



Town Administrator's Monthly Report

Update on COVID-19 Activity

As we are sure many of you have been seeing on the news there has been an increased number of COVID-19 cases across the United States. In an effort to continue to keep New Hampshire safe, a new initiative has been released state wide #maskupnewhampshire. We urge everyone to please wear a mask whenever you are in public; my mask keeps you safe and your mask keeps me safe. Let's do our part Belmont to insure we support this effort.



We have opened Sargent Park, the Tioga Pavilion and the Bandstand to the public, however we remind everyone that the restrooms at the park are not open and that these outdoor venues are not regularly cleaned and sanitized. Please use caution and follow all of the guidelines posted for your safety.

We continue to express our gratitude to our frontline responders, Police and Fire Departments during these difficult times. We also want to thank all our Town employees who have had to face many changes in how they assist the public. Everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated.

Police Station Project

We are pleased to be working with Bonnette, Page & Stone on the project. Plans for the building are entering final design. We have also secured funding for the project through Northway Bank, a 20-year note at 2.40%. We have had an excellent banking relationship with Northway for several years so we were very pleased that we were able to work with us on this project.

Work is ongoing at the Belmont Mill to ready the 4th floor for meetings. We are very excited to begin using the space most likely in September, we will keep everyone posted on how it is progressing. We are also renovating space on the 1st floor to house the General Assistance Office. Please stay tuned to our website for information on how soon both spaces will be ready to open to the community.

Shaker Regional School District

School Re-opening Plan

https://www.sau80.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_318793/File/Resources/Return%20to%20School%20Plan_2020-2021.pdf

We thought it might be helpful to include a link to the school's re-opening plan which was just released.

We encourage everyone to please be safe in these difficult times.

Town Administrator's News (Cont.)

We realize there are a lot more people walking about these days so as a reminder if you are walking your dog, please scoop the poop!!



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.



Bulky Waste Disposal



We continue to work closely with Casella regarding the disposal of your bulky waste items. While the facility remains closed to Saturday hours, we would remind you that you can take your bulky items to the Concord Transfer Station located at 77 Old Turnpike Road in Concord during this interim period. We will be discussing options at the upcoming Selectmen's meeting on Monday, August 3, 2020, so please stay tuned and watch for updates to the bulky waste disposal issue.

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 ensure our sewers keep flowing.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Administrator's Office at 267-8300 ext. 124.



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>.



The Board of Selectmen will meet next on Monday, August 3rd at 10 am at the Corner Meeting House. We do continue to follow social distancing policy within the Corner Meeting House so the meeting will be available on Zoom. Please check the "Agenda" page on the Town's website for details of the Zoom meeting.

Town Clerk's Corner

Greetings from the Town Clerk's office! We hope you have been enjoying the warm summer months in the beautiful Lakes Region!

We are working very hard in our office to wrap up loose ends that have been put on hold during the shutdown.

Our office has been making courtesy calls to residents who have not yet registered their dogs for the year. Dog licenses are due to be renewed every year by April 30th. We understand that this duty may have been put on the back burner due to other concerns in our lives over the early months of this year however, the time has come that we are obligated to enforce the \$25.00 civil forfeiture fee for dogs who have not been licensed yet. We have sent out letters from the Police Department advising residents of this.

We have also sent out certified letters of impending lien for any unpaid water, sewer and property tax balances from 2019. This is a process we usually execute mid-May however we decided to extend the time for residents to get their accounts up to date in light of the Covid-19 virus. The lien will be executed on August 26th. As of July 31st our office will only accept Bank checks or cash as payment for balances in danger of being liened. Please call our office for an accurate amount owed as interest accrues daily.

