

Thursday December 8, 2016

Contact: Eileen Gilbert
Director
(603) 267-8331
bpl@belmontnh.org

NH's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program Awards \$7,000 Grant to Belmont Public Library for Building Study

[Belmont], NH – Governor Maggie Hassan and Senate President Chuck Morse joined together to congratulate LCHIP's most recent grant recipients on their hard work and successful efforts toward protecting the special places that define New Hampshire. Governor Hassan observed that "The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program is critical to protecting our natural, historical and cultural resources, and I am proud that we restored funding for LCHIP in 2013 and maintained that commitment in our current bipartisan budget. For every dollar invested by LCHIP, we see a significant return on investment through the economic activity generated by those conservation efforts. This year's grants will support important projects across the state that will preserve our natural beauty and protect our rich history and vibrant culture."

Belmont Public Library is receiving a \$7,000 award in support of its efforts to preserve its historic red brick building. The building was donated to the town of Belmont in 1928 by Walter and George Duffy, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. In its seventy-nine years of service, the library has been a beloved landmark and community center. In 2015, locals visited the Belmont Library over 10,500 times and checked out nearly 19,000 books, magazines, DVDs, and digital items. Eileen Gilbert, the library director, highlighted the strong attachment town residents demonstrate to the building and the determination of library trustees and staff to provide the best possible service to the community. "The study will help us determine the best and most cost effective ways to make the building more accessible to the public while preserving its historic character," said Gilbert.

The Belmont Public Library's project is one of thirty five awarded funding in LCHIP's fifteenth grant round supporting projects ranging from Northumberland in the North County to Nashua in the south and from Portsmouth in the east to Claremont in the west. The three and a half million dollars awarded by LCHIP are being matched by nearly \$20,000,000 in funds from other sources.

Grant decisions are made by the 18-member LCHIP Board of Directors, following a rigorous months-long application and review process. "The LCHIP Board of Directors is always pleased to help with saving New Hampshire's historic landmarks and landscapes," observed LCHIP Board Chairman Doug Cole of DS Cole Growers in Loudon. He continued: "It is great to see historic buildings rehabilitated to their original glory and contributing to the local economy again. Plus, since we all like to eat, protecting farmland is a good investment."

About New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program

The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program is an independent state authority that provides matching grants to New Hampshire communities and non-profits to protect and preserve the state's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. Its legislatively mandated mission is to ensure the perpetual contribution of these resources to the economy, environment, and the quality of life in New Hampshire. Since its inception in 2000, the program has provided 372 grants which have helped to protect nearly 200 historic structures and sites and to conserve more than 278,000 acres of land for food production, water quality, ecological values, timber management and recreation including hunting and fishing. Grants have been awarded in all parts of the state and in 149 of New Hampshire's communities. Thirty-nine million dollars of state money have leveraged more than \$244 million in funds from other sources. LCHIP grants are supported by fees on four documents recorded at the Registry of Deeds in every county of the state. For more information about LCHIP, visit lchip.org or call (603)224-4113

About the Belmont Public Library

The Belmont Public Library is open six days a week and any time at www.belmontpubliclibrary.org, serving the community with books, digital resources, and cultural programming.

###

2016 LCHIP Grant Recipients

Project Town	Project name	Recipient	Award
Alstead	Chase's Mill	Mill Hollow Heritage Assn.	\$100,000
Ashland	Town Hall Planning Study	Ashland Heritage Commission	\$18,250
Barrington	Barr Conservation Easement	Town of Barrington	\$150,000
Bath	Peters Family Farm Easement	Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust	\$85,000
Belmont	Library Planning Study	Belmont Public Library	\$7,000
Candia	Tower Hill Pond	Society for the Protection of NH Forests	\$300,000
Center Harbor	Town House	Town of Center Harbor	\$21,280
Claremont	City Hall Planning Study	City of Claremont	\$10,000
Conway	Kennett Community Forest	Upper Saco Valley Land Trust	\$150,000
Danbury	Deunk Cons. Easement	Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust	\$153,000
Derry	First Parish Church 2	First Parish Congregational Church, UCC	\$59,000
Exeter	Winter St. Cemetery	Town of Exeter	\$13,000
Francestown	Collins Brook Headwaters	Francestown Land Trust	\$60,000
Gilmanton	Kelley Corner Schoolhouse #1	Gilmanton School District	\$17,250
Haverhill	Blackmount Farm	Upper Valley Land Trust	\$125,000
Jaffrey	Meetinghouse	Town of Jaffrey	\$54,600
Keene	Cheshire Country Courthouse	Cheshire County	\$118,000
Kensington	Bodwell Fields and Forest	Southeast Land Trust of NH	\$175,000
Laconia	Belknap Mill Planning Study	Belknap Mill Society	\$23,217
Laconia	Colonial Theatre	Belknap Economic Development Council	\$500,000
Lebanon	Rogers House	City of Lebanon	\$68,000
Londonderry	Expanding the Musquash	Southeast Land Trust of NH	\$278,000
Meredith	Page Pond Community Forest Exp.	The Trust for Public Land	\$250,000
Moultonborough	Lee's Pond Preserve	Town of Moultonborough	\$40,000
Nashua	Sullivan Farm	City of Nashua	\$213,000
New Durham	Widow Maker Farm	Moose Mountains Regional Greenways	\$15,000
Northumberland	Cape Horn Connectivity	The Nature Conservancy	\$75,000
Portsmouth	John Paul Jones House	Portsmouth Historical Society	\$27,500
Portsmouth	Penhallow House Planning Study	Strawberry Banke Museum	\$20,000
Portsmouth	South Church Planning study	South Church-Unitarian Universalist	\$8,000
Rochester	City Hall Annex	City of Rochester	\$18,702
Salem	Salem Town Forest Expansion	Town of Salem	\$180,000
Statewide	Preservation Planning Block Grant	N.H. Preservation Alliance	\$42,000
Swanzey	Windyhurst Farm	Monadnock Conservancy	\$100,000
Wakefield	Town Hall	Town of Wakefield	\$24,407