

# Press Release

## North Clarendon Chapel Community Center

### A Chapel worth saving is seeing renewed interest

**North Clarendon, VT July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

“This chapel was built by our great-grandfather, our family and friends want to ensure that it remains” explained Marg Southard to Nicolette Asselin, Researcher, and Grant Writer for Clarendon Heritage, a Non-for-Profit entity. Clarendon Heritage helps community leaders attend to preservation-worthy projects in the area and serves as a liaison with various resources. They looked at the overgrown lawn, the broken red and yellow arched windows. The aging steeple and belfry where once a bell rang joyfully. A dream was born: “Could we revive this aching edifice?”

Built by Clarendon Baptists in 1871, the building is significant for its vernacular style and landmark for the village of North Clarendon. It displays rounded colored glass windows, a steeple and an open shingled belfry with a polygonal spire.

In a nearby street, one finds an old-time post office, a library in a traditional Grange building. The Chapel served as a church until it presented new challenges imposed by transportation, and a community center until it went into disrepair. “The village would greatly benefit from this building revival and use for exhibits of local history and artists. It would accomplish what the State intends to support in community development. Not tarnished by progress, Clarendon remains an intact village deserving attention for its State Historical Registered properties with marks of time,” Asselin states.

Bob Underhill, President of the Historical Society, states: “Many State Historical Registered properties need consideration. It would enhance the town’s intrinsic value.” The Society has been putting many efforts in reconstructing the town’s past. Clarendon Heritage is working closely with Preservation Trust of Vermont’s representative, Lisa Ryan to assess the potential for preserving several buildings in Clarendon.

**For Release July 23, 2018, 10 AM Eastern Time**

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Members of Clarendon Heritage attended seminars with Preservation Vermont Trust and met State representatives. An assessment of needs was completed on 10-13-17 by Preservation Trust of Vermont recommended architect Thomas Keefe and Peter Coppola project coordinator for the Chapel. Keefe has worked on many successful preservation projects throughout Vermont.

“After reviewing the report Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, Grants Coordinator for the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Caitlin Corkins encouraged us to apply for a ‘matching grant’ to address the needs of the building,” reports Asselin. “This means that the community and/or potential sponsors will need to come forward to make this restoration possible.”

State-funded Historic Preservation Grant Program helps municipalities and non-profit organizations rehabilitate the historic buildings that are a vital part of Vermont’s downtowns, villages, and rural communities, as well as its iconic landscape. Since its inception, the program has provided almost \$5 million towards the preservation of over 550 historic community buildings. Grants have been used to revitalize buildings such as town halls, museums, theaters, libraries, recreation centers, and other municipal buildings.

“Clarendon’s Town Hall also underwent a similar assessment, by NBF Architects of Rutland and we hope that the Town will go forward with their recommendation,” said Asselin.”

Friends of the North Clarendon Chapel, headed by Marg Southard, are committed to seeing a new day for their beloved building and will be available on the Townwide sale, July 28th, 2018 to answer any questions as well as sell baking goods to raise the amount needed for the matching grant.

Clarendon Heritage members will also be available to answer questions about other potential funding for other renovation projects in town. Clarendon has a collection of beautiful barns in need of some attention. Grants are available for other preservation efforts.

When: July 28<sup>th</sup> 10-5PM Address: Old 7, between Moulton and North Shrewbury Road.

