

April  
2010

Hi FNRC folks,

Today Cory, Ky, and I met with the barn guy (Eric Gilbertson of the Preservation Trust of VT) at the VanLoon Barn to discuss its condition, age, issues for grants, etc., and by the way he likes our idea for the barn restoration!

That said, I took notes during the visit and put them below to share~

We discussed the ideas FNRC has for the barn and Eric likes our ideas and is supportive of them--he will write up a report on the barn at no charge to the town.

Pictures are important for the grant applications--they will give those in a position of viewing many grants an appreciation for the barn project.

Up to 20 pictures can be included with a grant application and should include: inside photos of the space, joins, and rafters, outside photos on all sides, problems with drainage and sediment at base of the front door, and the barn being too close to the road, make sure we include a photo of the house across the road with the barn in it too since it was likely the original barn owner's residence, and get a good picture of the barn in its setting. Chris Dodge has some pictures of the barn (outside structure) that are nice.

To apply to get the barn on the list of VT historic structures go to [historicvt.org](http://historicvt.org) (Cory volunteered to do this) and fill out the survey. While it is good to get this designation (historic bldg.) is isn't necessary for the barn to be registered as a historic building for us to get barn grants.

Eric believes that the original barn structure is from between 1830 & 1840! It's addition is likely from the 1920's.

A concrete retaining wall should be placed in front of the barn for structural integrity, and dry laid stones can be used for footings--but the round ones that are there aren't a good choice I don't believe. We can put the stones that are along the sides back in place for a historic look on the outside of the foundation.

The roof looks okay--Ky had some ideas on how to make it better.

Ky will write up a barn analysis piece describing the structural integrity of the barn, and what will we will reuse from the original structure on the restored barn.

Sugarbush may be ready to start cleaning out the barn by the end of the month.

Ky will also do a write-up of the project, its timeline, and the players involved in the project.

Eric thinks we should consider heating the barn, and also consider using it for a classroom. This can be for many community uses with educational components--not just an extra classroom for the elementary school.

Jan Lowendowski is the state's best go-to guy for historic barns and covered bridges (he does restoration work statewide)

Lot of scrap metal in the barn and old crap from the ski industry--boots, skis, poles, chair parts, etc.! Nearly everyone is impressed by this :o). It will be removed using a crane, volunteers with sturdy backs, and workers and equipment from Sugarbush.

The scrap metal will likely be sold to Bulducks or another place for \$'s.

Eric gave us the following people to contact and discuss the barn with: Devin Colman 828-3043 and Judith Ehrlich 828-3049 (Patti will call these folks to see which grant will best suit our project--and ask for an old approved grant to look at so we will be prepared when the new round of grants begins). He also suggested we call about the State Buildings Recreation Facility grant program and maybe the Dept. of Housing & Community Affairs.

We are all curious about the rectangular thing outside near the barn--what is it? There are thoughts that it was once used to keep milk cold--but Eric and none of us were really sure of its former use!

For the concrete & excavation work we will need to have a procurement process--Ky will look into contacting three contractors in each category.

Lastly, we will look to the community for fundraising to help keep this barn project moving along.

Make sure to put in the grant that we are going to:

Recreate the barn's original relationship with the road by moving it back from the road--Eric believes that the road was much narrower in the 1800's

When creating a new foundation put it above the grade of the slope so drainage from the road will flow around the barn--this will help preserve it into the future.

Ky and Cory if you have anything to add that I might have missed feel free to chime in.

Hmmmm.....guess that is it for now, hope you all get outside today and enjoy the 50+ weather~  
Patti GS