

THE BOODEY CHRONICLE

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“PRESERVING THE PAST TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE”

One of the great things about our job is achieving support from local officials by incorporating strategies to preserve historical properties that provide a variety of social, environmental, and economic benefit to your community. The repair and restoration of historical properties often draws on local labor and materials, supporting jobs and invigorating local economies. Investments in preservation of historical properties reflect not just fondness for old architecture, but rather a rising recognition that investments in preservation protect local property values and stimulate social and economic growth.

Our presentation to the New Durham Advisory Capital Improvement Committee (ACIP) emphasized how the Zechariah Boodey Farmstead historical properties, a town owned facility, would address “meeting space needs” as identified in the “Town Facility Plan” report.

The reports’ subsection titled “Existing Facilities and Site Assessments” outlined current conditions and proposed design concepts in the expansion of the 1908 Town Hall. It is important to understand the 1908 Town Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It noted the building is “inadequate in size”. The proposals would increase meeting spaces within Town Hall as follow: The first floor meeting space would be expanded from 528 sq ft to 1,200 sq ft. Occupancy would change from 20 persons to 70 persons. A second floor conference room would be expanded from 294 sq ft to 320 sq ft. Occupancy would change from a max of 8 persons to a max of 15 persons. The owners of the

current site used for holding elections, the New Durham Elementary School, has informed the Town to seek another location to hold these elections. To meet expansion needs, it would require substantial financial investment and substantial alteration and yet in the end the Town Hall still would not accommodate all the “meeting space needs” for the community. To complete the expansion as proposed, budgetary costs range from \$1.950 to \$2.360 million.

The Zechariah Boodey Farmstead facilities would address “meeting space needs” now and into the future. The facility’s site plan has been designed to meet physical disabilities access codes, inside and outside. The barn is approximately 1,680 sq ft and the cape house is approximately 1,300 sq ft. Occupancy has been approved at 130 persons. The future site will not require any demolition and there is an artesian well on site. The project has an approved site plan and state approved septic design. The expenses for professional engineering and design services have been paid. Budgetary costs to construct the facility range from \$800,000 to \$1.0 million. The question was asked if the project could be constructed in phases and what would be the estimated costs. Yes, the barn and utilities addition could be constructed first, and the projected cost would be approximately \$400,000. The Committee also noted that commitments from individuals and businesses are in place to assist with phases of the project. There is a donor who has offered to donate up to \$8,000.00 toward the installation of the

septic system. The Committee continues to work raising funds to cover the costs for each phase of work. Our donors have made it possible to be in this position to be able to present this option. Our motto is “Preserving the Past to Support the Future.”

“This was a fine example of thinking outside of the box” and “Thank you for informing us about this proposal. This is eye opening and nice to have an option” were some of the responses shared by members of the ACIP. “This proposal has gotten people talking and seriously thinking about “all” options to address “meeting space needs” for our community” replied committee member Scott Drummey.

Achieving these accomplishments has been made possible through the generous funding received from private and public partners. Your investments have supported implementation of our Planning Phase as defined in our business plan. Plans for 2022 will be contracting with a professional to complete a timber frame assessment for the barn.



SPECIAL DATES AND EVENTS:

- *Hometown Cookery Books* expected arrival November 15th, 2021
- *Annual Holiday Fair* November 20, 2021
- *Alton Home Show* April 2022
- *Site Celebration* July 16, 2022

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GIFTING OF THE ZECHARIAH BOODEY HOUSE



Chair Catherine Orlowicz compares a picture of the 1880 house photograph with the progress of dismantling in 2008.

“Oh, how I would love to find a way to save the Boodey Place” prior Town Historian Eloise Bickford shared, while we visited the old graveyard located on the Boodey Place.

She began to share the history for the house and the family. The colonial style cape house was one of the earliest surviving buildings from the early settlement of New Durham. Its construction began, around 1769, with the building of the log cabin to provide temporary shelter for Zechariah and his growing family. The size of his house, sometimes called a dwelling house, was built as defined by the terms in the original Town Charter. Each owner was to build a sixteen foot square house upon some part of his land.

Eloise also shared that a significant event took place in the East Room. On June 30, 1780, led by the church’s founder, Elder Benjamin Randal, the original Covenant and the Articles of Faith for the Freewill Baptist Church were signed by the original members. Zechariah’s brothers Robert and Reverend Joseph were signers of these organizing documents.

A few years passed. With the alignment of the moon and stars, a series of events would open the door to possibly saving the historic building. In 2004, the Boodey Place had a proposal before the New Durham Planning Board. From a

follow up meeting with family member Christine Evans, we learned the family would be deeply interested in keeping the building in the community. We had shared with them how all the known buildings used by the Freewill Baptist Church, in New Durham, were still within New Durham.

