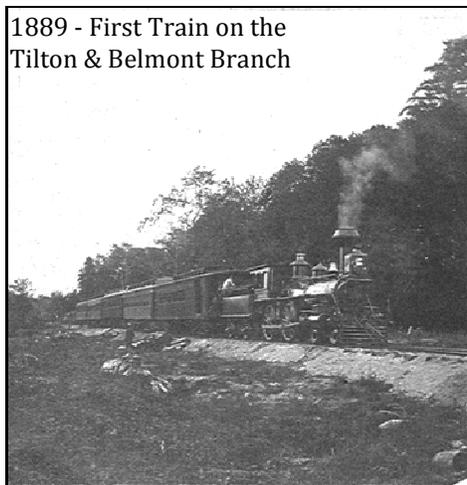


News from the Conservation Commission

Tioga River Trail Recently Conserved in Belmont!

Dick and Betty Persons of Gilford have recently, graciously donated to Belmont a 20 Ac± parcel of land, the former Belmont-Tilton Branch of the Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad, to be conserved forever for the enjoyment of our residents. This parcel has significant historic, recreation and conservation value to the Town. The land was instrumental in Belmont's recent selection as a recipient of a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant from the National Park Service to build a Pavilion and Riverwalk. Its value served as Belmont's match for the \$89,000 grant.



The LWCF Program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.

The Pavilion is anticipated to be a community gathering place for the Recreation Departments programs, a Farmers' Market, Old Home Day and the Schools. The Riverwalk is contemplated to connect to the existing informal walking trail on the donated railroad land by a footbridge located behind the Belmont Mill that will mimic an historic bridge in its original location.

The railroad property winds through mostly undeveloped landscape along the Tioga River and offers many natural vistas as one walks along. Currently, it is possible to walk to the Belmont Village from Great Brook Village. Shortly beyond GBV the Tioga River has washed out a culvert or bridge that will require replacement in order to get further west to South Road, Depot Street and beyond. This trail could eventually make it relatively easy to access the Franklin-Tilton-Northfield Rail Trail along Route 140.

