

2005 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 free lectures), Monadnock Music (two free concerts), Downtown Concerts (three relocations due to rain), Conant High School's 13th annual Shakespeare Festival, the 89th annual First Church Fair, the 225th Anniversary celebration of the First Church, and six weddings. Several Town boards and committees met in the Meetinghouse one or more times, including the Board of Selectmen, Cemetery Committee and the Historic District Commission. Andy's Children's Theatre performed in July. A free line dance was held in August, sponsored by the Village Improvement Society. The Meetinghouse was the scene of numerous other meetings, school group visits, historical society tours, and such throughout the year. The Committee along with the Jaffrey Historical Society, the VIS and the Historic District Commission cosponsored the 5th annual reading of the *Declaration of Independence* on the 4th of July. 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 May 24th and October 21st. 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 (largely done by Charles Marvin); minor upgrading of the electrical system; expansion of the fire alarm system into the cellar and its annual testing; and the usual touch-up interior painting. The largest project was the completion of the final phase of the restoration of the Meetinghouse's 50 windows. The final 14 were removed, restored and reinstalled in May. The Town is fortunate to have had more than \$40,000 of the project funded by grants from or through the NH Division of Historical Resources.

The final installment of bench cushions arrived, paid for by generous donations from many interested people. The total is now 23. These were made from recycled stage curtains.

The major project next season will be the exterior painting of the upper tower which has not been painted since 1992. This is specialized work and will be substantially more expensive than the usual painting job. A Warrant Article related to this is likely to be considered at this year's Town Meeting. The north façade was to be painted last year but weather caused this to be postponed until this year.

The calendar for next season is beginning to fill. Other than the usual events, three weddings have already been booked. These and other private gatherings 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