

Keene Heritage Commission Annual Report

Keene Heritage Commission, under the leadership of former chairs Rosemary Carey and Cauley Powell, applied for and received three Certified Local Government (CLG) grants, totaling \$36,000.

- **Extant Historic Carriage Houses and Urban Barns**

- The Commission hired consultants Preservation Company to do a survey of carriage houses and barns in the Washington Street/Court Street neighborhood, as these resources usually only come to the city's attention when property owners are seeking to demolish them
- Total Project Cost: \$10k CLG grant, \$1,250 cash, and \$416 miscellaneous = \$11,666

- **Crowd-sourced Neighborhood Mapping/Keene Italian Neighborhood**

- CGIS Solutions was hired to create a customized crowdsourcing application for a public-facing mapping tool.
- Through interviews with former and current members of the Italian neighborhood, along with the information gathered through the mapping tool, the Commission developed a comprehensive story-map with video, photos and written recollections that showcase the unique cultural history of the Italian neighborhood both in its beginnings in the early 20th century and today.
- Total Project Cost: \$10k CLG grant, \$1250 cash, and \$5416 in-kind = \$16,666

- **Recovering Black History**

- As a part of the ongoing Recovering Black History Project currently underway at the Historical Society of Cheshire County, in partnership with the Monadnock Center for History and Culture and the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, the Commission hired public historian, Dr. Kabria Baumgartner of Northeastern University, to interpret and contextualize volunteer-collected data on Keene's Black residents from the 18th and 19th centuries.

- o Total Project Cost: \$16k CLG grant, \$6k cash contribution and \$5k in-kind = \$27k

- **Snapshot of Keene Project**

- o Our current project is to create a documentary video capturing Keene's Main Street at this moment in time. Particular attention will be given to Central Square and upper Main Street. We will explore the origins of each block, buildings, and use. We are developing narratives that link current and past use which focus on banks, churches and commerce.

- **Other Work We Do**

- o Raise awareness of Keene's historic resources through community events and education.
- o Promote current resources that help support historic homeowners and neighborhoods.
- o Collaborate with the Historic District Commission
- o Weigh in on demolition review requests
- o Apply for CLGs
- o Write letters in an advisory capacity on projects including the Downtown Infrastructure Project, the Unitarian Church, the Yankee Bottle Club's Keene Glassworks plaque, the Transportation Heritage Trail
- o Collaborate with the Historical Society of Cheshire County through membership, shared events and shared research
- o Members of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance - and part of a network of historic research, preservation, and heritage commissions throughout the state