Town Administrator's Monthly Report

Monday, November 11, 2019, Town Hall will be closed in observance of Veterans Day, please remember our Veterans on this day and every day.

Property Revaluation
Values have been finalized and our 2019 Tax Rate has been set as follows:

- Municipal (Town) $7.98 down $1.50
- Local School $13.89 down $2.08
- State School $1.89 down $0.44
- County $1.25 down $0.22

**2019 Tax Rate is $25.01**

If you are still aggrieved by your new property assessment, you can file an abatement application with the Town once you have received your fall tax bill. The form can be found on the Town’s website, and a link to the form is included here [https://www.nh.gov/btla/forms/documents/abatement.pdf](https://www.nh.gov/btla/forms/documents/abatement.pdf). Abatement applications must be filed with the Town no later than March 1st. Responses to the application are due to the taxpay-er by July 1st. In the event you are still aggrieved following the Town’s response, you can file an appeal with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals or the Superior Court no later than September 1st.

The Town is required by law to conduct a full revaluation every 5 years; our last full revaluation was in 2014 at which time the market was flat and property values overall saw a decrease. The sales used for our most recent revaluation were for the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019 and the market has seen a significant up-turn. The goal of a revaluation is to bring all properties uniformly to 100% of market value; overall the Town’s value increased by about 20% from the 2018 level.

In an effort to lessen the impacts of a revaluation, the Board of Selectmen have put funds in the 2020 budget for a Statistical Update. What this means is that the sales for the period April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 will be analyzed and values will be updated town-wide based on the completed analysis. This process will be conducted annually going forward and should lessen the shock effects of a full revaluation. Only the sale properties will be visited during this process.

We continue to remind all taxpayers to stop by Town Hall and obtain a copy of your property record card to ensure that the data is correct, such as number of bedrooms, bathrooms, floor coverings, etc.
Belmont 150th Celebration
Belmont’s 150th Celebration is winding down and will come to an end with a dinner/dance to be held on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the Belknap Mill in Laconia, from 6 pm to 10:30 pm. Live music will be provided by The Connition Fits! Advance tickets are required at $25 each. For tickets or more information contact Gretta at 998-3525.

2020 Budget
The Budget Committee will begin meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Corner Meeting House and agendas are posted on the Town’s website at www.belmontnh.org. Selectmen and Budget Committee meetings are televised live at https://livestream.com/belmontnh.

Belmont’s Oldest Resident
We have had responses to our search to find our Oldest Resident, thank you to all who sent in a suggestion.

IT is the LAW! (RSA 466:31 II (c)
Our message to all Dog Owners is to remind you of the importance of picking up your dog’s waste from property not your own. The town installed at three different locations, dog waste stations where you can obtain a plastic bag to pick up the waste and deposit it in the numerous garbage cans located in the Village.

What’s Flushable or Not
We continue to stress the importance of the “Not everything is flushable”, please check out the “Do Not Flush!” list to protect your sewer and septic system. A “Flushable” label does not mean it is SAFE for your septic system or the Town’s sewer. Please read the brochure we have included on the Town’s website at www.belmontnh.org. We need your help to insure our sewers keep flowing.

Just a reminder that the Town of Belmont is an active member of Lakes Region Public Access Television which can be seen locally on Atlantic Broadband Channels 24, 25, and 26. If you are a camera buff and you have an interest in producing a show to be shown on LRPA, please contact the station at 528-3070 to discuss your idea. LRPA has made significant strides to improve programming this past year and its presence in the Lakes Region; we urge you to check out their website at http://lrpa.org.

Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th in observance of Thanksgiving.
November is here, bringing with it, football weekends and warm sweater weather.

**TAX RATE:** The tax rate for the Town has not been set yet but we hope to have the second issue tax bills in the mail by the second or third week of November. Unfortunately this will push back the due date to mid-December which is a little later than usual. We appreciate everyone’s patience with the re-evaluation process the Town has gone through. If you have any questions, please contact the Town or refer to our website www.belmontnh.org for more information.

