Deliberative session clarifies intent of Mill-related warrant articles

BY DONNA RHODES

TILTON — At Bel- mont’s first deliberative session last Saturday, voters were offered the opportunity to discuss and amend the articles that will be presented at the polls in March, the biggest topic of discussion by voters centered around Articles 4, 7 and 8, which pertain to the Belmont Mill building.

Selectmen Jon Pike introduced the articles by stating they include “a survey of sorts” to give direction to the board in regards to the future of the Belmont Mill.

After struggling for some time with the lack of space needed for town services and what should be done with the historic mill building, Pike said selectmen are “now looking for direction and we don’t seem to have it.”

In 2010, the town will have lived the 20-year Community Development Block Grant that funded the initial restoration process and decisions for the building will need to be made.

Warrant articles seek to reduce Tilton Select Board to three members

BY DONNA RHODES

TILTON — In March of 2006, voters in the Town of Tilton approved a measure to reduce from a three-person Board of Selectmen to a five-member board. Now, you can see a warrant article asking for reconsideration of that vote and to return to a three-member board.

These warrant articles seek the return to an array of opinions to better serve the community as a whole. “As selectmen we are expected to attend meetings for town committees and commissions as ex-officio and alternate representatives. There’s a time in ten years when four people would have a hard time keeping up with,” Commission said.

Selectmen also spent many hours working closely with the Budget Committee to present an array of opinions to better serve the community as a whole. “As selectmen we are expected to attend meetings for town committees and commissions as ex-officio and alternate representatives. There’s a time in ten years when four people would have a hard time keeping up with,” Commission said.

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Fire displaces Lochmere family

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TILTON — The report of an early morning fire at 3:23 a.m. on Feb. 1 began with some tense moments when the initial call alerted Tilton-Northfield Fire & Rescue of a structure fire with persons trapped inside at 311 Hill Rd., located in the Lochmere District of Tilton.

Fortunately, fire-rescue personnel were advised while on route that everyone inside the home had finally been able to make their way out of the structure.

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sooner. And that, Pike said, has selected at an important point in the
dilemma situation.

The Selectmen has out-
grown their present meeting space, and there is a need for a
greater space; which the mill could provide, therefore.
Article 6 will look for a simple “yes” or “no” vote on whether the building should be renovated for use as town offices and other community uses.

Due to inabilities by the contractors who originally remodeled the mill nearly 20 years ago, there is both interior and exterior work to be done on the structure.

Selectmen Ron Corm-
well and Selectman Pete Hepp
discussed a second time being able to be in place to lessen tax impact if that is the direction votes
toward they would prefer.

Some spoke up to say they feel it is worth the
price to maintain a struc-
ture that has become an icon in the village.

“When I think of the Town of Belmont, that’s the
picture I have of our
town,” one resident com-
data.

Article 7 will ask if the town will accept a project to support demolishing the structure, in the event the 3 or 4 more residents who attended the deblat-
ive session stood up to speak passionately against that proposal.

“Wand you look at all the work in the vil-
lege that was centered around the mill. I can’t believe this is even on the warrant,” said resi-
dent Ken Knowlton.

It was also pointed out that while voting yes for this non-binding article would not mean just that the demolition would occur, it should be destroyed before the CHBG grant, the town would have to re-
pay whatever amount remained on the agree-
ment.

Budget Committee Chair Ron Mitchell said that considering the amount of the demol-
ition and cleaning costs, in addition to any CHBG repayment, he would recommend voting no.

Selectman stressed that they would favor any proposals that supported the plan they said, besides Hepp, who was the one to take part in such a study.

The matter before the town is to decide whether to vote “yes” for whichever article would be held for a two-year term and or sand is the safest way to put them out,” said Tilton-Northfield Selectman Lake Wake-
field.

To best serve their
countries, it takes a
constituents, it takes a
people can accomplish
Dawson agrees that five
people can spread

Committee along with

Dawson said. “With

A fifth member of the

three selectmen positions are made by just
two people." With a five-member board, she continued in a written statement, there is the benefit of more
opinions and knowledge pertaining to issues, and therefore there is more of an opportunity to get
projects accomplished and problems resolved.

A fifth member of the
board, Dawson added, can also break a tie on
any four-person vote.

“IT’s the diversity of five people that makes the
town,” Consentino said. “We always come to a
resolution and move in the right direc-
tion. That’s what makes Tilton so special.”

Should voters ap-
prove the warrant arti-
dle this year, in 2018 all board members and in-
terested parties would be up for election for the
three new seats, one for a three-year term, one
for a two-year term and one for a one-year term in order to start a new rotation of the positions.

Voters in Tilton are urged to attend the hear-
ing next week to learn more about this matter so they can make an informed decision.

The town will hold its 2017 Tour of the City on Saturday, March 18 in Winnisquam Regional High School's cafetori-

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