

**HERITAGE/HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION 2017**  
**ANNUAL TOWN REPORT**

The Historic District Commission was established by vote of Town Meeting in 1987. It became a combined Heritage/Historic District Commission in 1998 by vote of the Town Council pursuant to State enabling legislation enacted around that time. The powers and duties of the Commission are governed by State statute. It is a body appointed by the Town Council and has seven members who are residents, including one Town Council ex-officio member and may have one Planning Board member. Up to five alternate members are allowed.

The purpose of the Commission is to oversee the preservation of historical and cultural resources for the Town, to educate the public on matters of historical interest and to work with other boards, committees and commissions to assure responsible development that reflects the Town's Master Plan.

As a Historic District Commission, the Heritage/Historic District Commission governs five pieces of property that have been designated Historic Districts (by vote of Town Meeting and subsequently by the Town Council): the *Town Common*, the Town Wood Lot or *Town Forest* (the parcel directly south and west of the Town Common), the *Morrison House Museum* on Pillsbury Road (owned by the Londonderry Historical Society), the *Grange #44 facility* (owned by the Grange #44) and the property at 2 Litchfield Road that currently houses Nutfield Publishing (owned by Crowell's Corner Properties, LLC). Outside of the Historic Districts, the Commission oversees the Town Pound (restored in 1990) on Mammoth Road. The Town Common, the Town Wood Lot or Town Forest and the Town Pound are owned by the Town of Londonderry. Changes within the Historic Districts must be approved by the Heritage/Historic District Commission according to the Town of Londonderry Zoning Ordinance, Section 2.6.4. The Heritage/Historic District Commission is also responsible for implementation of the recommendations from the Historic Properties Task Force Report (adopted by the Town Council in 2006) which includes periodically updating Londonderry's List of Historic Structures and Properties (contained within the Report). The purpose of this List is to protect the designated properties by using a variety of tools, keeping any measures voluntary.

The Commission goals include: preserving historically significant properties, furthering the protection and restoration of stonewalls and other historic features, protecting tree lined vistas, local designation of scenic roads, assisting the Londonderry Historical Society to make the Morrison House Museum fully functional and likewise with the Grange #44 for potential community usage. The Town has adopted relief from the dimensional requirements of zoning for Londonderry's List of Historic Structures and Properties.

As part of the planning design review process, the Heritage/Historic District Commission reviews plans for new development, commenting on landscaping, viewsheds, lighting, signage and architectural design for all new multifamily, commercial and industrial developments. This includes preservation of historic buildings, stonewalls and other historic features, making recommendations to the Planning Board.

## PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This year, the Heritage/Historic District Commission completed nine site plan and two subdivision design reviews. The Commission has also produced the Londonderry Look Book (initiated by Commissioner Tom Bianchi), which in conjunction with Londonderry's 2013 Master Plan assists developers in understanding the architectural design desired by Londonderry.

We are working with the NH Division of Historic Resources, the NH Preservation Alliance and the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission to develop enabling legislation for municipalities to adopt, which would give property tax relief as an incentive to owners of historic structures to help preserve those structures. Thanks go to Commissioner David Colglazier for leading this endeavor. The proposed legislation is being submitted by State Senator Sharon Carson. The Commission is also a resource and informational center concerning all aspects of historic structures in Londonderry including restoration.

The Heritage/Historic District Commission is working with the Conservation Commission and the Master Plan Implementation Committee for their assistance with the Town Wood Lot or Town Forest maintenance and planning. Also, we are thankful to Kent Allen for his assistance with dead tree and invasive plant clearing, improvements and new walking trails. The Master Plan Implementation Committee has produced a draft report, following the 2013 Master Plan, for use of this area. This has been reviewed by the Planning Board and Town Council with positive comments.

The Heritage/Historic District Commission has been designated by the Town Council to be a Local Scenic Byway Advisory Committee. This function is to reaffirm the Apple Way (designated in 1996 as a scenic and cultural byway of several roads to view Londonderry's apple orchards) as a scenic and cultural byway for the State. This application has reaffirmed and will update the Scenic Byway Plan for Apple Way that would allow for any future grants and is being done with the assistance of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. The Town of Londonderry is a Certified Local Government which means the Heritage/Historic District Commission has access to make application to a wide range of grants.

We want to extend gratitude and thanks to Kent Allen and Jim Butler for the maintenance of the Town Pound and their work on the Town Forest trails. We want to thank our Town staff of Cynthia May, John Vogl, Jaye Trottier and Steve Cotton for their valued assistance and expertise, and we want to thank our former Town Historian, Marilyn Ham for her valued knowledge. We welcome new alternate member Roger Fillio.

The Heritage/Historic District Commission meets every other month on the fourth Thursday (starting in January) at 7 PM in the Sunnycrest conference room in Town Hall, 268B Mammoth Road. The exception is in November, when it is the third Thursday. The public is always welcomed and encouraged to attend these meetings.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Martin Srugis, Chair

Arthur E. Rugg, Planning Board member

Pauline Caron - Vice Chair

David Colglazier - Secretary

Sue Joudrey

Tom Bianchi

Jim Butler, Town Council Ex-Officio

**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Janet Cichocki (Alternate Member)  
Noreen Villalona (Alternate Member)  
Roger Fillio (Alternate Member)

Town Staff:

John Vogl – GIS Manager/Comprehensive Planner  
Cynthia May, ASLA – Town Planner/Manager, Planning and Economic Development