

## Centuries-Old Weathervane Conjures Town's Past

Under the auspices of the Old Groton Meetinghouse Advisory Committee, whose members come from the Groton Historical Society and the town as well as First Parish Church, Groton's 1755 Meetinghouse is being stabilized and dressed up from its foundation to the weathervane on top of its iconic white steeple. On July 15 this year, the newly repaired and regilded 250-year-old rooster weathervane, known affectionately as Buddy, was hoisted on high where he could look out once more over Minuteman Common, where stalwart revolutionary minutemen assembled to go off to Lexington and Concord so many years ago. There were drumrolls and musket shots from four townsmen dressed as the early Groton Minutemen. The crowd of onlookers cheered and applauded as the shiny rooster, nearly 3 feet wide and 3 feet high, was settled firmly on his perch.

Buddy has become another visible symbol of the enduring ties of Groton's past to its present.

Funding for his repair as part of a larger restoration of the Old Groton Meetinghouse came from several sources – a Groton CPA Grant, a Massachusetts Historical Commission grant, and donations from congregants of First Parish Church and from citizens of Groton. With Part 1 of the Renovation Project completed, the Old Meetinghouse Committee is moving on to Part 2, which is primarily concerned with exterior painting and repair to the clock tower and the bell striker. GHS members C. David Gordon and Michael Roberts serve on the committee. Former GHS president John Ott, before he and Lili moved to Maine, was a charter member. Remnants of the original bird are now part of the First Parish archives. *Photos by Barbara Murray.*

