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No Indian artifacts found beneath Belmont trail path

# NO INDIAN ARTIFACTS FOUND BENEATH BELMONT TRAIL PATH



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BELMONT — After digging 89 excavation pits along the proposed route of Phase I of the Lake Winnisquam Scenic (recreation) Trail, it appears there were no significant artifacts discovered that could delay the project further.

Town Land Use Technician Rick Ball said yesterday that the preliminary assessment from Louis Berger & Associates — the engineering company performed the Phase I-B archeological study — told him that nothing was found except an early 20th century refuse pile that is outside the scope of the trail.

"I would not recommend further archeological investigation of the site," Ball read yesterday from a letter he received from the company.

Ball said that his understanding is that once the information is officially recorded by the N.H. Department of Transportation it will complete the categorical exclusion required by the grant being used to pay for much of the trail.

Ball said the Phase I-B archeological cost \$15,000, 80 percent of which was paid by a federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Once the consultant files his report with the DOT, Ball said he will be able to begin getting easements.

"The final plans are okay," he said, noting that costs may have to be adjusted slightly once the DOT gets its new quarterly construction rates.

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Ball said that as soon as the easements are finished, the town should be able to put the construction portion out to bid.



"Our goal is to advertise by December 1 with a construction start of next spring," he said.

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