

Belmont Heritage Commission

WHY:

Belmont has special & important places, contributing to its rural character. Heritage Commissions give local governments in New Hampshire new abilities to recognize & protect historical and cultural resources.

A Belmont Heritage Commission is a working community asset. Its establishment, and appointees can apply for foundation, technical assistance and other grant support to help local preservation projects.

---Proposed warrant article asks Selectmen to appoint a five member advisory commission

---Recommended in the Master Plan update adopted by the Planning Board in November 2002.

---Many New Hampshire communities have Historic Districts and Heritage Commissions, and Historical Societies.

Heritage Commissions take a townwide perspective, not just one neighborhood or road.

The Value of Belmont Heritage

Belmont has a unique tradition and legacy:

from fertile farmlands and a 1792 first area house for religious worship to a prominent mill town with its very own railroad station ... and more recently, an award-winning adapted reuse/preservation of a Belmont Mill building, serving contemporary community needs of youth, education, health and seniors.

Many buildings and places that tell the Belmont story still stand today, in the Factory Village District and throughout our community. The Province Road Meetinghouse, Public Library, Gale School, Belmont Mill, Corner Meeting House and Town Hall are just a few examples.

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Role & Support

A Belmont Heritage Commission would volunteer time, thought and attention to sites and buildings – just as our Conservation Commission focuses on local land and natural resources.

This new Commission will complement the ConComm, and the Belmont Historical Society.

Further information:

State Regulations for Heritage Commissions & limitations of authority:

RSA 673 & 674 ----- see www.nh.gov

Belmont Master Plan 2002 update ----- see www.belmontnh.org master plan (minutes & reports/Historical summary)