Councilor Kenney tours Belmont’s burgeoning trails

**BY TIM CARROLL**

BELMONT — New Hampshire Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney (far left), met with Belmont Town Planner Rick Ball (second from left) and other state officials last Friday for a tour of the trails and recreational opportunities now available or in the developmental stages in Belmont Village.

New Hampshire’s District One Executive Councilor, Joe Kenney (far left), met with Belmont Town Planner Rick Ball (second from left) and other state officials last Friday for a tour of the trails and recreational opportunities now available or in the developmental stages in Belmont Village.

**KENNEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1** and federal funds made it a reality. Bryce added that the program that helped build the pavilion was part of a match-fund grant from the federal government and has added more than $85,000 to other projects statewide. Kenney, playing Eric Feldbaum, the “devil’s advocate” as he termed it, asked if such a map could be used down over the Tioga River, Kenney was able to look over the river and out to wards the Route 140 corridor. Ball told him the trail, still in development, will eventually cross the river twice more with additional parts of the covered bridge purchased from the Town of Dover. It will then lead out to Route 140 in the vicinity of the Coca Cola plant. “The potential in the future is this can connect from there with the W.O.W. Trail through Laconia, the Winnipesaukee River Trail in Tilton, and even allow people to head west towards Lebanon on the Rail Trail,” he said.

Ball further explained to Kenney that the trail through Belmont is all being made possible through a generous donation by residents Dick and Betty Peterson who purchased land, once owned by the B&M Railroad, then eventually donated it to the town for the specific use as a recreational trail. Bryce said that what really makes the Belmont trail project stand out is its ability to attract people to the location through community programs and a multi-use trail system. “One of the things that draws especially young people to an area is outdoor recreation. It really makes a difference and this is a good example of that,” Bryce said.

Kenney said he was very impressed with the not only the trail and the beautiful water front as seen from the covered bridge, but all the other outdoor recreational opportunities provided in the restored village district. He congratulated all who made it possible, at both the town and state levels, and said it was great news he would take back to Concord.