

Deed to Belmont bandstand needs clarifying before LCHIP grant is in hand

By GAIL OBER, LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — Selectmen learned Monday night that the town will need a revised or corrected deed as a requirement of the LCHIP grant used to renovate and restore the historic bandstand in the village center.



The deed is part of the bandstand final report which is a baseline document used by Land and Community Heritage Investment Program to document the condition of the bandstand and a five-year stewardship agreement for the selectmen who will be responsible for its upkeep to the standard set by the agreement.

The historic Belmont Village bandstand was built in 1902, and over the years provided the residents with countless hours of community events. It was painted, repainted, apparently burned at one point and rebuilt, but was completely restored in 2015 using money raised from the town, by the Heritage Commission and the matching LCHIP grant.

According to Linda Frawley of the Heritage Commission, the deeding of the bandstand land is a "wonderful puzzle" that dates back to 1955 at a minimum.

She said it appears that at one point before 1955 there were three or four parcels of land that surrounded the

mill. While the town owns all of them now, they need to know exactly which plot of land the bandstand is on so it can be registered with the Registry of Deeds.

Selectman Chairman Ruth Mooney said it would likely involve some kind of deed search and a survey.

Additionally, the office of the town administrator was designated as a contact point for reporting any damage or problems with the bandstand.

The building and grounds manager works for the town administrator, who told the members of the Heritage Commission that everyone needs to work together to report to the town what, if anything, the bandstand needs.

For example, Heritage Commission member Brian Watterson mentioned that there were a few lights out, an electrical plate missing, and that there had been some vandalism to the structure. Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin said she knew about the vandalism and it is being addressed, but didn't know about the lights and the missing electrical plate.

Beaudin encouraged Heritage Commission members to let her know when anything needs to get done or be fixed because the building and grounds manager can't be everywhere at the same time.

She also said she would contact the town attorney about the deed for the bandstand.

The Laconia Daily Sun - All Rights Reserved