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Scan for Indian artifacts now likely to delay development of Belmont's recreation trail

# SCAN FOR INDIAN ARTIFACTS NOW LIKELY TO DELAY DEVELOPMENT OF BELMONT'S RECREATION TRAIL



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**BELMONT** — Phase I of the BRATT recreation trail hit another speed bump late last week when an engineering company said there are areas along the proposed trail that may need further archeological review.

Town Land Use Planner Rick Ball said he learned about the possibility of an additional archeological review and brought it to the selectman's attention at the Monday meeting.

"A significant length of the trail could be impacted — over 1,000 feet," Ball said yesterday.

He said the affected areas are in unspecified places where the proposed route of the trail moves upland from the railroad tracks along [Lake Winnisquam](#).

This development is another obstacle in the road to build the

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recreational trail that will connect to a similar trail in [Laconia](#) at some point in the future. Running from [Lake Winnisquam](#) to the Laconia border, the BRATT (Belmont Recreational Alternative Trail Team) trail is about 1.5 miles long.

This past year, voters at town meeting approved moving some money from a future trail or a Phase II capital fund into the Phase I capital fund giving the town enough money to complete the proposed route.

Ball said he has been in contact with the state archaeologist who said that the town may be able to move forward with the easements and the bids for the non-affected portion of the trail if the town agrees to commit to archeological studies that are needed.

Advanced archeological studies for public works projects in the Lakes Region are not unusual. Typically, teams of archeologists will dig test pits to look for American Indian remains or evidence of prehistoric activity.

The exact locations are kept secret so as to prevent unlawful excavation.

Ball said he should have more information for selectmen by the next meeting and is still optimistic that bids can go out this construction season.

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- Hillary Clinton, former U.S. Secretary of State
- Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook
- Sarah Palin, conservative commentator and former Alaska Governor
- Mary Barra, CEO of General Motors

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