

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. Since 84% of respondents to Moultonborough's Village Vision Survey supported preserving and repurposing historic buildings in the village area, the Commission continues to focus attention on key vacant, for sale or lease, and at-risk landmark buildings in Moultonborough Village. Character-defining village properties include the former Taylor House (image above) and the Moultonborough Grange Hall, which are located on Route 25 across from one another in the village center. Both buildings are significant for their community history and for their architecture, and both are on the state's 'Seven to Save' most endangered properties list.

Heritage Commission members participated in the Moultonborough community charrette in July, which focused on the expanded village area established with the recently adopted Village Center Overlay District. In their recommendations, the Plan NH professional team focused specific attention on the 'Seven to Save' properties in Moultonborough Village, outlining best practices for the adaptive re-use and redevelopment of these historic buildings. Loss of either or both of these buildings on 'Main Street' at the center of the village would severely impact Moultonborough's rural character, streetscape, and sense of place. Saving community landmarks and retaining small-town character are seen as essential in statewide efforts to attract investment, support local businesses, and promote tourism and economic vitality.

In 2018, the Heritage Commission continued to explore options and opportunities for the town-owned Taylor House (properly the French-Taylor House), working to identify an appropriate new use for the building consistent with village revitalization and other planning goals. Using recent grant-funded and other professional studies (James Garvin *Report on the French-Taylor House*; SMP Architecture *Historic Building Condition Assessment Report*; Plan NH *Moultonborough Design Charrette*), the Commission assisted in the preparation of the 'Request for Proposals for the Purchase or Lease, and Rehabilitation and Redevelopment of the French-Taylor House' issued in early December. Since the Taylor House is a significant community asset, it is well worth taking the time and effort to ensure its survival and re-use.

Respectfully submitted, Cristina Ashjian, Chair

Members: Norman E. Larson, Secretary
 Joel Mudgett, BoS Representative
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