

Belmont Heritage Commission **2018 Annual Report**



The *Belmont Heritage Commission* works to promote Belmont's historic and cultural resources through planning with individuals, businesses, town boards and other civic minded groups. We are eager to help restore and maintain Belmont's heritage from the past, for our present and for the future of the town.

We continue to be indebted to *Wallace Rhodes* who gave the town and the *Belmont Heritage Commission* so much before his passing. His dedication and knowledge of Belmont and its history is especially cherished as we celebrate Belmont's upcoming 150th year. We dedicated this year in his honor to continuing community involvement and educating all ages about the history and heritage of Belmont.



Vicki Donovan (chair) and **Priscilla Annis** (secretary) welcome new members: **Claire Bickford, Jack Donovan, Diane Marden, and Sonny Patten Jr.**, (representing selectmen). This year the *Heritage Commission* began inviting a student representative to our meetings in order to involve the future generation to learn about the importance of knowing their towns heritage. This year we welcome **Raine Wilkins**, a junior at *Belmont High School* as our first representative.

Members: Priscilla Annis, Vicki Donovan

Sonny Patten and Jack Donovan



Commission Members Claire Bickford, Diane Marden, Vicki and Jack Donovan with Award Recipients Linda Frawley and Everett Weeks.
(Photo / Alan McCrae)

Community Heritage Awards were presented this year with the **Board of Selectmen**. It was a privilege to publicly thank two community members for longtime contributions to the Town. Recipient **Linda Frawley** received the **Preservation Town History and Heritage Award**, and **Everett Weeks** the **Preservation and Agricultural Traditions Award**. Respectfully, both honorees have given many many years of dedicated service to Belmont.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines ‘heritage’ as property that is or may be inherited; valued things such as historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations; and relating to things of historic or cultural value that are worthy of preservation.

In November, the Heritage Commission began collaborating with the Historical Society to combine our efforts to highlight and celebrate the 150th. Since the words heritage and historic go hand in hand it is fitting that both groups are working together to celebrate 2019, a special year for Belmont.



A few highlights of our year include.....

- **In May, a member of the Belmont Heritage Commission attended the Lakes Region Heritage Commissions’ Meeting. The meeting, held in Center Harbor provided informative and resourceful information for Heritage Commissions from Ashland, Belmont, Brookfield, Center Harbor, Laconia, Moultonborough, New Hampton, Wakefield, and Wolfeboro.**
- **The Heritage Commission set up a booth during the Belmont High School Fall Craft Fair displaying information about Belmont and its history as well as to inform the community of the upcoming 150th celebration and scheduled events.**
- **The Heritage Commission is working toward assisting the Belmont Elementary School with their Artist in Residence project in conjunction with the 150th.**

Our main goal for 2018 was to continue our efforts to reach out to the Belmont Community to document the town's history and heritage through photos, video, artifacts and written information especially as we enter the year of Belmont's Sesquicentennial.

We ask community members to contact us at (events@belmontnh.org) with any stories, photos or written documentation they may have. The photo below is from Everett Weeks of his family's farmhouse from 1919!

Maybe the old house you live in has a story to tell!



Belmont's Heritage is your heritage and we thank you for your support of the Commission.

Happy 150th,
Vicki A. Donovan
Chairperson

Belmont Mill 1833

Enjoy 150th celebrations

Library 1927

Meeting House Province Road 1792

Olden days 1869

Notable community members

The best town by a dam site

