

# New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program

## Grant Round 22 (2023) Awards

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### 1. Dover Friends Meetinghouse, Dover

The 1768 Friends meetinghouse is nestled in an area of Dover that retains its historic identity and simple sense of dignity. Historically, it has been the center of social and political activity in Dover since its construction. It has long served as a community gathering place, beginning in the 1770s when the colonists came together to plan a response to British policies. Now 255 years old, this beloved meetinghouse's roof truss system needs significant structural repairs. A \$100,000 LCHIP award will help restore and preserve this architectural treasure at the heart of both the City of Dover and our American story.

Photo 2:

[Contact: Beth Collea. Dover Friends Member, 781-724-2254 [bethcollea@aol.com](mailto:bethcollea@aol.com)]

Photo 1: Jeremiah Dickinson (Clerk, Dover Friends)

Photo 2: Jeremiah Dickinson (Clerk, Dover Friends) Maggie Fogarty, Chuck Cott, Beth Collea

### 2. Bickford-Chesley House, Durham

A \$286,600 LCHIP grant will support an extensive rehabilitation of the 1804 Bickford-Chesley farmhouse in Durham. The house, which is an outstanding example of Federal-era rural architecture, is part of Wagon Hill Farm. Travelers along US RT 4 will recognize the farm by the farm wagon that sits in a field high above the road, silhouetted against the sky. The farm activities that occurred on the expansive 139-acre site and at the Bickford-Chesley House aptly reflect the continuum of agricultural history in New Hampshire.

[Contact: Carolyn Singer, 603-498-6570, [nhgrantwriter@aol.com](mailto:nhgrantwriter@aol.com)]

Photo 1: Carolyn Singer (Project grant writer) and Loren Selig (NH Representative)

Photo 2: Carolyn Singer (Grant Writer), Todd Selig (Durham Town Administrator), Loren Selig (NH State Representative), Charlotte Hitchcock, (Architect), Janet Mackie

### 3. Effingham Library – Rehabilitation

LCHIP has awarded a \$172,000 grant to the Town of Effingham to help with continued rehabilitation of the Effingham Library and Old Town Hall. Work will involve restoring the 6-story belltower, double doors, and upper-story windows, along with insulating the ceiling and updating wiring. The project is the next chapter of a multi-year effort to rehabilitate the Italianate structure built in 1858 as the New England Masonic Charitable Institute, the only known boarding school sponsored by Freemasons. After the school closed, the first floor served as the Town Hall for over a century, before the Town converted it to the Effingham Public Library, now referred to as a “community center with books.”

[Contact: Grace Fuller, Lead Grant Writer & Effingham Library Trustees Chairperson; [SnowFarm1777@gmail.com](mailto:SnowFarm1777@gmail.com); Cell: 609-759-1144]

Photo 1: Chuck Fuller (Lead Project Sponsor)

Photo 2: Chuck Fuller (Lead Project Sponsor), Lee Racine (Selectman), Karen Payne (President, Effingham Preservation Society), Steve Regal (Library Trustee)

### 4. GMCG Natural Area Expansion, Effingham

The Green Mountain Conservation Group has been awarded a \$47,250 grant from LCHIP in support of their acquisition of the 34-acre Thurston property on Route 25. The property serves as a critical wildlife corridor and link to other conservation lands on the northern slope of Green Mountain. To the west lies the 41-acre GMCG Natural Area, and to the east and south is the expansive 2,336-acre High Watch Preserve of the Forest Society. This acquisition expands the GMCG Natural Area to a 75-acre preserve that will enable GMCG to expand its nature trail and improve public access. Effingham-based GMCG protects 2,600 acres in the Ossipee River Valley of eastern New Hampshire and western Maine, a region that lies above the Ossipee Aquifer, the State's largest stratified drift aquifer.