2020 has certainly been a year of learning to adapt to circumstances we have never faced before. There are two upcoming elections this year that we are working hard to make as safe and efficient as we can. The State Primary election will be held Tuesday September 8, 2020 and the General Election will be held Tuesday November 3, 2020 at Belmont High School. Polls will be open from 7AM-7PM. This year, in addition to existing reasons to vote absentee, if a voter has concerns for their health and safety and don't wish to vote at the polls they are eligible to vote absentee. Absentee ballot request forms are available on our Town's website, www.belmontnh.org under the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's page or on the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.nh.gov. Voters can submit one application to request ballots for both upcoming elections. The requests can be mailed to our office, scanned and emailed, dropped off in person or in the drop box located in the front door of our building. Please keep in mind that when returning your completed ballots they can only be mailed in or dropped off in person during our business hours. Completed ballots CANNOT be returned in the drop box. If you have any questions please contact our office. We will continue to work hard to adapt to and overcome the hurdles the current state of the World is throwing our way. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy as we enjoy the rest of the summer.

Police Department News



The American Legion Gavel Bell was stolen from one of the Town's public buildings. A police report has been made. This was one of the few items American Legion Post 58 has from the days right after WWII, this is an irreplaceable item and they would love to have it back with no questions asked. Local pawn shops and junk dealers have been notified, we are asking the public to keep an eye out as well. This is an important piece of history for the Post. Anyone with any information can contact Woody Fogg at 603-524-8268, or the Belmont Police Department. Please do the right thing and return this item.



Highway Department News

CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS ALWAYS UPON US

Your DPW crew takes pride in maintaining our roadways to be as safe as possible. Please remember in order for them to do their job, right of way should always be given as with any emergency vehicle. It's always wise to slow down, leave a little early and arrive to your destination safely. We thank you all for your cooperation!



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 depends on it!!

DRIVEWAY PERMITS REQUIRED

Spring is the time that we remember any problems we have with our drive-way; mud, bumps, drainage.

Just a reminder that any work done on that portion of the driveway that meets the Town or State road right-of-way requires a Driveway Permit before the work commences. This includes just paving or re-paving.



Driveway Permit Applications can be obtained in the Land Use Office or online. Processing applications may take 7-10 business days as the Public Works Department will view the site to make sure that no concerns related to adequate road drainage exist.

What's Happening Now

DPW crews have been working on drainage improvements to Jamestown Road, Dutile Road and Mile Hill Road in preparation for maintenance shims and overlays. The crew has also begun stockpiling winter sand in preparation for the upcoming winter season.



NOTICE— ROADSIDE MOWING WILL BEGIN MID AUGUST



Before you dig, remember to call DigSafe
Not only is it safe, **IT'S THE LAW!**



Planning and Zoning Committee News

Planning and Zoning News

National Water Quality Month

August



Application Review Committee (7/23/2020)

- **NO CASES IN JULY / NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 20, 2020, 8:00 AM**

Planning Board (7/27/2020)

- **Public Hearing – Pike Industries:** Continuation of a request for Earth Excavation approval to increase quarry depth. Property is located at 308 Depot Street, Tax Lots 235-058-000-000, 232-031-000-000 & 236-014-000-000 in the “I” & “R” Zones. PB# 1019P. Continued to 8/22/2020 following deliberation.
- **Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – Blue Sky Enterprises Inc.:** Request for Earth Excavation approval to transfer 2007 Earth Excavation approvals to Mountain Made Materials. Property is located at 224 Hurricane Road, Tax Lot 231-014-000-000 in the “R” Zone. PB # 0520P. Approved.
- **Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – Tap Public House Inc.:** Request for site plan approval to allow outdoor seating, expand the existing use to include the downstairs and add parking spaces. Property is located at 930 Laconia Road, Tax Lot 122-057-000-000 in the “C” Zone. PB # 0320P. Continued to 8/22/2020 without deliberation.
- **Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – George Condodemetrakys:** Request for site plan approval to fill 4,500 sf. Property is located at 69 Main Street, Tax Lots 122-053-000-000 & 122-059-000-000 in the “C” Zone. PB # 0920P. Approved.
- **Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – Fantasy Factory LLC:** Request for site plan approval for a single-family subordinate dwelling unit. Property is located at 48 Dearborn Street, Tax Lot 123-028-000-000 in the “I” Zone. PB # 0820P. Continued to 8/22/2020 without deliberation.

Zoning Board of Adjustment (7/22/2020)

- **NO CASES IN JULY / NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 26, 2020, 6:00 PM**

What Is Our Water Worth and What Does Our Water Cost?