**TOYOTA LEASE RENEWALS:** November is the renewal month for Toyota leased vehicles. We would like to point out that the final working days of the month (November 28-29) Town Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. In an effort not to inconvenience our residents, we are urging those with November registrations to get them done early. You have the option of renewing your registrations in our office or on our Town’s website, www.belmontnh.org. Please keep in mind that if you renew online, you must allow time for the registration to reach your mailbox after we process it. **PLEASE NOTE:** Any registrations renewed online from November 26th through December 1st will not be processed and mailed until we return to the office on Monday, December 2nd.

**REAL ID:** Are you looking to obtain your REAL ID from the DMV? We can help you obtain the vital records necessary. Our office can provide certified copies of birth, marriage and death records as long as the event took place in the State of New Hampshire. The cost of the record is $15.00 for the first copy and $10.00 for any subsequent copies of the same record requested in the same transaction. If our office hours don’t work with your schedule, in most cases you can visit any Town or City Hall in the state to obtain certified records, or you can submit your request online on our Town website. If you have any questions, please contact our office. 

We hope that everyone finds reasons to be thankful and gets to enjoy the holiday with family and friends! Stay warm!
BAD NEWS ABOUT BATH SALTS

Belmont Police Department

Captain Richard Mann

I am not talking about the bath salts you put into your tub after a long day, I am referring to the illegal kind.

Bath salts are a synthetic drug that is not only dangerous, but illegal! Communities in NH have seen a real problem develop with the use of these drugs.

What is it? The synthetic drug sold as “bath salts” has no legitimate use for bathing and is intended by the manufacturers for getting high.

They contain stimulant compounds that are supposed to mimic the highs of drugs such as cocaine, MDMA, and methamphetamines.

What does it look like? The specially-made powder or crystal chunks mostly range from white to tan, but can also be in different colors.

How is it used? Bath Salts are snorted, swallowed, smoked or injected.

What can be the symptoms of use? Bath Salts can cause chest pains, irregular heartbeats, increased blood pressure, agitation, muscle breakdown and seizures. They also can cause extreme paranoia, delusions, hallucinations, suicidal thoughts and violence.

What are the street names/slang terms for it?

Ivory & Purple Wave, Bliss, White Lightning, Hurricane Charlie, Zoom, Drone, Meow Meow, White Rush, Red Dove, Blue Silk, Zoom, Bloom, Cloud Nine, Ocean Snow, Lunar Wave, Vanilla Sky and Scarface. (These products have also been sold as plant food and pond water cleaners.)
Where do they come from? These harmful powders are typically sold in small foil packets or in half-gram bottles and labeled “not for human consumption,” but are used to get high. They may be sold over the internet and at various head shops.

What to do if you come across what you think is an unknown substance. You can notify us at 267-8350. After you call, we will meet with you and discuss the best method of disposal. We do not recommend that you handle and transport the unknown substance.

Be very careful with unknown substances. Ingestion, inhalation or skin absorption can be very dangerous to you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.drugfreeNH.org

FOR POISONINGS:
Northern New England Poison Center s 800-222-1222
www.NNEPC.org
Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery

FACT SHEET
NH Department of Health and Human Services
Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services
105 Pleasant St., Concord, NH 03301
800.804.0909 / 603.271.2677
www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bdas
On Halloween night, BFD hosted a Halloween Campfire at the station. Even though it was raining, Mother Nature couldn’t stop this event from taking place! S’mores, hot dogs, cider and hot cocoa were enjoyed inside with Smokey as kids all dressed up in their best Halloween costumes came out to learn about fire safety! It was a great night had by all!
BFD SCARECROW
CHALLENGE WINNER!

