



## Meetinghouse Rehabilitation Update: Tower Takedown, Foundation Planning, and More

You haven't seen any construction equipment or heard hammers and saws yet, but we've nonetheless been making good progress on several projects. Here's a brief update.

### Tower Top Takedown

As we write this in July, we're reviewing the Tower Takedown contract and project details with Preservation Timber Framing (PTF, Arron Sturgis' company). The tentative schedule is:

- Build Scaffolding Around the Tower — Aug. 10–14
- Execute Rigging and Prep Work — Aug. 17–21
- Takedown Day — Aug. 26 (+/- a day)

For the Takedown Day, we expect a large crane to be positioned in the small Noyes/Meetinghouse parking lot. It will extend across the roof to lower the Belfry and Lantern together to a waiting wooden base on the north (street) side lawn. The bell and its cradle will be removed and stored, and the open top of the Tower Base will get sealed with a temporary roof flown up by the crane.

(We hope that the weight system that drives the Tower Clock can later be attached to this temporary roof to restore the time-telling function, but haven't determined this for sure yet.)

The Tower Top should be on the ground for about two years, waiting for the Foundation Rehab project then the Tower Base and Tower Top repairs to be completed. We haven't yet selected its exact location on the lawn, and are working with the Derry Planning Board to make sure everyone is happy with this. We intend to suitably fence off the Top for security, and may also illuminate it at night.



Crane setting up at the Acworth Meetinghouse in 2006 (see <http://acworthmeetinghouse.org>).

The projected costs for the Takedown are:

Rigging & Staging	\$29,500
Tower Disconnect & Fly (Crane Day)	\$16,300
Temporary Base & Roof	\$6,590
Documentation of Conditions	<u>\$4,700</u>
Total:	\$57,090

We'll use current Meetinghouse Rehab funds to pay for this. The LCHIP grant application we submitted in June includes this as the first of four Tower Rehab phases: the total project cost is projected as \$301,211, and we requested \$125,000 towards this from LCHIP. (This is a very competitive grant process and we won't know the outcome until December; see the July Newsletter or any BAC member for details.)

The Takedown Day marks a significant FPC milestone. We'll be sure to spread the word as soon as it is firmly scheduled, and will arrange for safe viewing for those who can attend.

The Takedown will also be a very visible sign to the community of our multi-year dedication to preserving this important regional landmark. We'll work with local media in advance to hopefully achieve good press coverage for the Takedown.

## Planning the Foundation and Connector Projects

We expect to sign a contract soon with Norman Larson of CPW Architects to begin detailed planning of the Foundation Rehab and Connector/Elevator Projects. This construction work should commence next Spring, with the Sanctuary likely being usable through early/mid April (including Easter).

Norman wrote the 2011 Historic Assessment master planning document that drives our rehab efforts and he knows the buildings—and us—quite well. The projects will involve several trades and vendors yet to be determined, but we anticipate using PTF as our general contractor.

One related task is already underway, preparing to move or secure items that may be damaged or need to be accessible during the foundation work.



PTF building a frost wall under a raised barn, similar to our foundation project (see [their blog](#) for details).

Council is assembling a Moving Task Force with reps from all related groups for this important work; Larry Krantz is the BAC rep and is helping to lead the effort.

The moving preparation process is:

1. Work with our building experts to identify all the items that need to be addressed,
2. Determine which items need to be accessible (e.g. for summer services in Currier) and which can be stored for the duration, and
3. Make a plan for where things can best be stored and devise the most efficient moving and storage solution.

We'll share further details on the Foundation Rehab and Connector/Elevator Projects as they develop.

## Repairing Meetinghouse Roof Leaks

Spring inspection by PTF foreperson Ed Bell revealed small but damaging water leaks in the Meetinghouse roof. Since we don't expect major roof rehab work to happen until 2017, the Facilities Board has taken on the job of getting the leaks repaired as soon—yet as cost-effectively—as possible. They are currently getting bids from slate roof experts, and so far it looks like the repairs will cost around \$2,000.



Ed Bell highlighting water damage for the Facilities Board, 6/24/15.

Ed also recommended that we install an inexpensive exhaust fan in the East end attic window to move air through the space, and Facilities is considering this.

## Improving the Heating System

A goal related to Meetinghouse Rehab is to get the furnace (flames!) out of the historic building, and to simultaneously improve our facility-wide Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems.

The Facilities Board has been working on this for several months. They've engaged with the area's leading HVAC firms, and with the advice of these experts are developing an excellent plan. This calls for a single hot water furnace located in the Currier lower level, tied into the existing Currier and Noyes systems and running to heat exchangers and hot air handlers in the Meetinghouse.

The target is to have the new HVAC systems in place for the Fall 2016 heating season—after the Foundation work. Quotes from qualified vendors are being collected now; Facilities will share the details as plans progress.

We hope you share in our excitement as these critical projects move forward. If you have any questions on these updates—or any Meetinghouse Rehab issues—please contact any member of the BAC. We'll also post info on the Rehab/History bulletin board (outside of the Archives Room) and generally be available before or after Sunday services.

Submitted by Paul Lindemann on behalf of the Building Advisory Committee (Paul Ambler, Nancy Heywood, Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, and Bill Mann).