

**Bow Community Building**  
**Status Report #1**  
**January 8, 2018**

The Board of Selectmen will be seeking funding at the 2018 Town Meeting to demolish and remove the existing Community Building, as well as move the Parks and Recreation Office to another location. This decision was made by the Board after a thorough review of all of inspection reports detailing the life safety hazards and code violations in the building.

- State Fire Marshal's Office (7/24/13 and 11/19/14)
- NH State Electrical Inspector - evaluation of facility electrical systems (5/16/13)
- Fire Safety Engineer Robert Cummings
- RPF Associates - environmental health and safety survey (9/21/11)
- H.L. Turner - assessment and cost for building upgrade (11/1/2011)
- Yeaton Associates - building electrical assessment (10/7/13)
- SMP Architects - facilities analysis (3/07) and concepts and evaluation for reuse (4/16)

Fire Chief Mitch Harrington thoroughly reviewed all of the inspection reports and studies and prepared a detailed listing of completed and incomplete items. He presented his findings to the Board of Selectmen and met with the Board to review and discuss the list of outstanding violations. Chief Harrington's immediate concern is having a large number of items stored throughout the building without fire protection in place. The Board concurred and the following steps have been taken to lower this risk.

- The Parks and Recreation Department field maintenance garage and office has been relocated to the Coffin Building garage.
- The bays were cleared of surplus furniture, cabinets, desks, etc.
- Parks and Recreation Department items stored in the mezzanine area have been moved to a storage container located outside of the building.
- The Fire Chief and Town Manager are working with the Bow Men's Club, Boy Scout Troop 75 and the Young at Heart Club to find other storage options. No more additional items from these groups are to be stored in the building.

Over the years, citizen study committees, the Board of Selectmen and staff, have met with consultants, contractors, engineers, and architectural firms to review potential options, including rehabilitation to demolition, and the cost estimates for each option. The Board has thoroughly discussed the pros and cons of investing hundreds of thousands of dollars into fixing up an inadequate structure, and believes that demolition is the most prudent choice.

The Board, Town Manager and Parks and Recreation staff are currently working on a plan that would allow us to continue to offer as many recreation programs as possible. We are exploring space for the Recreation programs that currently take place at the Community Building, including the Library, school facilities, churches, White Rock and the Fieldhouse Sports.

Further details will be provided in the next report.