BFD hosted its very first Scarecrow Challenge! We challenged Belmont residents during the month of October to build a scarecrow and send us the pictures, and boy were they awesome! From there we posted the pictures on our Facebook page and let the viewers decide who should be the winner. Colby and Evan Bavis were the lucky winners of a $75 gift certificate to Brookside Pizza, courtesy of Brookside Pizza. Congratulations! Thank you to everyone who participated this year, and thank you to Brookside Pizza for donating such an awesome prize! We hope everyone had fun participating in our challenge!
Highway Department News

Road Work and Reconstruction Update

The final phase of the Hurricane Rd. reconstruction process is complete. Final application of asphalt has been applied and shoulder gravel has been completed. We are pleased with the results. We would like to thank the many people involved along with the general contractor, Busby construction, and the Paving contractor, Wolcott construction, for all their efforts that made this project possible.

You might notice our crew out removing leaves from drainage ditches and along many of our roads with our rather large leaf collector. Many people ask why we do this. Leaves tend to form dams to divert the water and can cause the edges of roadway to be washed out during heavy rains. Cleaning the leaves and debris from these ditches and catch basins makes it easier for the water to flow without interruption. By removing these leaves, we are able to save roads from washing out therefore saving the taxpayers money. Unfortunately, this is not an invitation to pile your leaves on the side of the road and in the ditches for us to pick up. Property owners are responsible for disposal of the leaves from their property. We would also appreciate homeowners not putting leaves in the ditches for us to remove. This task is not the Towns responsibility.

Parking Ban

NO PARKING

The parking ban will be in affect starting November 15th until April 15th. Overnight on street parking will not be allowed during this time.

Public Winter Sand

A new winter sand stockpile for the residents of Belmont has been completed outside of the Hurricane Rd. facility. This will allow for residents to obtain sand while we maintain a secure and safe facility. A friendly reminder, if you need winter sand for your driveway, we have a three 5-gallon pail limit. Don’t forget winter is right around the corner! Sorry
Highway Department News (Cont.)

Roadside Trash Pickup

Each year trash bags are available at the Highway garage for people interested in organizing local neighborhood trash pickup. If you or your organization would like to receive bags, they can be picked up during normal business hours.

Highway Department employees, with help from the Belknap County department of correction have picked up over 400 bags of roadside trash so far this spring and throughout the summer months. Please be mindful of our efforts and try not to use our roadsides as a trash can!

Construction Season is Always Upon Us!

Please drive cautiously (SLOW DOWN) as our crews will be out working as well as many private contractors in the area. Take note of all signage and slow down when entering a work zone. Remember to stay off your cell phone. The safety and lives of the many construction workers trying to improve your roads depend on it!!

Driveway Culvert Maintenance

Driveway culvert maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner. Not only should you keep your culvert free from debris, it is recommended that snow should not be piled up to obstruct the flow of water. This can contribute to flooding and water washing out your driveway along with entering the road which can cause a hazard to motorists.

Mailbox Location and Homeowner Responsibility

It is the property owner’s responsibility to maintain and properly locate their mailbox. The front of the mailbox should be located no closer than 2’ from the edge of the pavement and should be a minimum 46” high to the bottom of the supporting post. We recommend a height of 46” as this will accommodate the wing of our plows to go under and not come in contact with the mailbox or the supporting post. We also recommend a metal mailbox; plastic will not hold up in the extreme cold weather. If for some reason your mailbox is damaged, the postmaster for the Town of Belmont should be contacted to verify proper installation was performed before contacting the DPW.
See following photo for a recommended installation:

The above model has been installed at the Belmont Post Office for the public to view.

**Metal USPS Approved Mailbox Specifications**

- Front edge 2’ from the edge of road
- 46” in height (This allows for Plow Wing to go under without hitting)
- Main post minimum 3’ back from edge of road and post should be at least 2’ in the ground

Before you dig, remember to call DigSafe. Not only is it safe, **IT’S THE LAW!**
Planning and Zoning News

Mickey Mouse’s Birthday
November 18, 1928

Application Review Committee (10/24/19)

Mountain Made Materials, LLC.: Review of Earth Excavation application proposing expansion of excavation areas to include blasting. Property located at 224 Hurricane Road, Tax Lot 231-014-000-000, Commercial Zone. #21-19R

Planning Board (10/28/19)

Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – Comcast of Maine/New Hampshire: Granted site plan approval to construct a fiber optic service facility with associated amenities. Property is located on Overlook Drive, Tax Lot 204-008-000-000 in the “C” Zone. PB #2019P.

