

Belmont selectmen's meetings now stream live online

By GAIL OBER, LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — Selectmen moved into the brave new world of technology Monday when their first meeting was streamed live over the internet.

Live streaming allows people at home and/or with computer access and a free live streaming account to be able to watch and listen to the selectman's meetings as they are happening.

Beaudin said that for a long time the town has had the physical means to record their meetings, transfer them to a DVD, and bring them to Lakes Region Public Access Television for replay. The hold up was finding a volunteer to record the meetings and convert them to a form LRPA could use. For lack of a volunteer, this hasn't been done in a few years.

Beaudin told selectmen Monday night that the town is able to purchase the live streaming subscription from Lakes Region Public Access for \$49 a month, which will be paid from a nearly \$1,400 technology grant given annually by Metrocast as part of Belmont's annual agreement with them.

She said that the stream will also be broadcast on Channel 25 as part of a loop that includes other subscribing communities public meetings.

Beaudin said she watched the stream Monday evening and said both the audio and visual quality were good. One of the issues with the old system of recording to DVD was that often the sound quality wasn't that good.

For those wishing to view the live stream for Belmont, go to www.livestream.com/belmontnh and follow the directions to establish an account. Meetings are also available on demand at the site if one wishes to watch at a later time.

In other Belmont business, former Selectmen Brian Watterson was named as an alternate to the Heritage Committee.