It would be two years before the process for donating the building to the Town would be completed. During the Board of Selectmen’s meeting of March 1, 2006, the Selectmen and family representative Christine Evans signed the agreement, finalizing the donation of the building to the town. The Selectmen accepted the donation by the powers granted them during the 1998 Annual Town Meeting. During that meeting the voters passed the adoption of RSA 31:95-e “Acceptance of personal Property”.

The original members of the committee were Ann Brady, Jesse Box, Cheryl Cullimore, Mark Foynes, Cathy Orlowicz, Carlton and Katie Woods and Diane Thayer. They worked to bring awareness and held many fundraising events. It would take two years to secure the funds to begin the dismantling of the cape house. However, during this two year period two arson attempts were made at the Boodey site. Sadly the “newer” farmhouse was destroyed by arson fire. This was a deep and tremendous loss to the family.

November 3, 2008, the team of professional timber frame preservationists began the process for dismantling and saving the cape house. Each timber was carefully removed and numbered. Photographs, labeling, and sketch drawings were completed over the eight days. Each day, as the layers of the house were removed, unique features would be revealed: a traverse timber the length of the house, not tied into the central chimney, the method used to treat the eaves of the house, and the feather edging of the sheathing were wonderful discoveries.

The dwelling house is constructed of heavy timber frame. The marks left by the use of a broadaxe, or adze are visible on the heavy timbers. The timbers’ joinery was custom mated to their neighbors and marked using roman numerals, typical of the English Scribe Rule. This is a system that custom fits each joint to an adjoining one.

Many volunteer hours were given by members from the community. Some of their tasks included the removal of old siding, nails, and site cleanup: 6,000 bricks were removed from the center chimney, cleaned, and loaded on skids for storage. Once dismantling was completed the frame, sheathing, old windows, doors and other items found were loaded into the two storage units. These units are located on town property at the recycling center.

ELDER JOSEPH BOODEY

Joseph Boodey was the son of Zechariah Boodey 2nd and Mary Dermeritt. He was born on April 12, 1773, in the log cabin at the Old Boodey Homestead on the Southside of the New Durham Ridge. Joseph was two years old when the Revolutionary War began, and seven years old when the Covenant and Articles of Faith were signed in the East room of his family's newly built home.

He began preaching in 1797 and in 1799 was ordained into the Freewill Baptist Church by Benjamin Randall and others. Joseph preached throughout New England and the Middle states. The early elders did not receive compensation for their services and relied on the generosity and support of their 'Believers' to provide food and shelter on their extensive travels to reach new communities.

Joseph's contemporary, mentor, and close companion, was his uncle and namesake Reverend Joseph Boodey of Barrington, NH. They established and organized many of the original churches throughout New Hampshire and Vermont. Both Josephs' were close companions of Benjamin Randall.

On the home front, Joseph married Marcy Pike on November 13, 1800, and they raised nine children, six of which lived to adulthood. Joseph worked the farm, and was active in town and county affairs. He

served as town selectman from 1811 thru 1817, per town record. He held many positions of trust and responsibility, locally. He also served in the state legislature.

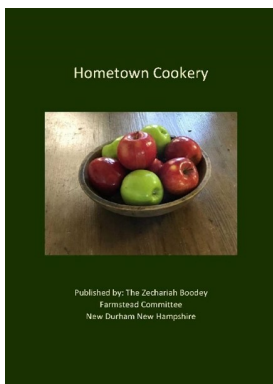
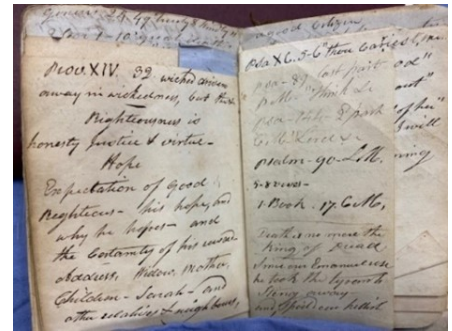
Below is a picture of a very small copy of the New Testament which belonged to (Elder) Joseph. It is of particular interest because it is so well worn, and it has numerous scraps of paper tied to the inside back cover containing many handwritten lists of scriptures. "The preaching was always based on scripture which was believed to be the word of God," said Rev. Carolyn Clarke of Center Strafford, NH.

Elder Joseph was a member of the Masonic Fraternity for over fifty years. In later years, he enjoyed writing prose and became a published poet.

Of Elder Joseph and Marcy's six children, the Boodey Homestead was left to two sons, Zechariah 3rd and Joseph M. Boodey. It then passed through Zechariah 3rd's line to Ellen Aurilla Boodey Colbath.

Elder Joseph met his maker on May 12, 1867. He was 94 years and 1 month old. At the funeral services the sermon was given by Rev. Moses Howe of New Bedford, MA. Elder Joseph was laid to rest in the Boodey Family graveyard at the homestead on Berry Road.