Zoning Board of Adjustment (10/2/19))

Abutters' Hearing – Empire Beauty School for Daniel & Constance Fitzgerald: Dismissed a request for a Variance of Article 5 Table 1 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow a school (Beauty School) in the commercial zone. Property is located at 93 Daniel Webster Highway, Tax Lot 201-093-000-000, ZBA #2119Z. It was determined by the Board that the proposed use is not a “school” and that a Variance shall not be required.
Planning and Zoning Committee News (Cont.)

Hunting Safety Tips

N.H. Fish and Game reminds hunters to hunt carefully. "We urge hunters to follow a few simple guidelines to hunt safely and enjoy their time in the woods," says Josh Mackay, Fish and Game's Hunter Education Coordinator.

Don't be a hunter statistic -- follow these safety tips:

• Control your firearm muzzle at all times.
• Always wear safety glasses.
• Know where your hunting partners are at all times.
• Shoot only within your zone of fire.
• Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
• Always keep your hunting dog under control.
• Wear hunter orange on your head, back and chest.
Conservation Committee News

WHY TEST?

For information about testing your well water, treatment options or accredited laboratories in New Hampshire, visit the NHDES website.

Go to the A to Z List and select "Private Well Testing" or "Water Well Testing."

NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-2513
dwginfo@des.nh.gov

TEST YOUR WELL WATER

Unhealthy levels of contaminants are common in many private wells in New Hampshire. Some of these contaminants have been linked to cancer and other diseases. Most have no taste, smell or color. It is important to periodically test well water to ensure it is safe to drink.

MORE INFORMATION

WHAT’S IN YOUR WATER?

This brochure was produced in partnership:

www.des.nh.gov

www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/lab/index.htm
**Conservation Committee News (Cont)**

**HOW TO TEST**

1. **Order a kit** from an accredited laboratory to sample your water. The New Hampshire Public Health Lab has an online container request form, as do some other labs.

2. **Follow the instructions** included in the kit to sample your well water and send back the water sample(s) immediately to the lab.

3. **Review the report from the lab.** Any contaminants that may affect your health or your home appliances will be highlighted.

**HOW TO TREAT**

If the lab report indicates there is a contaminant in your well water in amounts greater than state or federal health standards or recommended action levels, you should take steps to fix it.

Using NHDES’ Be Well informed tool, you can enter results from your lab report and get recommendations for appropriate treatment options, if needed.

NHDES also has fact sheets on its website covering all common water quality problems and their solutions. Before making a decision, consult a water treatment professional.

**WHEN TO TEST**

NHDES recommends that prospective homebuyers test the water in a home with a private well before purchase.

Water quality in properly located and constructed wells is generally stable, and if a change is going to occur, it occurs slowly. Thus, NHDES recommends standard and radiological analysis testing every three to five years. Bacteria and nitrates are exceptions: you should test for them every year.

The following conditions would call for more frequent testing:

- Heavily developed areas with land uses that handle hazardous chemicals.
- Recent well construction activities or repairs. NHDES recommends testing for bacteria after any well repair or pump or plumbing modification, but only after thorough flushing of the pipes.
- High levels of contaminants found in earlier testing.
- Noticeable changes in the water, such as a change in taste, smell or appearance after a heavy rain, or an unexplained change in a previously trouble-free well.

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**STANDARD TO TEST FOR**

**STANDARD ANALYSIS**

This covers the most common contaminants. Some of these pose health concerns while others only affect taste and/or smell. Find water quality standards on the NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau website.

- Arsenic
- Bacteria
- Chloride
- Copper
- Fluoride
- Hardness
- Iron
- Lead
- Manganese
- Nitrate/Nitrite
- pH
- Sodium
- Uranium *

*Uranium is part of both the standard and radiological analysis packages at the State of NH Lab.

