

Moultonborough Heritage Commission Annual Report 2017



The Moultonborough Heritage Commission works toward the proper recognition, use, and protection of significant historical and cultural resources in the Town of Moultonborough. In 2018, the Commission will continue to collaborate with local and state entities on community preservation and redevelopment projects. Using strategies and incentives outlined in the Village Vision Committee (VVC) Report of 2015, such as RSA 79-E (the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive), the Commission will focus attention on key vacant, for sale or lease, and underutilized landmark or character-defining buildings in Moultonborough Village. These include the Adele Taylor House (image above), the Moultonborough Grange Hall, and the Moultonborough Town House and Middle Neck School. Importantly, 84% of respondents to the VVC Survey supported preserving and repurposing historic buildings in the village.

In 2017, the Commission focused primarily on the Taylor House (properly the French-Taylor House), which was purchased by the Town in 2014. Following a mid-May inspection, which noted areas of concern due to Storm Stella damage and lack of maintenance, the Commission took practical steps to evaluate the building. In early June, architectural historian James Garvin provided a detailed Report that established the historical and architectural significance of the house. In mid-June, the Taylor House was determined eligible for the NH State Register of Historic Places, the pre-requisite for any state-funded study or repair grants. The Commission then successfully applied for a Building Condition Assessment grant, funded by the NH Preservation Alliance and LCHIP. Field investigations by the consulting architect and structural engineer took place in July and August; the final report is now under review.

In July, the Commission hosted two community open houses, where attendees suggested potential uses for the Taylor House (community center, B&B, municipal or professional offices, retail space); these and other options must be examined in a Feasibility/Re-use Study with relation to code analysis, structural load parameters, and further input from the community. It is anticipated that a community planning process to determine the future use of the house and five-acre property will take place in 2018. In late October, the house was included in the NH Preservation Alliance's annual 'Seven to Save' list of most endangered properties statewide, and in November, work to its damaged roof sections was completed. The French-Taylor House is a significant community asset at the center of Moultonborough Village, and it is well worth taking the time and effort to explore options for its rehabilitation and future active use.

Respectfully submitted, Cristina Ashjian, Chair
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