



MILFORD HERITAGE COMMISSION

**Meets 2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM
Wadleigh Memorial Library
2015 Annual Report**

The primary purpose of the Milford Heritage Commission is to promote the proper recognition, use, and protection of the unique cultural and historical resources of Milford. One of its goals is to integrate preservation planning into a partnership with individuals, businesses, town boards and other appropriate groups. As stated in New Hampshire RSA 674:44 and referencing the Town of Milford Master Plan, the Milford Heritage Commission shall have advisory and review authority. It is empowered to accept and expend funds for a non-lapsing Heritage Fund and to acquire and manage property and property rights.

The Heritage Commission represents the Historic Conscience for this community.

Activity 2015

Monthly meetings were primarily concerned with Interdepartmental Reviews of Planning Board submissions. Our discussions and reports concern the Historical Impact of the proposed changes to the Town.

This Spring we were involved in an Historical Impact study of the proposed Gas Line installation along the Power Lines that traverse South Milford over Federal and Ponemah Hills as well as across the MileSlip area. This fall our findings were sent on to the Historical Impact Consultant for this large and controversial construction project.

We also assisted the Town in the Historical Assessment of the removal of the Jones Bridge (the Green Iron Bridge) spanning the Souhegan River in the West end of Town. We are working with the Milford Historic Society in the wording of a Historic Interpretive Sign for the location. This crossing has been in use since the times of the Native Americans, the NH Troops on the way to Crown Point and later by troops on the Way to Bennington during the Revolutionary War. The Iron Bridge replaced a magnificent Covered Bridge that was burned and destroyed previously.

This Fall we commenced work with the Town Administrator to head up a citizen's group to help fund the repair and restoration of the Historic Swing Bridge that crosses the Souhegan River between Bridge and Souhegan Streets. This Bridge dates from 1889 and was at the time a vital link for mill workers who lived on the east side of the

river to get to work at the various manufacturing plants located across the river. At that time workers returned home for their lunch each day and returned again to their labors. A normal day saw each worker traveling across this bridge 4 times. We are soliciting public funds to help defray the Town's portion of this project. The overall project is expected to cost \$500,000 of which we hope to receive 80-90% from State and Federal Funds, leaving us to raise \$50,000 at the local level. If you would like to donate to this worthy Historical Restoration/Preservation Project please send your check payable to The Town of Milford, make a notation that it is for the "Swing Bridge" project and send it to Town Hall, 1 Union Square, Milford NH 03055. These donated funds will be placed in the Heritage Commission non-lapsing account exclusively for this project. Together we can preserve this important link to Milford's Rich and Historic Past.

We need volunteers to serve on the commission as alternates, project workers, and research assistants. Please make your willingness to serve known to one of the Commission members or to the Selectmen's Office.

Charles F. Worcester, Chairperson

Herbert Adams, Vice Chair

Polly Cote, Member

Erna Johnson, Member

The Swing Bridge, built in 1889, the successor to two wooden footbridges connecting Bridge and Souhegan Streets.

