



2016-05-16 / Local

## Belmont Bandstand named to NH Register of Historic Places

«



**THE HISTORIC BELMONT BANDSTAND** as it appears today. The bandstand, which dates back to 1908, underwent major repairs and was fully restored in the fall of 2014. The New Hampshire Historic Resources Council has designated the bandstand as part of the State Register of Historic Places. (JIM CLARK/CITIZEN)



By JIM CLARK  
[jclark@citizen.com](mailto:jclark@citizen.com)

BELMONT—When it comes to historic places in Belmont, three's a charm.

The New Hampshire State Historic Resources Council has placed the town's venerable

bandstand to the list of the State Register of Historic Places. This follows the same designation given to the Belmont Mill in 2015, and the Province Road Meeting House (owned by the Belmont Historical Society) in 2003.

The village bandstand goes back to the year 1908. Starting then and up until about 1950, local bands including the Belmont Cornet Band played at the bandstand on Saturday night. The structure was located in the center of town but at a different location where the bandstand now sits, which is between and in back of the town library and the old Northway Bank building, currently vacant.

According to the president of the Belmont Historical Society Wallace Rhodes, who serves as town historian, the bandstand fell into disrepair after 1950, and its civic uses became less frequent.

The original bandstand sat in the location now occupied by the town library, built in 1928. It was moved a short distance away when the library building was completed and then moved again to its current location in September 2013.

Repairs to the bandstand were made in 1977. More recent town efforts to restore the bandstand began in 2008. According to Belmont Heritage Commission chairman Linda Frawley, a fundraising effort was begun and \$60,000 was eventually raised -- \$20,000 from town funds and the other \$40,000 from various grants.

Though the efforts of numerous town volunteers and businesses donating their time and labor, the bandstand was fully renovated by the fall of 2014.

John Thompson of JLT Painting in Alexandria painted the entire structure in its original green and red color. Restoration expert J.R. Graton of Northfield replicated the bandstand's original frieze designs and adorned the top of the bandstand with a green and gold finial or ball top in May 2015.

In June 2015, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the U.S. Civil War, a Civil War tribute band played at the bandstand along with an appearance by President Abraham Lincoln, portrayed by Jim Miller of Canterbury.

Over the past two years numerous music concerts have taken place at the renovated bandstand. This summer two concerts are scheduled.

At 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 2, a "Fourth of July Red, White, and Rock" performance will take place featuring musicians with ties to the Belmont community. At 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, the Newmont Military Band will give a performance. The band consists of musicians from New Hampshire and Vermont. All performances are free and the public is invited to attend and bring a

picnic lunch.

Meanwhile, the Belmont Heritage Commission is sponsoring its first event of the 2016 Heritage and Preservation series this Saturday.

For the first time, residents are encouraged to walk around the historic village to see what's old and new--starting with the 1928 town library, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Residents and visitors are also encouraged to see the refurbished bandstand in back of the library, the nearby Tioga River Pavilion, Sargent Park near the police station, and view the covered bridge near the old Belmont Mill.

The opening ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. in front of the library on Main Street, and maps of the town will be distributed. Exhibits, displays, and mini-lectures on the town's history will be featured at the Corner Meeting House from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**[Return to top](#)**