

WEST FAIRLEE CENTER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT
W.F. CENTER CHURCH & THE COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE

June 15, 2007

Dear Friends of West Fairlee Center:

Preservation work is finally going to begin! Contractors were seen at the Center just yesterday! So, we are writing to let all of you know what will be happening shortly, how to get updates on future work, and who to call if you have any questions or concerns.

As a reminder, the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PVT) has awarded, in matching funds, \$20,000 to the church and \$15,000 to the Club House. These funds are being used for initial restoration work which will be managed by Ray Clark, President of RECREATE, Inc., a contracting company specializing in historical building restoration. Both buildings are on the list of Vermont State Historic Buildings and the Church is on the National Registry of Historic Buildings as well. Also, this summer we will be installing a State Historical Site marker near the cemetery describing the role of Nathaniel Niles, who is buried there, in Vermont State history. The marker has been approved by the state and is currently being forged.

Over the past years we have had an initial report by Jack Anderson, historic preservationist, follow-up analysis by Doug Porter of the PVT, an in depth assessment and report by George Turner of Banwell Architect, Inc., and consultation with Ray Clark of RECREATE, Inc. We feel confident with the advice we have received about projects needing attention and the priorities to be placed on those projects.

The PVT award to the church is for drainage improvements, roof frame repairs, window and plaster conservation, and removal of the antiquated heating system. The award for the Community Club House is similar and includes correcting pointing between the bricks, and securing of the building from the elements. Of course we all know there is *no furnace* in the Club House to remove!

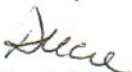
Part of the site work requires that two trees be removed: one to the right of the club house and one to the right of the church. We are sad to lose these trees but their ages and locations pose hazards to their respective buildings as well as get in the way of any site work. If we were to try to work around the maple by the church, we would be leaving a hole or gap in the system we are installing. The good news is that there are plans for the purchase of replacement trees which will be located safe distances from the buildings and will be there for future visitors to enjoy.

There is a web site for the Community Club which is www.wfcc.org. This site will be expanded to include information about the church building preservation as well. For those interested in being kept informed via email, please send a message to Deecie@sover.net. If you prefer to be kept informed via mail or phone, give us a call or leave a message with Deecie at (802) 333-9527.

As a reminder, this current work is only the beginning. We will need to raise additional funds to keep the work going. This summer, however, will be a great start and changes will be visible. We hope you will all stop by the Center to see the improvements!

Finally, thank you to all of you who have and continue to support these efforts! We hope you will enjoy visiting both of these buildings whether for activities or services, or just to enjoy the serenity of Middlebrook Rd. at West Fairlee Center.

Sincerely,


Deecie Denison

Preservation Contact