Last year, a UNH research team led by Allison Watts released the results of a their efforts to gather and develop information regarding the worth and cost of water services and resources in New Hampshire in order to better understand the value of water to our state’s economy and the real cost of maintaining clean and safe water for drinking, recreation and businesses. They reviewed and summarized over one hundred reports, presentations, fact sheets and other relevant information, performed an economic analysis on some forms of water-based recreation in New Hampshire, and provided more detailed information on costs and benefits associated with culvert upgrades.

The team organized their research results into eight categories: drinking water, stormwater, recreation, ecosystem services, industry and energy, employment, forests and agriculture, and transportation. The primary findings in each section are summarized and discussed in more detail in the report [available online at the Lakes Region Planning Commission website](https://lakesrpc.org) (lakesrpc.org).

For additional Land Use Information:

Visit www.belmontnh.org

Contact landuse@belmontnh.org

Call 267-8300 x 119

Library News



Belmontpubliclibrary.org – (603) 267-8331



Summer Reading logs must be turned in by August 8 to be eligible for raffle prizes.

Copies available through hoopla digital
Email the library for the meeting link.
circulation@belmontpubliclibrary.org

**ONLINE NON-FICTION
BOOK GROUP
AUGUST 13 1PM**

**ONLINE
FICTION
BOOK
GROUP**

Copies available through
nh.overdrive.com

AUGUST 21 10:30AM

Email the library for the meeting link
circulation@belmontpubliclibrary.org

Belmont Middle School summer reading books available at the library.

OverDrive

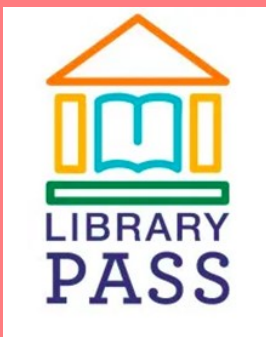
Adventure begins with
ebooks & audiobooks

Read on Libby.
The one-tap reading app from our library.

Summer Reading 2020

hoopla *Imagine Your Story*

Read-Watch-Listen digitally with your library card.



Visit NH State Parks or the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center on us. Check out an admission pass—you can call or email or come in to receive your pass.

Senior Center News

NOTICE

The Belmont Senior Center is no longer operating under the Community Action Program.

If you are interested in any of the other programs, all Belmont residents are welcome to go to:

Tilton Senior Center-11 Grange Rd., Tilton (5.2 miles) (603) 527-8291

- **Laconia Senior Center-17 Church St., Laconia (6.8 miles) (603) 524-7689**
- **TRIP-Franklin Senior Center-12 Rowell Dr., Franklin (9.5 miles) (603) 934-4151**

You may also call Concord with any questions at (603) 225-3295

Additionally, you may still call for bus transportation at (603) 225-1989 as usual.

Heritage Commission



The Belmont Heritage Commission welcomes *Victoria Riberio* as our new Student Representative. Victoria is a sophomore at Belmont High School. She will bring a student perspective to assist our commission in engaging high school, middle school, and elementary aged students to the history and heritage of our town. We look forward to having her participate at our meetings and activities throughout the year.

During the year of Belmont's 150th Anniversary the Heritage Commission started videotaping interviews from townspeople who told stories from the 'ole' days of Belmont. These videotapes are being made so they can be shared with future generations. We had several interviews scheduled for this past Spring and this Summer, but these plans have to be put on hold due to Covid-19. However, if you have a story to share please don't hesitate to get in touch with us through the town website.

Congratulations to the Save Our Gale School Committee! What an unbelievable feat moving the Gale School to its new home. Thank you for your perseverance, determination and hard work in saving this 1894 building that served Belmont for so long and means so much to the town's heritage.

Stay Cool and Be Safe
Belmont Heritage Commission
www.events@belmontnh.org

Letter to the Editor

Belmont Continues Tradition

On the evening of June 29, the Belmont Old Home Day Committee continued its tradition of hosting the Good Citizen Award Reception. There were no refreshments or in-person speeches; however, it still resulted in two deserving young ladies being recognized as Co-Winners of the 2020 honor. Recent graduates of Belmont High School, Kaitryn Gagnon and Alexa Rolfe attended a virtual reception to deliver their prepared and impromptu speeches in front of judges. Event host, Gretta Olson-Wilder, asked participants to be patient with her first Zoom call while she, Shawn Chase, and Alicia Jipson worked out the logistics. A third judge from the Seacoast area lost connectivity due to a thunder storm minutes before the start of the call.