[Contact: Moselle Spiller, Outreach Coordinator, [outreach@gmccg.org](mailto:outreach@gmccg.org), 603-539-1859]

Photo 1: Matt Howe, Executive Director

## 5. Shillaber Conservation Easement, Farmington

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways has been awarded a \$120,000 grant from LCHIP in support of their efforts to permanently conserve the 200-acre Shillaber property in Farmington and Strafford through a conservation easement. This project is made possible through the unique support of three municipalities: Farmington, Strafford, and Rochester, as well as support from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Source Water Protection Program. The Shillaber property features a valuable 74-acre wetlands complex with an associated 5,000+ feet of frontage on the Berry River and 126 acres of mature forestland. The Berry River is a primary source of drinking water for the city of Rochester, which is home to over 30,000 residents. In addition to its natural resource features, the property includes a parking area and 2 miles of trails for low impact public recreation.

[Contact: Jillian Eldredge, Executive Director, [jill@mrmrgh.org](mailto:jill@mrmrgh.org), 603-473-2020 ext. 1]

Photo 1: Veronica Bodge, MMRG Land Stewardship and Acquisition Coordinator

## 6. Sugar Bush Farm, Goffstown

The Forest Society is working to conserve the historic Sugar Bush Farm property along the General John Stark Scenic Byway (Route 13) in Goffstown. A \$150,000 grant from LCHIP will help in the acquisition of a 53-acre conservation easement on the property. One of the last farms in the area, the property boasts 18 acres of open hayfield and over 20 acres of forest. Conserving the property will add to more than 300 acres of surrounding existing conservation land, forever protecting wildlife habitat and some of the best agricultural soils in the state.

[Contact: Anna Berry, Communications Director, [ABerry@forestsociety.org](mailto:ABerry@forestsociety.org) 603-224-9945 x 301]

Photo 1: Stacie Hernandez, Land Conservation Project Manager

## 7. Gorham Town Forest Expansion, Gorham

The Gorham Town Forest Expansion will add 1,109 acres to the Gorham Town Forest, resulting in 6,876 acres managed by the community for multiple benefits: sustainable forestry, wildlife habitat, education, public access, and drinking water protection. This acquisition by the Town of Gorham in partnership with The Conservation Fund is supported by a \$300,000 award from LCHIP. The expansion protects important wildlife habitat, including habitat for the Mascot Mine Hibernaculum, NH's largest bat hibernaculum and home to federally endangered Northern Long-Eared Bat. The property also features popular hiking trails including the Carter Moriah Trail, once an alignment of the Appalachian Trail, which is a primary access to Mt Moriah, one of NH's 48 4000-footers. Knitting into existing conserved lands, the expansion contributes to a vast and diversely conserved landscape across the Androscoggin Valley and is a capstone in the town's efforts to develop recreational access points for human-powered activities.

[Contact Sally Manikian, VT and NH Representative, The Conservation Fund, [SManikian@conservationfund.org](mailto:SManikian@conservationfund.org), 603-233-2980]

Photo 1: Pete Gagnon, Gorham Town Manager

## 8. Moose Mountain Forest, Hanover

A \$250,000 award from LCHIP will help the Hanover Conservancy to protect 140 acres of high-quality wildlife habitat on Moose Mountain in Hanover. Abutting the federally protected Appalachian Trail corridor and the Conservancy's Mayor-Niles and Britton Forests, the project will add to a nearly 3,000-acre block of conserved land – strengthening a connected landscape that offers vital climate resilience to the region's natural and human communities. The scenic property is also home to the headwaters of Mink Brook, Hanover's largest stream, protecting the source of key brook trout habitat and providing flood security to Etna village and neighborhoods downstream. The public can access the property via the historic Class VI Wolfeboro Road and Harris Trail, allowing visitors an opportunity to explore Moose Mountain's natural and historic features.

