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Contract for Belmont scenic trail awarded to Conway firm

CONTRACT FOR BELMONT SCENIC TRAIL AWARDED TO CONWAY FIRM

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BELMONT — Town Land Technician Rick Ball said yesterday that the contract for Phase 1 of the Winnisquam Scenic Trail has been formally awarded to Nelson Communications System, Inc. of Center Conway.

The recreational trail, which will run primarily

2 Points Mentioned along side the railroad tracks from the Agway store on Rte 3 to the Roberts Town Beach, a distance of 1.5 miles, was projected by engineers to cost \$726,278. The lowest construction bid, however, was \$825,290 and came from general contractor Nelson Communications Service, Inc. of Center Conway.

Ball said yesterday that he has requested that 80 percent of the shortfall (\$68,029) come from the N.H. Department of Transportation, which manages the Transportation Enhancement Program grant fund. Ball said the Selectboard agreed to spend \$17,007 for its 20-percent share.

Ball said there is a three-month construction time allotment and Nelson

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Communications is ready to go. He said that at some point over the next few days, the necessary bonds and insurances will be provided and a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled with the N.H. DOT.

He said construction could begin as early as October.

The trail has been 12 years in the making and is part of the scenic corridor railway trail system. A separate not-for-profit group called the Belmont Regional Alternative Trail System raised money for years, initially starting with two phases. As construction costs rose, the town shifted its focus to Phase I and was given approval to go out to bid in August.

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