtesy photo)