

## Moultonborough Heritage Commission Annual Report 2015



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 applicants to the RSA 79-D (barn easement) program, reviewing and making recommendations on applications, and monitoring existing barn easements. There are presently eight properties with barn easements (including Cotton Farm, see photograph above); five of these easements are up for renewal in 2016, with applications due to the Town by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Heritage Commission organized the program *Preserving Community Character: Opportunities for Historic Village Buildings* held at the Moultonborough Public Library on August 24<sup>th</sup> 2015. Norman Larson moderated the session, Cristina Ashjian gave a PowerPoint overview, and panelists Mark Borrin (Preferred Vacation Rentals), Peter Michaud (NH Division of Historical Resources), and Maggie Stier (NH Preservation Alliance) led a lively and informative discussion. The presentation focused on key vacant, for sale or rent, and/or underutilized historic 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. Such Community Landmarks events are intended to promote public appreciation of our local historical resources.

In 2016, the Heritage Commission will continue to collaborate with local and state entities on community preservation projects, and will once again focus attention 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. Finally, thanks are due to the Putnam family (Joal Tree Farm, Moultonborough Neck) for supplying holiday wreaths for the Moultonborough Town House, Middle Neck School, and Adele Taylor House in our village center.

Respectfully submitted, Cristina Ashjian, Chair

Jean Beadle, Secretary and BoS Representative  
Ed Charest

Norman E. Larson  
Joel Mudgett (BoS Representative until 3/2015)