Public offers no comment on Belmont Mill Pavilion

By TIM CAMERATO | Jul 29, 2014

BELMONT — The Planning Board held a hearing on Monday to discuss a plan to build an open air pavilion near the Belmont Mill.

State law requires that a notice be sent to the Planning Board when a town proposes a new or different governmental use of a property. The board may then choose to hold a hearing to give voters a voice.

Chairman Peter Harris said the Belmont Planning Board has always held hearings for similar proposals.

Selectman Ron Cormier presented the proposal. He said the idea of building a pavilion came from a 2010 charrette.

“We did receive a grant from the (National Park Service) Land and Water Conservation Fund for such a building,” Cormier said.

He said the grant expires at the end of the year and the town wants to get moving on the project.

The Belmont Mill Pavilion will be located on what is now a vacant lot next to the Belmont Mill. The land was donated in 2011 by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Persons.

Plans call for 26-by-80 open air pavilion with two bathrooms and a storage room with a sink.

“The idea is really to have a space that we can combine now, hopefully, with the bandstand as well that would allow people to rent it out,” Cormier said.

Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin said construction is expected to begin in mid-August with a completion date slated for October.

Cormier said grant funds will also be used to finish the river walk behind the Belmont Mill onto the bank of the Tioga River. A covered bridge will also be installed crossing the river.
Beaudin said the town received a $30,000 grant to help with that part of the revitalization from the New Hampshire Recreational Trails Program.

Cormier said the selectmen also discussed taking about $10,000 out of the town's Facilities Capital Reserve Fund to make sure there's enough money left in the grant to finish the project.

The hearing was then closed, with no members of the public choosing to comment.