[Contact: Adair Mulligan, Executive Director, [AMulligan@HanoverConservancy.org](mailto:AMulligan@HanoverConservancy.org), 603-643-3433 (office), 603-398-2699 (mobile)]

Photo 1: Adair Mulligan, Executive Director

Photo 2: Adair Mulligan (Executive Director), Heidi Trimarco (Board President), Richard Howarth (Board), Russell Muirhead (Board, State Rep.), Barry Matthews (Program Coordinator)

## 9. Oxbow Recreation Area, Holderness

The Town of Holderness has been awarded a \$210,000 LCHIP award to aid in their acquisition of a diverse 243-acre property along a mile of the Pemigewasset River. The Oxbow Recreation Area will help to preserve a large area of riverine habitat which is home to wood turtles, bank beavers, bald eagles, and a wide variety of birds, both local and transitory. Geologically speaking, the property contains several oxbow wetlands, areas where the Pemigewasset River has previously flowed as it has meandered over time. The property provides recreation opportunities for local and regional inhabitants: snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing in the winter, hiking and biking in the summer, and access in all seasons to a large beach at a bend in the river. Prime agricultural fields adjacent to I-93 provide a north-facing view of the White Mountains.

[Contact: Larry Spencer, Chair, Holderness Conservation Commission, [LTS@plymouth.edumailto](mailto:LTS@plymouth.edumailto), 603-536-4315]

Photo 1: Dr. Larry Spencer, Chair, Holderness Conservation Commission

Photo 2: Members of the Holderness and Plymouth Conservation Commissions

## 10. Dustin Conservation Easement, Hopkinton

The David and Kathleen Dustin Conservation Easement project in Hopkinton will protect 36 acres of land abutting the Warner River and add to two previously conserved parcels, forming a protected area of 314 acres. This project is made possible in part by a \$88,250 award from LCHIP, as well as funding from the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Source Water Protection Program. The land helps to protect the public water supply for the City of Concord and a private water supply in Contoocook. Dramatic, steep, erodible sandy bluffs connect the rolling upland forest with riverside silver maple floodplain forest. The father of the current landowner planted pine on part of the land as a 4-H project in the early twentieth century. The Town of Hopkinton is collaborating with Five Rivers Conservation Trust, who will hold the conservation easement.

[Contact: Liz Short, Executive Director, Five Rivers Conservation Trust, [Liz@5rct.orgmailto](mailto:Liz@5rct.orgmailto), 603-225-7225]

Photo 1: Dijit Taylor, Hopkinton Open Space Committee

Photo 2: David and Kathleen Dustin (landowners), Liz Short (5RCT), Jeff Evans (5RCT), Cindi Warmington (Executive Councilor), Dijit Taylor (Town of Hopkinton Open Space Committee)

## 11. Durocher Farmland, Litchfield

Nestled along the Merrimack River, the Durocher property features a stunning combination of historic farmland, rolling fields, forest, and wetlands. Protection of these 60 acres by the Town of Litchfield is made possible in part by a \$225,000 award from LCHIP. The property abuts existing Litchfield conservation land and is an example of historic farmland and forest that is becoming increasingly rare in southern NH. Portions of the property are currently farmed by Alvirne High School students, a relationship that the town hopes to continue. Acquisition of this property will greatly benefit the region by preserving working farmland and natural resources, as well as offering passive recreational access to nearly 160 acres of contiguous, accessible conservation land that will be enjoyed by the public for years to come.

[Contact: Jayson Brennen, Chair, Litchfield Conservation Commission, [JBrennen@litchfieldnh.gov](mailto:JBrennen@litchfieldnh.gov), 603-494-7177]

Photo 1: Jayson Brennan, Chair, Litchfield Conservation Commission

Photo 2: Jayson Brennan (Chair Cons Comm), Joan McKibben (Vice Chair), Dianne Plansky (Secretary)

## **12. Littleton Community Center - Carriage Barn, Littleton**

The Littleton Community Center is a historic structure which has served as a community gathering place for the greater Littleton area since 1919. Unfortunately, the matching Carriage Barn which historically served as a meeting place for larger groups was closed in 2011 due to moisture damage. A \$100,000 LCHIP award, along with matching funds, will help begin the rehabilitation of this structure and halt ongoing damage. The Carriage Barn will be raised, and its damaged understructure replaced and reinforced with steel before it is lowered down onto a new concrete slab.