Participants were asked to speak on "What living in Belmont means to me". According to Olson-Wilder, this has been the topic of the prepared speech for more than a decade. For an individualized spontaneous speech, the graduates were provided with questions of "Why is it important for even the busiest person to make time for service to his/her community?" and "What has been your most meaningful or favorite volunteer or service activity, and why"?

Gagnon and Rolfe each received a small monetary award and certificate during their virtual acceptance; complete with a virtual handshake. A socially-distanced home drop off of the items was arranged to ensure they were still properly recognized, as Old Home Day in Belmont and the parade they would normally be featured in, has been canceled for 2020. We would like to congratulate our winners and wish them best of luck as they start their college experience in the fall.



Letter to the Editor (cont)

Meet Belmont's Good Citizen Award Recipients

Alexa Rolfe

My name is Alexa Rolfe and am heading to Keene State in the fall to study Graphic Design. I love art and I feel that Belmont high school was the perfect place to foster and grow that passion. I'm excited about my future and the possibility of giving back to a community that has already given me so much.



Kaitryn Gagnon

Graduating from Belmont High School runs very far into my family tree. Throughout my years at Belmont I participated in many clubs and sports teams while also trying to volunteer my time for the community. I played soccer, lacrosse, and ski raced all four years for Belmont and I made time to compete individually as an equestrian year round as well. I was an active member of the National Honors Society, French Honors Society, English Honors Society, French Club, Future Business Leaders of America, and Students Against Deadly Decisions while keeping up with my academics. I was also one of the four class officers for the class of 2020 and learned a lot about my peers through that experience. In that position I worked with other students to organize fundraisers and get involved with the Belmont community at large. Some of the most memorable service projects and volunteer opportunities I have been able to participate in include the SADD PSA that was sent to the community in which we discussed suicide prevention and the negative stigma around such a topic. I was also fortunate to work with my older cousin, Cassie Contigiani, to volunteer every year at her annual unified basketball tournament as well as organize a benefit schooling jumper show for my diploma of distinction project in which all of the proceeds were sent to the Retired Racehorse Program.

Next year I will be attending Clemson University in South Carolina to study health sciences with a focus in preprofessional health studies while competing for the school's Eventing Team with my horse. Although I am excited for the change and new challenges ahead, I can say with confidence that Belmont will not be a hard place to come back to for visits.

Save out Gale School Committee

SAVE OUR GALE SCHOOL

ROLLIN', ROLLIN', ROLLIN'

"It's really happening!" "Never believed this would ever come to pass." "Congratulations for sticking with it so long." These were some of the comments heard Tuesday morning as Belmont's Gale School was inched down a fairly steep hill toward its new home on a lot on Concord Street donated by Bob and Lisa Lord. On Wednesday, 22 July, it was moved across the street and onto that lot, where footings for a foundation had already been constructed.

Some members of the "Save Our Gale School" (SOGS) group have been working for over 30 years to preserve and re-purpose this beautiful wooden Victorian school with its 70 foot tall bell tower, built in 1894 in the "Stick Built" architectural style. They are all delighted this has finally come to pass.

The Gale School was no longer suitable nor needed for Shaker Regional School District operations and needed to be either demolished or moved off its location behind the Belmont Middle School. It made no sense to spend the effort and money to move the abandoned building from one spot where it was deteriorating to another spot unless there was a solid plan for its restoration and re-use.

SOGS found an ideal partner in Lakes Region Community Developers (LRCD), who agreed to take the Gale School over once it was moved onto a concrete foundation in a new location. LRCD would then restore it in historically accurate fashion and use it to provide badly needed social services such as child and elder day care. LRCD is a non-profit with an impressive track record in providing affordable housing and facilities for community services. The two organizations 'clicked' from the beginning.

The NH Preservation Alliance designated the Gale School as one of the "Seven to Save" and the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) awarded SOGS a grant of \$110,000. The Shaker Regional School District agreed to provide as a moving allowance the \$71,000 budgeted for the Gale School's demolition. These two fund sources gave the needed impetus and credibility and SOGS was off and running.

