



September 11th, 2020

Town Manager
Town of Bowdoinham
13 School Street,
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

RE: Bowdoinham Recycling Building Recommendation

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to address the safety of the existing Bowdoinham Recycling Building and a recommendation on what shall be done to use the building safely.

Currently the building is unsafe to operate in, and the following things must be done in order to safely operate on the 1st floor of the building.

1. On the 2nd and 3rd floor, all storage must be removed and all recycling operations must stop. This includes material owned by the Town as well as the landlord. Currently, the existing flooring, floor joists, beams and columns are all undersized and overstressed. This presents a safety hazard, as the floor could collapse under the applied loads.
2. Floor members and columns supporting the living space on the 3rd floor must be upgraded in line with the recommendations of our report in 2013.
3. The existing roof trusses are undersized to carry design loads. As noted by the landlord, after a previous collapse, some of the unaffected members were strengthened. However, this does not bring the existing trusses up to code and requires additional strengthening, in line with our 2013 report. This work should be completed before winter.
4. The exterior wall on the south side of the building requires a replacement of many of the existing 2x column members, as well as installation of plywood or OSB sheathing to the exterior. The existing members are water damaged and are not properly braced. This work should also be completed before winter, and requires there to be no storage loads on the 2nd or 3rd floors.
5. It was also brought to our attention that the existing structure may be infested by Powderpost Beetles. We recommend replacing any timber members that show signs of beetle activity. Other timber members should be treated to ensure that no other existing members receive further damage due to the beetles. This should be inspected by a professional to determine whether this is the case and to what extent the infestation has spread.



Making these repairs would allow the Town to safely operate on the 1st floor of the building. To safely operate on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building, all other repairs noted in our 2013 report would be required.

Should you have any further questions please feel free to contact us directly.

Respectfully Submitted

Thad D. Chamberlain, EI