

Moultonborough Heritage Commission Annual Report 2019



The Moultonborough Heritage Commission works toward the proper recognition, use, and protection of significant historical and cultural resources in the Town of Moultonborough. In 2019, the Commission hosted three Community Landmarks Series events at the Moultonborough Public Library with the theme 'Community Planning, Downtowns and Economic Development Initiatives'. Andrew Cushing, Field Service Representative of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, presented 'New Lives for Old Buildings: Village Redevelopment and Revitalization' in March; Nik Coates, Town Administrator for the Town of Bristol, gave 'The Story of Bristol Reborn' in July; and Ben Gaetjens-Oleson, Planning/Zoning Coordinator for the Town of Lancaster, spoke on 'Revitalizing Main Street and Downtown' in October.

Cristina Ashjian, Chair of the Heritage Commission, received a Community Service Award at the Lakes Region Planning Commission's annual meeting and awards presentation on June 24th in Tamworth. This award has been given annually since 2015 to individuals who have made exceptional and sustained contributions to their community and/or to the economy of the Lakes Region. This is the first time that the LRPC has recognized the important role of a Heritage Commission in community planning initiatives.

Two Heritage Commission members participated in the UNH First Impressions downtown assessment program over the summer, traveling with fellow Moultonborough team members to Derry for the field exercise. The visiting Derry team focused on the 'Main Street' in Moultonborough Village, identifying community assets and opportunities for improvement, revitalization, and economic development. Praising Moultonborough's historic buildings and small-town character, and specifically noting the potential of the Taylor House and Grange Hall for redevelopment, the UNH team urged leveraging such historic assets to attract investment and new business in the Village. This finding confirms the 2018 Plan NH Charrette recommendation to sell both of these character-defining buildings and return them to the Town tax rolls.

The Heritage Commission continued to advocate for the sale and re-use of the town-owned Taylor House, which was listed for sale in mid-December, consistent with village revitalization and other planning goals. Thanks are due to our community partners Al Hume, Scott and Robin Lamprey, Ed Person (Ledgewood Farm), Miracle Farms Landscape Contractors, John Moulton (Moulton Farm), Ward Bird (Picnic Rock Farms), and Stephens Landscaping for donations of greens, plants, and seasonal and patriotic decorations.

Respectfully submitted,

Cristina Ashjian, Chair
Ed Charest
Norman E. Larson, Secretary

Diane MacArthur
Joel Mudgett, BoS Representative
David Oliver