Bob and Lisa Lord donated the one-acre lot on Concord Street. Kerry and Linda Clairmont, Ken Malone and Joe and Aime Harbut allowed SOGS to construct a haul road across their property to Concord Street. Canterbury Timber cleared the roadway at a very significant discount and Leslie E Roberts, LLC (Mark, Matt and Jeff) built the haul road, surfaced with crushed rock from Nutter Enterprises, at great discounts from both companies.

Padula Excavating donated all the site work on the donated lot, moving a lot of earth, excavating for construction of the foundation, and preparing a ramp on which to move the Gale School in over the footings. This was also a significant savings for SOGS.

On Monday, July 20th, after almost a month of preparation by Gary Gilbert Masonry, other SOGS members and Geddes Building Movers, the Gale School was moved off its foundation, turned 180 degrees to orient it properly and moved along the haul road to the top of the hill.

On Tuesday, July 21st, SOGS Chair Diane Marden, Vice Chair Ken Knowlton and Shaker Regional School Board Chair Sean Embree signed a Bill of Sale and an Agreement transferring the Gale School to SOGS for One Dollar. To "seal the deal", Ken Knowlton and Barbara Garneau, on behalf of SOGS, presented the SRSD Board and Superintendent Michael Tursi with an 1894 silver dollar, nicely mounted in a case, along with a copy of the transfer agreement. It will be hung on the wall in the District office, right next to the beautiful colored mosaic tile picture of the Gale School found in the basement during preparation for the building move.



left to right - SOGS members Woody Fogg, Lisa and Bob Lord, SOGS Chair Diane Marden, SRSD Superintendent Michael Tursi and Board Chair Sean Embree, SOGS Vice Chair Ken Knowlton

Save out Gale School Committee

On Tuesday, after 'buying' the Gale School for that one silver dollar, SOGS had the building moved down the steep hill to Concord Street.



Gale School ready to head down the steep section

Geddes Building Movers of Bow moved the 200 ton Gale School some 1200 feet over some very challenging terrain with "dollies" specially designed for this purpose. Rick Geddes said the 17% slope was over twice as steep as the steepest slope he had ever before moved a building down.



Almost down to the bottom. Geddes Building Movers used two bulldozers and two heavy rescue wreckers to help provide braking power going down the steep hill.

On Wednesday, July 22nd, the Gale School was moved across Concord Street, down a ramp and over the footings already placed. The concrete walls will be constructed in the next few weeks, sills replaced as needed and the building set down on the foundation. This move involved a large number of utility crews from Consolidated Communications, Atlantic Broadband and Eversource who removed lines and a pole and then reinstalled them when the Gale School had passed. Eversource generously waived their charges for this as well.

Save out Gale School Committee



Rick Geddes and his firm performed all their work at a very steep discount. Without this generosity - and that of a broad coalition of contractors, suppliers, attorneys, a surveying/engineering firm, banks, businesses, a landowner, a number of charitable funds and many others who have donated funds or have donated or steeply discounted their services, supplies and equipment - this project would not have succeeded. The NH Charitable Foundation arranged for support from a number of interested donors and funds. The support and cooperation of the Shaker Regional School District Board and Superintendent have also been vital.

Once their part of the project is completed, SOGS plans to provide a more comprehensive listing of the many who provided the support, encouragement and generosity it took to make this dream a reality. The success of this project is a classic example of NH - and Belmont - ingenuity, cooperation and persistence at its best.

Members of the core Save Our Gale School committee were Diane Marden (Chair), Ken Knowlton (Vice Chair), Brenda Paquette (Treasurer), Lisa Cribley-Lord (Secretary) and Mark Padula, Earl Sweeney, Bob Lord, Gary Gilbert and Woody Fogg.

Our Furry Friends



Meet Pearl and Callie. Although not considered Belmont residents, these two adorable pets belong to Dan Tousignant the Town's Building & Grounds Supervisor.



Want to make your pet the Talk of the Town? Just send a photo with a brief introduction to them to administration@belmontnh.org.