

## **2002 REPORT OF THE MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE**

The Meetinghouse Committee advises the Town on matters pertaining to the use and maintenance of Jaffrey's historic Meetinghouse.

The Meetinghouse served as a venue for many events between May and October: Amos Fortune Forum (7 meetings), Monadnock Music (2 free concerts), Conant High School's annual Shakespeare Festival, the annual First Church Fair, 7 weddings, 1 memorial service, the Annual Meeting of the Thorndike Pond Conservation Association and 5 meetings of the Historic District Commission. This Committee along with the Jaffrey Historical Society, the VIS and the Historic District Commission cosponsored a noontime reading of the Declaration of Independence on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, an event that was premiered last year. The Meetinghouse was again full and the 38 volunteer readers did a marvelous job. This is now an annual town event and all are invited to attend and participate.

The Committee made thorough inspections of the Meetinghouse on April 30<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>. Between the two dates a significant number of projects were undertaken, sometimes by members of the Committee and at other times by volunteers or contractors: Inspection and servicing of the Town clock; removal of debris from basement; installation and painting of new screen doors (for code compliance); re-keying and replacement of door locks; exterior lighting repair; mapping of electrical circuits and some re-wiring; scraping and painting of the south façade and portions of the tower; installation of a replacement stage curtain and new travelers; and numerous cleaning and tidying tasks. The largest and most involved undertaking was the installation of a fire alarm system and the burying of the necessary phone service. We look forward to this system giving the Meetinghouse protection and those who love it peace of mind for many years to come.

For major projects next season the Committee has recommended additional exterior painting and the start of a multi-year program to replace crumbling or missing window glazing compound.

The Committee would like to thank George Cox, the Town Clock Winder, and his protégé, Charlie Marvin, for the expert attention they give to the Town Clock throughout the year. And special thanks are due Mary Payson for her donation, in memory of John Batiste, of American and New Hampshire flags which now stand beside the stage. The Committee was pleased to recommend to the Town that unused and obsolete stage lighting equipment be donated to Andy's Summer Playhouse which reports that it has been put to good use.

The calendar for next season is beginning to fill. Other than the usual events, four weddings have already been booked. These benefit the Town through rental fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Nelson  
Jeanne LaBrie  
Robert B. Stephenson

For front matter of Town Report:

MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

Nancy Nelson	Historic District Commission Representative
Robert B. Stephenson	Village Improvement Society Representative
Jeanne LaBrie	Selectmen's Representative