Joseph and Marcy Boodey

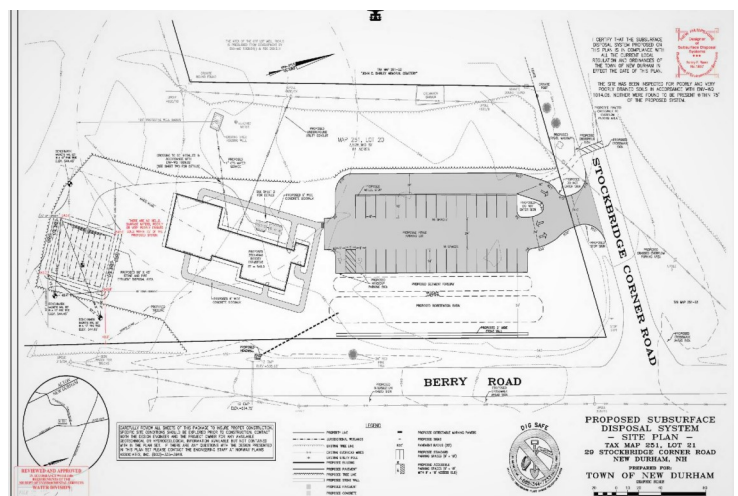


You DID IT!

"We exceeded our goal for recipes" exclaimed member Crissa Evans. Sherry Cullimore and Crissa spearheaded this fundraising project. They devoted many hours toward soliciting for recipes, entering the recipes, and designing the layout for the book in the data base. Tatiana Michelizza offered her special talents to review and edit the drafts, prior to sending it off to the publisher. Following review of the publishers' draft, the

book will be printed and shipped to us. Delivery is expected by the mid November. Once the books arrive, the committee will be contacting those who pre-ordered copies of the cookbooks. We are thankful for the generous support from family and friends who contributed towards this very successful endeavor. You are all amazing. You did it! Copies of the "Hometown Cookery" cookbook may be purchased for \$20.00 and by contacting Cathy by phone 603-859-4643 or email cathyo@tds.net, or Crissa by phone 207-351-5248 or email chevansme@gmail.com. The Committee will be selling our cookbook at the Annual Holiday Craft Fair, at the New Durham School, Saturday November 20th.

PRESERVING THE PAST TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.



Approved site plan, located on Stockbridge Corner Road

**Organization**

ZECHARIAH BOODEY FARMSTEAD

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*“PRESERVING THE PAST
TO
SUPPORT THE FUTURE”*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Committee has undertaken a substantial project to expand access to our historic and cultural heritage. The restoration, reconstruction, and re-purposing of the Zechariah Boodey Farmstead historic buildings, from our past, will be a cornerstone connection to local businesses, and other surrounding historical and cultural entities, by encouraging growth in our communities' local economy. The Farmstead will yield a location, available to a variety of people, for social, private, educational, as well as civic events and activities.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Catherine Orlowicz, Chair
Frances Frye, Vice Chair
Cheryl Cullimore, Secretary
Tatiana Michelizza, Member
Scott Drummey, Member
Christine C. Evans, Member and
Family Representative
Rick Fogg, Associate Member

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT OR
WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT, PLEASE VISIT

[www.newdurhamnh.us/
boodey-farmstead-committee](http://www.newdurhamnh.us/boodey-farmstead-committee)

OR

FACEBOOK: ZECHARIAH
BOODEY FARMSTEAD

NEW INFORMATIONAL KIOSK SIGN

Replacement of the information sign was identified as an important project for 2021. The current sign limited how much and what information could be displayed. Inquiries and growing interest about the project has brought awareness for the need to be able to display more information at the site.

It was decided a kiosk type sign, like those seen at trailheads at hiking locations, would be well suited for our site. The sign will have three panels with locking doors. But there was another question. How do we enclose and put up the sign?

Once again, hidden talent from committee member Scott Drummey came through. Scott volunteered to mill out the posts and boards needed for the framing of the enclosed sign, using his sawmill. He offered his talents to construct the kiosk using “timber frame” joinery for the posts and supports! This approach seemed so appropriate for the sign and respectful of the location. We are thankful for our donors and volunteers who respond when there is a need.

To begin with, approved site plans, floor and profile plans for the historical properties will be featured in the enclosure. It will be a place to post communications about events and activities and to share information regarding historical aspects of the project and our community.

Sunday, October 17th volunteers installed the completed kiosk and sign board at the site. With so many hands available and the use of Scott's equipment, the task was completed within a few hours. Every

job site needs a supervisor; Hazelnut, Crissa's little dog, really was well suited for the position.

Great teamwork! Watch for future announcements for the dedication ceremony planned for the sign. We are thankful to our donors and Scott's support, to help with making this sign a reality.



Volunteers with the newly installed Kiosk sign. L to R Crissa Evans, Sherry Cullimore, Cathy Orlowicz and Scott Drummey holding Hazelnut.