[Contact: Kathleen Smith, LCC board member, [KJSmith.broomstick@gmail.com](mailto:KJSmith.broomstick@gmail.com), 603-444-2009]

Photo 1: David Rochefort (NH Representative)

## **13. Madison Chain of Ponds, Madison**

Upper Saco Valley Land Trust will utilize a \$250,000 grant from LCHIP to conserve a diverse 625-acre property in Madison. Known as the "Madison Chain of Ponds", this chain of kettle ponds, bogs, and other wetlands stretches nearly two miles and contains high-quality aquatic and upland forest habitats. Protection of the property will enhance adjoining conservation lands, while preserving public access to outdoor recreation opportunities including hiking, padding, hunting, and fishing. Conservation of this land will also protect over 300 acres of mapped aquifer, and the headwaters of tributaries feeding the Saco River and Ossipee River.

[Contact: Mike Morin, Conservation Director, [mmorin@usvlt.org](mailto:mmorin@usvlt.org), 603-662-0008]

Photo 1: Mike Morin, Conservation Director

Photo 2: Mike Morin (Conservation Director), Jen Pribble (Executive Director), Carissa Milliman (Community Steward)

## **14. Manning House and Carriage House, Manchester**

A \$166,081 LCHIP grant will enable Brookside Congregational Church in Manchester to complete much-needed preservation work on an impressive, high-style mansion and barn built in 1908 as a wedding gift for Mary Carpenter Manning from her father. In her seventies, she gave the estate to the Franklin Street Congregational Church, which constructed a large new sanctuary on the property in 1960. Work will include repairing the slate roofs and associated copper, along with repointing chimneys and replacing flashing. The Manning House is used for meetings and offices, while the Carriage House serves as thrift shop.

[Contact: Lisa Brock, Press Contact, [Fleminglisarae@yahoo.com](mailto:Fleminglisarae@yahoo.com), 215-378-5644]

Photo 1: Calley Milne (Chair, Buildings and Grounds)

Photo 2: Calley Milne (Chair, Buildings and Grounds), Bill Hoysradt (Chair, Capital Campaign), Dale Trombley (Moderator, Brookside Congregational Church)

#### **15. Mason Town Hall, Mason**

The Town of Mason's historic Town Hall will see some much-needed work, thanks to a \$30,000 grant from LCHIP. The Greek Revival style building has stood as a key landmark in the village center since 1848. The scope of work will entail repairing windows, strengthening the structure under the ground floor, and undoing some later changes in the attic that are exacerbating structural problems in the roof. When this work is complete, community leaders are hopeful that citizens can enjoy greater public access to and use of this venerable structure.

[Contact: James Dore, Chair, Town Hall Renovation Committee, [townhallreno@masonnh.us](mailto:townhallreno@masonnh.us), 603-484-3579]

Photo 1: James Dore (Chair, Town Hall Renovation Committee)

#### **16. Milan Community Forest – River and Woodland Tracts, Milan**

The Milan Community Forest Expansion adds 900 acres to the Milan Community Forest, resulting in over 3,000 acres conserved by the Community Forest and satisfying Phase III of a locally-developed 2015 acquisition plan to create a climate-resilient conserved corridor across the town. This acquisition by the Town of Milan in partnership with The Conservation Fund is supported by a \$300,000 award from LCHIP. The project will enhance local quality of life and economic wealth, protect critical wildlife habitat and water resources, provide educational opportunities, and ensure the permanent protection of popular close-to-home recreational activities. Completing a conserved buffer around the Nansen Ski Jump, a nationally significant historic structure restored through local effort and used once again for ski jump competitions, the expansion also provides recreational connectivity for a Nordic trail connecting the jump to Milan Hill State Park. Most importantly, it will advance Milan's goal to create a critical corridor to connect existing conserved lands in this landscape as recreational use and climate change attract people to the small towns in this region.

