

Moultonborough Heritage Commission Annual Report 2012



Established in March 2009, the Heritage Commission works toward the proper recognition, use, and protection of significant historical and cultural resources in the Town of Moultonborough. In 2012, as per goals outlined in the Master Plan update of 2008, the Commission focused attention on Moultonborough Village and its potential for revitalization. One visible renewal project was the repainting of the town-owned Moultonborough Town House (1834-35, National Register) and the Middle Neck School (c. 1900) in their historically accurate colors, work completed for the 4th of July by John Thompson (JLT Painting). The Commission applied for a Plan NH Community Charrette on behalf of the town, and this intensive planning exercise took place in late July. On July 20, after a tour of the project area with the visiting team of professionals, there were two public input or listening sessions and a community supper for all participants at the Lions Club, capably organized by Ed and Bev Charest. On July 21, the volunteer Plan NH team worked to develop recommendations and plans for village revitalization, and gave a preliminary presentation of its findings to the public. Meredith Village Savings Bank was the lead sponsor of the charrette event, which was also supported by a number of community businesses and organizations.

In 2012, the Heritage Commission partnered with the Moultonborough Historical Society to save and plan for the future of the historically significant Moultonborough Grange hall in the village, found to be in critical structural condition in early summer. Emergency stabilization of the Grange's failing roof system was completed in late October, thanks to numerous private donations and a grant from the Bald Peak Community Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation. The Commission successfully nominated the Grange to the NH Preservation Alliance 'Seven to Save' list for 2012, ensuring statewide recognition and visibility for the building, and completed the nomination process whereby the Grange hall was added to the NH State Register of Historic Places in October 2012. A grant from the NH Preservation Alliance culminated in a Grange building condition assessment report with preservation guidelines finalized by Bedard Preservation & Restoration LLC in December. Also in December, Plan NH team leader Roger Hawk returned to Moultonborough to present the 'Moultonborough Village Charrette: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow' report. This report will provide much impetus to discussion of village revitalization strategies for years to come, and will be considered in future work plans and Master Plan updates.

Respectfully submitted,
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