

2006 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 (relocations due to rain), Conant High School's 14th annual Shakespeare Festival, the 90th annual First Church Fair, events associated with the Centennial of the Village Improvement Society (*Historic Homes & Gardens Tour*, *Musical at the Meetinghouse*, *Line Dance with the Trimble's*), and five weddings. Several Town boards and committees met in the Meetinghouse one or more times, including the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Cemetery Committee, the Planning Board's Master Plan Committee and the Historic District Commission. 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 6th 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 23rd 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); annual testing of the fire alarm system; and the usual touch-up interior painting. One of the soiled stage curtains was replaced. The north façade was to have been painted in 2005 but weather caused this to be postponed until June 2006, the work being done by Windmill Hill Painting. But the largest project by far was the painting of the Tower from ground to weathervane, a task not done since 1992. This was undertaken in the Fall by a J&D Painting and Restoration, a steeplejack company specializing in churches. The cost was met by a Town Meeting warrant article that was voted in 2005, supplemented by a 'Mooseplate' grant from the State of New Hampshire. The job took nearly a month to accomplish and we are hopeful it won't have to be repeated for some years.

For the first time in many years a Christmas tree was installed on the Common and a lighting ceremony with caroling was held on December 3rd. This was a welcomed addition to the setting of the Meetinghouse with its window candles, and it is expected that it will be repeated annually. Another seasonal outdoor event this year was a May Day celebration with Morris Dancing teams and a May Pole set up on the Common.

The major project next season will be the exterior painting of the south façade which has been contracted to Wright Painting.

The calendar for next season is beginning to fill. Other than the usual events, one wedding and one contra dance 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
G. Clay Hollister
Robert B. Stephenson

Historic District Commission Representative
Selectmen's Representative
Village Improvement Society Representative