

Moultonborough Heritage Commission Annual Report 2021



The Moultonborough Heritage Commission works toward the proper recognition, use, and protection of significant historical and cultural resources throughout the Town. Inspired by ongoing Moultonborough Village revitalization discussions, the Commission's Main Street banners were installed in May 2021, promoting key historic buildings and points of interest in the downtown area. The accompanying 'Main Street Banners' brochure outlines Village history and identifies historic community landmarks featured along the roadway. Intended to welcome visitors, and to physically and visually define the historic Main Street, the banners celebrate existing natural, cultural and historical resources in Moultonborough Village. The Main Street banner project met with praise from residents, visitors, and the business community.

In 2021, the Heritage Commission continued to advocate for the sale and re-use of the landmark French-Taylor House in Moultonborough Village, to further community planning, economic development, and heritage goals established by recent Village planning studies (Village Vision 2015, Plan NH Charrette 2018, UNH First Impressions 2019). Listed on the NH State Register of Historic Places, the Taylor House was demolished in August 2021, following a vote by the Board of Selectmen on July 1st. This premature and irreversible action was opposed by the Heritage Commission, and led to the resignation of preservation architect Norman Larson. The house had been featured in the March/April 2020 issue of *This Old House* magazine as the 'Save This Old House' for sale, and included on the NH Preservation Alliance's annual 'Seven to Save' list of significant endangered properties in 2017. Moultonborough's Taylor House was the only significant property to be lost from the statewide 'Seven to Save' list in 2021.

In October 2021, Commission chair Cristina Ashjian represented the Town of Moultonborough as a member of Plan NH's Castle in the Clouds Charrette team, which focused on the visitor experience and infrastructure at this landmark attraction. Now in 2022, the Heritage Commission will continue to collaborate with local and state entities on community preservation and redevelopment projects. The Commission will also initiate survey and other initiatives recommended by the Historical & Cultural Resources Chapter adopted in 2021, with a short-term focus on historic barns and archaeological sites. Finally, special thanks are due to Mike Kepple, Facilities Team Leader, and community partners Joal Tree Farm and Miracle Farms, for their contributions to the Commission's Main Street revitalization projects.

Respectfully submitted, Cristina Ashjian, Chair

Diane MacArthur, Secretary
Steve Buy
Shari Colby, BoS Representative

Michelle Frahm, Alternate
Norman E. Larson (resigned July)
David Oliver