

New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA)  
TITLE 64  
Planning And Zoning  
CHAPTER 674  
Local Land Use Planning And Regulatory Powers

Heritage Commission  
673:4-a & 674:44-b

673:4-a Heritage Commissions.

I. The heritage commission shall consist of not less than 3 members and no more than 7 members who shall be appointed in a manner as prescribed by the local legislative body.

II. Each heritage commission member shall be a resident of the city or town which establishes the commission. One commission member shall be a member of *the* local governing body. One commission member may be a member of the planning board. Not more than 5 alternate members may be appointed. When an alternate sits in absence or disqualification of a regular member, the alternate shall have full voting powers. If there is a historic district commission, one member of this commission shall be an ex officio member of the heritage commission. In determining each member's qualifications, the appointing authority shall take into consideration the appointee's demonstrated interest and ability to understand, appreciate and promote the purpose of the heritage commission.

III. Members of a heritage commission also may serve on other municipal boards and commissions, including but not limited to a conservation commission established under RSA 36-A, and a historic district commission established under RSA 673:4.

**Source.** 1992, 64:6. 1995, 138:4, eff. July 23, 1995.

SECTION 674:44-b

674:44-b Powers.

1. *Generally.* Heritage commissions shall have advisory and review authority, specifically, as follows:

- (a) Survey and inventory all cultural resources.
- (b) Conduct research and publish findings, including reports to establish the legal basis for a district and preparation of historic district ordinances within the municipality prior to its adoption or amendment as provided in RSA 675:6.

(c) Assist the planning board, as requested, in the development and review of those sections of the master plan which address cultural and historic resources.

(d) Advise, upon request, local agencies and other local boards in their review of requests on matters affecting or potentially affecting cultural and historic resources.

(e) Coordinate activities with appropriate service organizations and nonprofit groups.

(f) Publicize its activities.

(g) Hire consultants and contractors as needed.

(h) Receive gifts of money and property, both real and personal, in the name of the city or town, subject to the approval of the city council in a city or the board of selectmen in a town, such gifts to be managed and controlled by the commission for its proper purposes.

(i) Hold meetings and hearings necessary to carry out its duties.

**II. *Property.*** The commission may acquire, in the name of the town or city, subject to the approval of the local governing body, by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, devise, lease, or otherwise, a fee or lesser interest, development rights, covenant, or other contractual right, including conveyances with conditions, limitations, or reversions, as may be necessary to acquire, maintain, improve, protect, limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve and properly use the cultural resources of the city or town, and shall manage and control the same; provided, however, that the city, town, or commission shall not have the right to condemn property for these purposes.

**III. *Historic District Commission.*** Heritage commissions also may assume, if authorized by the local legislative body, the composition and duties of historic district commissions.

**Source.** 1992, 64:2. 1993, 32:1. 1995, 138:5, eff. July 31 1995