**VOCs**

MIBE, benzene, and industrial solvents are the most common volatile organic compounds (VOCs). MTBE and benzene are found in gasoline, and MTBE has been detected even in remote areas.

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**RADIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

Rocks in New Hampshire contain naturally-occurring radioactive elements that dissolve easily in water. Radiological analysis includes tests for uranium, analytical gross alpha and radon.

A radon air test is also advisable since the greatest exposure risk is through inhaling air with elevated concentrations of radon gas. Radon test kits are available from the National Radon Program services and at home improvement stores.

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**ADDITIONAL TESTS**

Tests for pesticides, herbicides or other synthetic organic compounds (SOCs) may be a good idea if your water has elevated nitrite or nitrate concentrations, or if significant amounts of pesticide have been applied near your well.

Learn about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have recently been found in New Hampshire’s water, on the NH PFAS Investigation webpage.
Belmont Facility Strategy Committee News

Belmont Town Building Strategy to be Presented on Nov. 4\textsuperscript{th}

The Belmont Facility Strategy Committee thanks Belmont residents, staff and Selectmen for their participation in community meetings and feedback regarding future use of town buildings. The Committee will submit the Belmont Facility Strategy at the November 4\textsuperscript{th} Board of Selectmen meeting.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to amend the contract with Lavalle Brensinger Architects to develop a more detailed conceptual plan and perspective concept drawing for a new Police Station at the Corner Meeting House site. This information will be available for the public to review for the 2020 budget discussion and 2020 Belmont Deliberative Session and Town Meeting.

20-Year Belmont Town Facility Strategy Highlights:

- **Construct new Police Department Building – Highest priority** Based on community input and future needs, propose using Corner Meeting House site for a new Police Station. This approach allows the Police to remain in place until construction is completed and allows space for future expansion. Current facility is overcrowded and presents safety issues. Projected cost for a new building is close to reconstruction and relocation cost for improving the existing Police Station. Projected cost is $3 million including relocation of meeting rooms and Welfare Office to Belmont Mill. Remove existing Police Station when project is completed.

  **Action Needed** - Complete a Design/Build concept with active public involvement, community meeting and Ballot Measure in 2020 for bond to complete this project.

- **Town Hall in Belmont Mill – Second priority** The Committee recommends using the Belmont Mill to house all of the Town Hall functions currently met by Town Hall, the Corner Meeting House and the Mill. Existing Town Hall is overcrowded and lacks space required for future needs. Criteria directed us to house all town hall functions together. Retain historic character of Mill which is on State list of Historic Places and Factory Village District. Projected cost is $2.6 million.

  **Action Needed** - Phase in needed repairs to Mill and transition move of town meeting facilities and Welfare Department in tandem with Police Department construction. Recommend a public committee to be involved with detailed planning for phasing move and final design. Fund through Capital Improvement funds and bond measure. Some improvements can be phased over time.

- **Library – Third priority** Continue to upgrade existing Library working with the Library Board and determine best approach for expanding facility. Retain the historic character of this National Register of Historic Places structure.
Belmont Facility Strategy Committee News (Cont)

**Action Needed** Review proposed addition space needs in light of meeting rooms and community services provided in Belmont Mill and adjust proposal as needed. Continue to phase needed repairs to Library and seek grants and a Ballot measure in future to construct addition.

- **Belmont Bandstand** – Protect the historic character of this State-listed structure.
- **Fire Department, Public Works Department, Belmont Pavilion, Beach Bath House**
  - No major facility needs anticipated during the planning period.
- **Town Hall** – Recommend sale of building with deed restrictions when Town functions moved to the Mill. Retain historic character of building. Located in Factory Village District which is eligible for National Register of Historic Places.
- **Old Bank Building** – Recommend removal of building in 2-3 years to provide more space for Town green. This building is not needed for town use and requires extensive reconstruction.
## Library News

**Belmont Public Library**

146 Main Street – Belmontpubliclibrary.org – (603) 267-8331

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**Library Hours:**
- Monday and Wednesday 10am-7pm
- Tuesday and Thursday 10am-5pm
- Friday 10am-4pm Saturday 9am-1pm

**International Games Week**
November 4–9
Library News (Cont.)

Lion King Movie Release Party  
Tuesday November 5 at 12pm  
Movie showing, pizza, and craft.

