



A Heritage Commission for Wolfeboro?

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A Heritage Commission Is...



- **NOT a Historical Society**

Generally, these are 501c3 independent non-profits accountable only to themselves

- **NOT a Historic District Commission**

These are regulatory, land-use boards with jurisdiction over a specific area of a community; they manage change to historic features and structures for public benefit

- **A Heritage Commission IS**

An appointed advisory body, much like a Conservation Commission, working on behalf of town-wide purposes

Benefits of a Heritage Commission:



- Encourages the protection of historic properties and places
 - Shares the workload with other local boards and officials
 - Assists (but does not regulate) owners of historic buildings town-wide
 - Promotes heritage-based economic development and tourism.
 - May work with other non-profits, schools, and service organizations in shared heritage-based activities
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Activities Might Include...

- Assisting Planning Board in writing or updating historic resources chapter in Master Plan
- Caring for and funding town-owned historic buildings
- Assisting town in carrying out specific preservation programs or initiatives, including survey and inventory of historic resources



Show public benefit of preserving historic and cultural resources...

- Recognize historic buildings or events with a plaque program
- Establish an architectural or historic walking tour
- Start a preservation awards program or track buildings saved and lost
- Provide resources to property owners to encourage good preservation



Ways to assist other town boards

- Provide research and data to inform Site Plan Review
- Assist with Conservation Commission activities; many sites have both natural and cultural resource value
- Testify in support of variances that would help preserve a significant resource



Heritage Commissions in N.H.



Now over 55 Heritage Commissions in NH including:

- Moultonborough
 - Center Harbor
 - Wakefield
 - Brookfield
 - Freedom
 - Middleton
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Activities Vary from Town to Town



Middleton



Moultonborough





Wakefield



Stratham



Establishing a Heritage Commission



- Inform community and build support
- Town meeting vote (or city council)
- Up to seven members and five alternates are appointed by selectboard or city council
- Members then draft and adopt their official rules of procedure and regulations
- Most HCs meet at least every other month.

Funding the Work of a Heritage Commission



- Town provides basic operating budget; may provide staff support
- Heritage Commission can help town apply for and administer grants
- Separate Heritage Fund is generally also created
- Heritage Fund may be used to acquire property, hire consultants, publicize activities and more.
- Donations to HF are tax-deductible under IRS laws

Questions?

