

February 18, 2013

## **Moultonborough Heritage Commission**

Moultonborough Town Hall

Present: Cristina Ashjian, Mark Borrin, Ed Charest, Norman Larson, Bruce Worthen  
Excused: Jean Beadle  
Public: Kathy Garry, President, Moultonborough Historical Society

Chair Cristina Ashjian called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM, and the Minutes of the last meeting on January 21, 2013 were approved without changes. Kathy Garry, President of the Moultonborough Historical Society, provided an update on the efforts underway by the MHS to plan for the future of the Moultonborough Grange Hall. A Grange Committee is in formation; Norman was asked and agreed to be the HC representative. Norman expressed specific concern that the MHS needs to find committee members committed to advocate for the preservation of the Grange Hall as a distinct project apart from any other MHS owned or used buildings. It was noted that all work on the Grange Hall should be done to preservation standards.

HC members recommended that the MHS consult preservation professionals in their planning process for the Grange building, such as Maggie Stier of the NHPA Seven to Save program. Kathy reported that a recent insurance inspection found some issues with the Grange, including concerns over doors/access. HC members urged that character-defining features of the building, such as historic doors (as identified in the Grange State Register inventory and in Jim Garvin's report), be preserved and repaired (rather than replaced) in order to maintain the integrity of the building. Kathy also reported that the MHS has re-activated their building committee, to oversee the needs of the historic buildings in the MHS compound (which include the town-owned Town House and Middle Neck School). After Kathy's departure, the Commission reviewed an updated version of the 2013 Work Plan, and discussed summer programs, including potential talks on the rehabilitation of the Singing Eagle barn already underway, and the Moultonborough Grange building. Both properties had recent condition assessment reports done, which recommend rehabilitation strategies, provide cost estimates, and suggest effective phasing for work.

The Commission received updates on area preservation issues and historic properties on the market, noting that the former NH Music Festival / Red Hill Inn / Tufts estate property in Center Harbor has been sold. Cristina wasn't able to attend the barn session at the NH Farm & Forest Expo on 2/8, due to a snow that day, but did attend Jim Garvin's program on 'Dating Old Houses' in Concord on 2/16, and provided handouts to HC members. Upcoming events of interest include the opening of the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University on 2/23, and the Statewide Preservation Conference (Historic Buildings for the Next Century: Preservation's Role in Building a Sustainable Future) on 3/22 (registration required).

The next Heritage Commission meeting will be at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 18th.

Motion: Ed moved to adjourn at 6:35 PM; Mark seconded.  
Motion carried – unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Cristina Ashjian, Chair, Heritage Commission