Friends Meeting  
Wednesday November 6 at 2pm

Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday November 12 at 4pm

NonFiction Book Group  
Thursday November 14 at 1pm  
The Republic of Imagination by Azar Nafisi

Fiction Book Group  
Friday November 15 at 10:30am  
Persuasion by Jane Austen

Senior Center Book Group  
Tuesday November 19 at 10:30am  
The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Advanced Beginner Knitting Group  
Saturday November 2, 9, 16 from 10am-noon  
Learn the techniques and complete a finished doll sweater.  
$20 materials fee

Library Closed  
Monday November 11 (Veterans Day)  
Thursday November 28 (Thanksgiving Holiday)  
Friday November 29 (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Family Storytime  
Wednesdays at 10:30 am November 6, 13, 20, 27

Drop in to play board or card games all week. Check out our selection of books and movies about all kinds of games!
NOVEMBER EVENTS

Come on in to the Belmont Senior Center and enjoy a delicious lunch or brunch! Or come play cards on a Tuesday afternoon. How about some Art? Call 267-9867 for details...

November 5th 10:30-11:30 FREE Blood Pressure Clinic by the VNA

November 12th 10:30 Brunch

November 13th Veteran’s Day Luncheon w/ live music, RSVP by 11/1 to 267-9867

November 14th Order a Holiday Food bag if needed, $2 donation is requested

November 19th Book Club 10:30-11:30

November 20th Foot Care Clinic by appointment, call 267-9867

November 21st Home-made pie contest after Thanksgiving style lunch

November 26th 10:30 Brunch

November 27th 12:30 Taylor Community Chorus in to sing

November 28th Senior Center is CLOSED for the Thanksgiving, enjoy your holiday!

***Please be sure to call and RSVP for your spot for lunch the Thursday before the following week to ensure we will have enough food for all! 267-9867. Leave a message if no one is available to take your call please.***
Our Furry Friends

The two photo’s to the left and below are of Melbourne Cheshire, a labradoodle who’s mom was from Australia.

Mel is my “First Mate” on my Sea Ray ported on Winnisquam Lake at Dutile Shore Rd. He is on “look-out” duty in the first picture and is acting as “safety officer” during refueling at Winnisquam Marine’s pier in the second picture.

He’s a regular “boat dog” and enjoys seeing his K-9 mates on other Winnisquam boats during the summer season.

Submitted by:

Lee Cheshire
Dutile Shore Rd
Belmont
This is Smokey. (left and below) He came into my life when I was working as the receptionist for the town in 2011. I received a call from Bestway that they had found a kitten in the trash and what did I want them to do with it. Well, I have a soft heart and decided to take him home. He was about 5-6 weeks old and the cutest little kitten you ever saw.

He has grown into a beautiful cat who loves belly rubs, turkey and treats. He lives on Aiden Circle with his big brother Dusty. They’re great friends. Smokey is a real love bug and we are blessed to have him.

Submitted by
Tracey Russo
Aiden Circle
Belmont

Would you like to see your pet here? Just send a picture to Kathy at townhall@belmontnh.org along with their name and yours, as well as a brief description of your pet and their favorite pastime. They will be posted in the order received.
*All meetings held in CMH (Corner Meeting House) unless otherwise noted. ↑ = upstairs  ↓ = downstairs

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** abbreviations:**
- **BOS**: Board of Selectmen
- **Heritage**: Heritage Commission
- **CC**: Conservation Committee
- **ARC**: Application Review Committee
- **PB**: Planning Board
- **ZBA**: Zoning Board of Adjustment
- **SOGS**: Save Our Gale School
- **FSC**: Facilities Strategy Committee