Photo 1: George Pozzuto, Chair, Milan Community Forest Committee

[Contact Sally Manikian, VT and NH Representative, The Conservation Fund, [SManikian@conservationfund.org](mailto:SManikian@conservationfund.org), 603-233-2980]

#### **17. Mt Jesse – Birch Ridge Community Forest, New Durham**

The Southeast Land Trust of NH (SELT) is the project lead for the Mt Jesse Birch Ridge Community Forest project, a community effort to conserve 606-acres in New Durham and Middleton, with help from a \$250,000 award from LCHIP. The Mt Jesse project will add to the SELT-owned 2,664-acre Birch Ridge Community Forest and includes forestland, blueberry barrens, streams, wildlife habitat, rare plants, and public recreation opportunities that are part of the iconic eastern view from Merrymeeting Lake. With the completion of the Mt Jesse project, 49% of Merrymeeting Lake's watershed will be conserved, an increase from 4% prior to 2018 when SELT and its partners began working to conserve this NH treasure. The project will also protect a 2-mile section of Snowmobile Corridor 22 and achieve the long-term vision of connecting Birch Ridge Community Forest to the 5,400-acre Moose Mountains conservation area.

[Contact: Dave Johnson, Senior Communications Advisor, [dave@seltnh.org](mailto:dave@seltnh.org), 603-658-9753]

Photo 1: Laurie Smith, SELT Board Member and Chair of Merrymeeting Lake Association

Photo 2: Duane Hyde (Land Conservation Director), Laurie Smith (Board Member)

#### **18. Simpson Conservation Easement, Ossipee**

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways has been awarded a \$45,000 LCHIP grant to be used to permanently conserve a 35-acre property in Ossipee and Tuftonboro through a conservation easement. The Simpson property

features mature forests, old field habitat, and acts as a valuable buffer for Garland Pond and the abutting Garland Pond Wildlife Management Area. [Contact: Jillian Eldredge, Executive Director, [jill@mmergnh.org](mailto:jill@mmergnh.org), 603-473-2020 ex. 1]

Photo 1: Veronica Bodge, MMRG Land Stewardship and Acquisition Coordinator

Photo 2: Veronica Bodge (MMRG Land Agent), Ian Whitmore (MMRG Board Treasurer), Dana Simpson (Landowner)

## 19. Plainfield Town Hall, Plainfield

The Plainfield Village Town Hall, originally erected in 1798, underwent two relocations before settling at its present site in 1846. Recently designated a “2023 Seven to Save” site by the NH Preservation Alliance, the town hall is home to an historic and breathtakingly beautiful three-dimensional Stage Set designed by famous artist Maxfield Parrish in 1916. A \$21,400 LCHIP grant will help facilitate the repair and repointing of the building’s foundation, bring its chimneys up to code, and regrade the surrounding area to ensure proper drainage and improve moisture control.

[Contact: Beverly Widger, Town Hall Committee Chair, [nhwidg@comcast.net](mailto:nhwidg@comcast.net), 603-252-9434]

Photo 1: Beverly Widger (Town Hall Committee Chair)

Photo 2: Beverly Widger (Town Hall Committee Chair), Clint Swift (Town Hall Committee), Margaret Drye (State Representative) William Plamer (State Representative), Cinde Warmington ( Executive Council)

## 20. Wentworth-Gardner Warehouse, Portsmouth

The Wentworth-Gardner Historic House Association has been awarded \$48,103 to help preserve one of only two surviving eighteenth-century warehouses in Portsmouth. Built in 1760 and part of the Portsmouth Downtown Historic District, the Wentworth-Gardner Warehouse is an example of the once-common vernacular structures that helped generate Portsmouth’s mercantile wealth. The funded work will include repairs to the windows, shakes, doors, trim, sills, and foundation.

