

Attend the Belmont Deliberative Session Feb. 3

Written by Mike Mortensen

To The Daily Sun,

Belmont residents interested in best use of town buildings should attend the Feb. 3 Deliberative Session.

A citizen group, the Facility Strategy Committee has proposed a measure to be brought to voters next March. The town Budget Committee and selectmen approved this proposal for voters to consider. Since last July, the Belmont Facility Strategy Committee has reviewed town buildings, available building studies and reports and conducted public tours and information meetings. The committee found there is 16,000 square feet of unused or underused space in town buildings, while the police station, Town Hall and library need additional space.

To make informed decisions about best use of town buildings, a citizen-driven independent analysis of space needs and feasibility of facility options is needed. The committee recommends support of Article 12 to fund a Space and Feasibility Study using existing Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve funds (current balance is \$419,161). Based on similar studies conducted in other New Hampshire communities, the request is \$65,000 for this work. No new tax dollars are needed for this study.

Other New Hampshire communities have contracted for this work to make long-term decisions on which buildings to retain, sell or lease, and project costs for building improvements to meet their future needs. Currently, Belmont spends about \$330,000 annually to operate, maintain and improve

town buildings. This study will provide information to help guide investment in town buildings needed for the future. The study will draw from existing structural studies of the Belmont Mill, Library and other town buildings.

More information about the Facility Strategy Committee findings and recommendations will be available at the Deliberative Session or by contacting dhepp3@gmail.com (<mailto:dhepp3@gmail.com>). We hope to see you at the Deliberative Session.

Tom Garfield

Donna Hepp

Carmen Lorenz

Pret Tuthill

Belmont Facility Strategy Committee