

July 8, 2022

Mr. George Born
NH LCHIP
3 N. Spring Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Request for Substitute Material – Jaffrey Meeting House Tower Rehabilitation

George,

We are requesting consideration for Substitute Material in the replacement of the clock hands as part of the Jaffrey Meeting House Rehabilitation Project. We are making this request at the recommendation of Phil D'Avanza from D'Avanza Clock Repair, specialists in tower clock repairs and restorations. Phil has maintained the Meeting House clock for many years.

Mr. D'Avanza is recommending the replacement of the clock hands and reports the current (possibly original) hands are in very poor condition and does not, in his opinion, feel they are able to be refinished with gold leaf for continued service. It is his opinion the hands are beyond repair and will fail after a short time.

Mr. D'Avanza has suggested substituting custom aluminum hands manufactured to the same pattern and specification as the current hands. Mr. D'Avanza has installed aluminum replacement hands for several of his historic tower clock clients. I have included his report on the condition of the hands as well as his proposal discussing the proposed aluminum hands.

Preservation Brief 16 The Use of Substitute Materials on Historic Exteriors discusses the replacement of deteriorated detail which has deteriorated beyond repair with materials which can match the appearance of historic materials.

This is the case with the current clock hands according to Mr. D'Avanza. Replacement hands may be crafted from new wood however it is likely they will not have the durability to warrant the cost due to the lesser quality of available wood species.

We believe the proposed aluminum hands finished with gold will have the same appearance as the original hands. That their physical properties will be very similar to the wood hands and not adversely affect the operation of the clock or the adjacent materials. And, over time they will outperform traditional wood hands.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,



Michael J. Petrovick NCARB, AIA
Principal