[Contact: Karen Bouffard, Chair, Building Committee, [kbouf@aol.com](mailto:kbouf@aol.com), 603-969-4311, mobile]

Photo 1: Karen Bouffard (Chair, Building Committee)

Photo 2: Karen Bouffard (Chair, Building Committee), Allen Nelson (Supporter)

## 21. Rindge Second Meetinghouse, Rindge

LCHIP has awarded \$91,850 to the Town of Rindge in support of preservation work at the historic Rindge Meetinghouse. The meetinghouse was built in 1796 and modified in 1839 to facilitate separation of civil and religious functions. It remains one of only a few meetinghouses in New Hampshire still used by both Town and Church. It also helps define a village center, which includes other historic buildings, a common, and a cemetery. The funded work will focus on repairing the steeple, repainting the building, and repointing masonry.

[Contact: Lori Rautiola, Town Administrator, [townadmin@rindgenh.org](mailto:townadmin@rindgenh.org), 603-899-5181, ext. 101 (office)]

Photo 1: Lori Rautiola (Town Administrator)

## 22. Swain Family Farm, Sanbornton

The Swain Family Farm is a landmark in Sanbornton that has been in continuous operation since the 1800’s. The Lakes Region Conservation Trust has been awarded \$250,000 to assist in the acquisition of an agricultural land easement on the 320-acre property. This easement will help to support the farm’s long-term viability, ensure that these lands remain available for productive agriculture and forestry, and permanently protect the land’s habitat, recreational, and scenic values. The farm property encompasses pastures and hayfields, cropland, a maple sugaring operation, forested lands enjoyed by the public for hiking and hunting, and shoreline on Hunkins Pond where fishing



by the public is a long-standing tradition. Travelers along Hunkins Pond Road and visitors to the farm enjoy spectacular views of the Lakes Region from the farm's fields.

[Contact: Don Berry, President, Lakes Region Conservation Trust, [dberry@lrct.org](mailto:dberry@lrct.org), 603-253-3301]

Photo 1: Don Berry, President

Photo 2: Don Berry (President, LRCT), Rhys Bowen (Board Chair), Anna Boudreau (Project Manager)

### **23. Little Red Schoolhouse, Wakefield**

In 1858 the town of Wakefield appropriated \$1,000 to build a new brick schoolhouse. Completed in 1859, it was one of the most substantial schoolhouses in eastern New Hampshire and proudly served its students for over 80 years. Today it is one of the few remaining rural brick schoolhouses in New Hampshire. Unfortunately, the building now needs serious renovation. A \$36,960 LCHIP grant will be used by the Wakefield Brookfield Historical Society for structural work in the foundation and correcting masonry foundation deterioration caused by years of excessive moisture.

[Contact: Jennifer Rich, Wakefield-Brookfield Historical Society Secretary, [jbnr347@gmail.com](mailto:jbnr347@gmail.com), 603-730-7800]

Photo 1: Nancy Spencer Smith (President, Wakefield Brookfield Historical Society)

Photo 2: Nancy Spencer Smith (President, Wakefield Brookfield Historical Society), Cheryl Kimball, Kate Niewenhaus, Bruce Rich

### **24. Washington Congregational Church, Washington**

The Washington Congregational Church is a cornerstone of the historic Washington Town Common – one of the most photographed town centers in NH. A \$35,000 CHIP grant will help to restore the building's historic windows, and repair and paint the exterior. The church, built in 1840, is listed on the National Historic Register

[Contact: Art Sharkey, (508)-826-1084, [artsharkey6@gmail.com](mailto:artsharkey6@gmail.com)]

Photo 1: Art Sharkey (Trustee, Washington Congregational Church)

### **25. Westmoreland Town Hall, Westmoreland**

The Westmoreland Town Hall has been used as a town hall since its construction in 1917. Town Halls of this period were intended to house town offices and to accommodate civic activities. A well-preserved example of this twentieth century building trend, the two-story building still contains the town offices on the first floor and a large auditorium on the second floor with a stage and balcony. A \$128,800 LCHIP grant will assist the town in making much needed repairs to the historic windows, plaster walls, and historic tin ceilings.

The Westmoreland Town Hall is a well-preserved example of this twentieth century building trend.

[Jodi Scanlan, (603)-399-4471, [admin@westmorelandnh.com](mailto:admin@westmorelandnh.com)]

Photo 1: Jodi Scanlan (Town Administrator)