

Moultonborough Heritage Commission



The Moultonborough Heritage Commission works toward the proper recognition, use, and protection of significant historical and cultural resources in the Town of Moultonborough. The Commission promotes historic barn preservation, by assisting new applicants to the RSA 79-D (barn easement) program, reviewing and making recommendations on applications, and monitoring existing barn easements. Applications for the barn easement program are due April 15th of each calendar year. There are presently eight properties with barn easements; five easements first established in 2006 were renewed in 2016, including the Davis barn (see photograph above) that had substantial restoration work this year.

In 2016, the Heritage Commission continued to offer Community Landmarks Series events, intended to encourage public appreciation of local historical resources. In April, Cristina Ashjian presented *Preserving Community Character: Opportunities for Historic Village Buildings* at the Moultonborough Men's Breakfast, a program that promotes redevelopment incentives such as RSA 79-E (Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive). In August, the Commission co-organized the summer program *Passing it On: Generational Property Transfer* with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. LRCT president Don Berry moderated the session, which promoted the protection of the historic built environment and cultural landscape by focusing on family properties in two areas (Bean Road along Squam Lake and Ossipee Mountain Road) that are critical to the Town's desirable rural character. A panel of private property owners discussed strategies used to protect their family camps, cottages, farms, and forestlands, including conservation and preservation easements.

The Commission will continue to collaborate with local and state entities on community preservation projects in 2017, and will once again focus on village revitalization, using strategies and incentives outlined in the Village Vision Committee (VVC) Report of 2015. 84% of respondents to the VVC survey supported preserving and repurposing historic buildings in the village. The Commission will focus attention on key vacant, for sale or rent, and/or underutilized landmark buildings in Moultonborough Village, including the former Village School, the Adele Taylor House, the Moultonborough Town House and Middle Neck School, the Moultonborough Grange Hall, and the former Country Fare Inn property.

Respectfully submitted,
Cristina Ashjian, Chair

Members: Jean Beadle, Secretary and BoS Representative
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