

CHS BUILDING RESTORATION UPDATE

November 2013

For almost a year now, travelers up the Cragsmoor Road have been enjoying the striking transformation of the first historic building to catch their eyes as they enter the historic district. We are pleased to report that we continue to make progress in restoring the former Federated Church building to its 1908 appearance, and that we have been able to draw upon our talented and skilled local contractors to complete various stages of the restoration. This summer the building got a bit darker as Ed Ward and his crew, O&R painters from Wallkill, applied a final coat of oil-based stain to the cedar shingles. Below, the tower and north facade receive their final coat.



Though not visible to the passerby, one of the most rewarding aspects of this project involves a partnership between the Society and the Cragsmoor Free Library. With the goal of sharing essential resources and our limited spaces for outdoor events, and minimizing infrastructure improvement costs, the neighbors agreed that the CFL would share its water source with the CHS, in exchange for siting a new combined leach field further away from the active stream in our back yards. The CFL and the CHS now share water and an all new septic

system. The pipes, tanks and leach field have been installed and the Library's new system is fully operational.

Right, Cragsmoor's Bill Shamro, contractor for the bathroom excavation, septic system and water lines, inspects portions of the installation.

Once the underground work was completed, construction began on a shed to store materials and supplies that conflict with our need to keep the community room and the backstage area safe, uncluttered and easy to set up for the variety of functions this community resource can accommodate.



Below, contractor, Jeff Scites installs doors on the shed.



The next phase of the project, now underway, is the construction of a handicap-accessible bathroom on the back of the building. Below, local mason, Gregg Greer, pours the footings for the bathroom. He also built the foundation walls and faced them with local stone to match the existing building. Framing and sheathing the addition is now underway and should be done before winter sets in.

During the winter, with the doors and windows installed, the rough plumbing and wiring done and the insulation in place, we will keep moving forward with interior finishes. Weather permitting, we may be able to complete the tedious process of hanging pre-stained cedar shingles to match.

The remaining restoration phases include repairing and refurbishing the exterior doors, interior finishes, including the decorative tin ceilings and walls, and the natural and painted woodwork. Additional lighting and electric upgrades are also planned as well as rebuilding the exterior exit stairs to be fire code compliant. Finally, we will install new exterior lighting, make some minor landscape improvements, and install a sign letting visitors know the building's historic and current use.



We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and with your continued support down this final stretch, we look forward to finally enjoying this historic landmark as a fully functional cultural and community resource at the center of our hamlet.