

2003 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 (seven meetings), Monadnock Music (two free concerts), Conant High School's annual Shakespeare Festival, the annual First Church Fair, seven weddings, two meetings of the Jaffrey Board of Selectmen, a meeting of the Jaffrey Budget Committee, a meeting of the Transfer Station/Recycling Center Study Committee and five meetings of the Jaffrey Historic District Commission. A free line dance was held in August, sponsored by the Village Improvement Society. The Committee along with the Jaffrey Historical Society, the VIS and the Historic District Commission again cosponsored a noontime reading of the *Declaration of Independence* on the 4th of July, now an established annual tradition. The Meetinghouse was again full and the 38 volunteer readers did a marvelous job. All are invited to attend and participate.

The Committee made thorough inspections of the Meetinghouse on April 16th and October 17th. Between the two dates a variety 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; washing of all windows; recharging of fire extinguishers; touch-up interior painting; and installation of a backstage bulletin board. Bob Chase fashioned a handsome wastebasket for the foyer from maple flooring removed from the Meetinghouse in the 1993 renovation. A new and improved speaker system was purchased by the Amos Fortune Forum and is available for all events. Peter Lambert's Meetinghouse brochure was re-printed and is available at the Town Offices and in the Meetinghouse. The Plexiglas donation box was repaired by Jim McQueen.

During the year \$1,225 was donated by seven individuals and organizations to pay for bench cushions. A sample was in place during the past season. These are being made from recycled stage curtains and an unknown number are expected to be ready by this summer.

On September 8th the Meetinghouse and Melville Academy will be the setting for a Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce 'After Hours' gathering, jointly sponsored by the Meetinghouse Committee and the Village Improvement Society.

For major projects next season the Committee has recommended additional exterior painting and the start of what will probably be a multi-year program to repair, reglaze and paint the building's 50 historic windows. The latter will benefit from two grants that the Town has received for this purpose. More than \$16,000 will be available under the Certified Local Government program of the NH Division of Historical Resources and the Conservation License ('Moose') Plate program. The Committee is hopeful that window work will begin early this winter.

The Committee would like to welcome officially Charlie Marvin as the new Clock Winder and thanks George Cox who served in this capacity for many years.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janet S. Grant
G. Clay Hollister
Robert B. Stephenson

For front matter of Town Report:

MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

Janet S. Grant	Historic District Commission Representative
Robert B. Stephenson	Village Improvement Society Representative
G. Clay Hollister	Selectmen's Representative

NOTE: Town protocol is for Meetinghouse to be spelled as one word and capitalized when referring to the Jaffrey Meetinghouse.