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Repairs to Tioga Bridge delayed due to rainy weather

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BELMONT — Selectmen in Belmont were informed Monday evening that the \$125,575 repairs to the Church Street/Tioga Bridge might be delayed until next week because of bad weather.

Busby Construction, who was awarded the contract, told the town they need three to four consecutive days of good weather to complete the repairs.

Belmont Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin explained that such a run of good weather might not be possible until next week, as this Friday might be another rainy day. Beaudin said, however, that the bridge repairs should still be completed by the target date of Thanksgiving.

The Tioga bridge has been closed since the end of August after the State Department of Transportation performed a routine inspection and recommended the bridge be closed for safety reasons.

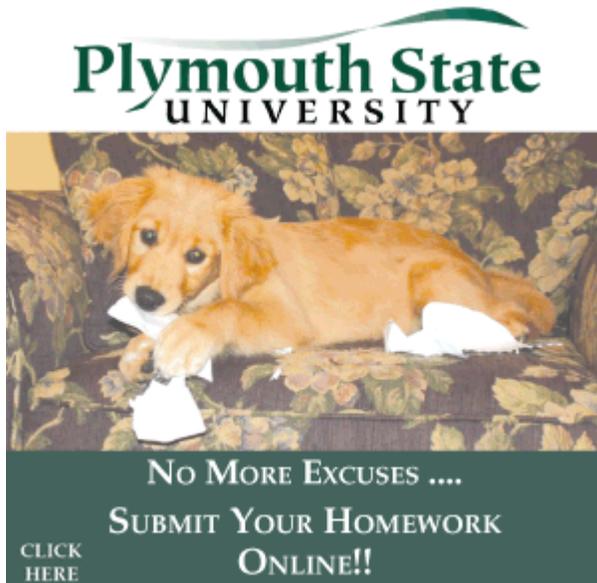
Beaudin previously said that it was determined that the steel culvert had severe corrosion because of the formation of rust.

The bridge, which is currently only open to pedestrian traffic, has forced school buses to detour up Dearborn Street and Seavey Road. The Tioga Bridge has been on the State Department of

Transportation's red list since 2010. The red list is a compilation of municipal bridges that have deficiencies and need to be inspected more often.

In other business, Code Enforcement Officer Steven Paquin informed the board that his estimations for the cost of a new elevator at the Corner Meeting House far exceeded his expectations. During Monday evening's meeting, selectmen agreed to scrap the project altogether.

Initially, the town wanted to install an elevator at the Corner Meeting House to make it compliant with handicap standards.



Paquin explained the cost to install a new elevator would exceed \$85,000, which was above what he has previously estimated. After hearing from Paquin, selectmen decided to scrap the elevator project and go with a previous plan to have Busby Construction build a new handicapped accessible ramp on the upper level of the building.

According to Beaudin, the project will cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000, and will include two new handicapped spaces.

Beaudin said that the plan to build the new entrance had already gone to bid as part of the village rehabilitation project.

Lastly, the town informed Mike Izard of the Lakes Region Planning Commission that Belmont will not take part in the Lakes Region Tour Scenic Byway Project.

When asked after the meeting why the town would not be taking part, chair of the Board of Selectmen Jon Pike said, "It would be a burden on the planning staff. Belmont is not really on (the Byway route), we are more a neighbor to the project than a part of it."

Selectman Ruth Mooney agreed, saying it would be imprudent to spend town money on something that might have no benefit to the town.

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