



A Heritage Commission for Wolfeboro?

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August, 2015



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 or Agricultural 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 town-owned historic buildings, including fund-raising
- Assisting town in carrying out specific preservation programs or initiatives such as inventories of historic buildings or listings to State Register of Historic Places



Heritage Commissions might also promote the public benefit of preserving historic and cultural resources by...

- Recognizing historic buildings or events with a plaque program
- Establishing an architectural or historic walking tour
- Starting a preservation awards program or record of buildings saved and lost
- Providing resources to property owners to encourage good preservation



Heritage Commissions also 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 select board 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 such as MoosePlate or LCHIP
- Separate Heritage Fund (HF) may be set up to acquire property, hire consultants, publicize activities and more.
- Donations to HF are tax-deductible under IRS laws

Is a Heritage Commission a good idea for Wolfeboro?

