PRESERVATION TIMBER FRAMING INC. P.O. BOX 28 BERWICK, MAINE 03901 603 698 1695 cell: 603 781 5725 cell: arron@preservationtimberframing.com

New Durham Meeting House New Durham, New Hampshire Attn: George Gale

September 5, 2012

PHASE ONE STABILIZATION, LEVELING AND PLUMBING AND FOUNDATION REPAIRS: ESTIMATED COST: \$52,158.40

Dear Mr. Gale,

Thank you for the opportunity to view the New Durham Meeting House and provide a quote for its stabilization, leveling and foundation repair. As per our recent site visit we know that the existing stone foundation is ill suited for the period of construction of the meeting house and the building was never leveled or plumbed when these temporary foundation repairs were made a number of years ago.

From our investigation we confirmed that the meetinghouse has undergone some major repairs over its lifetime. The interior of the church has suffered the loss of pulpit and box pews, but it retains much of its plaster from the late 1800's. We know that the original meetinghouse was lowered from two stories to one. We know that in the late 1980's significant work was done to replace "in kind" the entire undercarriage. We also know that the building was not leveled or plumbed during this work.

Despite these changes, many original features of the building remain and its preservation is worthwhile. Stephen Bedard and Elizabeth Durfee Hengen with Sarah Hofe record the rich history of the meetinghouse in the recent historic structures report completed in 2009. Its conditions are also well stated. From this information we know the importance of the meetinghouse to the town of New Durham.

The building is in structural failure and requires stabilization. In order to repair the structural timber framing of the building it must first be placed on a proper and level foundation. To do this, we will cross brace the damaged timber frame in preparation for a peaceful lift on jacks and cribbing while we level the structure and place a proper rubble stone foundation.

We will use existing stones that are currently stockpiled on the site. We will also dig below the frost line and place compacted gravel to grade to provide a solid base for the rubble stone above grade. This makes the building very secure and far less prone to the heaving and settling that has occurred over time.

It is this heaving and settling that has caused the building to go out of plumb and level. This places extreme stress on the timber frame and it also causes roof leaks and subsequent rot in this beautiful historic English style timber frame structure.

While the timber repair is outside of phase one work, it will be stabilized with cross bracing to ensure it will survive in stasis until phase two can be funded and implemented.

Three phases of work will complete the meetinghouse preservation. Phase one quoted here is the stabilization and foundation repair. Phase two will be timber frame

repair and a new roof. Phase three will be exterior and interior finishes to complete the project. This phased work is necessary to allow fundraising to occur and public awareness about this building can be increased at each work stage. It is also very important to recognize that the building is usable after phase one and its diversity of use increases with each subsequent phase of work. I encourage use of the structure once stabilized. The space is well suited for public events and historic tours. It can and should be used as a community resource. With each successful stage of work, the building becomes more viable. It can become income producing and used by the community for public gathering.

Please review the attached excel spreadsheet for the tasks that lay ahead. I welcome any comments and questions you may have. I have included the names of my preservation sub-contractors in the task list so that you know that we are using very skilled craftspeople for this work. I have spent years with historic structures and I have developed a very comprehensive team that I count on to ensure the historic integrity of our work. We look forward to helping you preserve this historic landmark.

Respectfully Submitted

Arron J. Sturgis

Preservation Timber Framing Inc.

104 Travel, material & equip transport Commute over two hours/person/day
10
560

LCHIO Application

S 72.7