

2007 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 (one free concert), Downtown Concerts (several relocations due to rain), Conant High School's 15th annual Shakespeare Festival, the 91st annual First Church Fair, and one wedding and one memorial service. 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 Water & Sewer Committee and the Historic District Commission. The Jaffrey-Rindge School Board held its June 25th meeting at the Meetinghouse, a first as far as one can tell. (Conant High School was first located in the Meetinghouse.) The Committee hopes the Board will come back annually or from time-to-time. The Meetinghouse was the scene of numerous other meetings, school group visits, historical society tours, a contra dance and other gatherings throughout the year. The Committee along with the Jaffrey Historical Society, the Village Improvement Society and the Historic District Commission cosponsored the 7th 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. That evening the Keene Legion Band relocated its concert to the Meetinghouse due to rain.

The Committee made thorough inspections of the Meetinghouse on May 21st 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 (largely done by Charles Marvin); annual testing of the fire alarm system; and the usual touch-up interior painting. Twelve more bench cushions were donated by the Village Improvement Society.

For the second year in a row a Christmas tree was installed on the Common and a lighting ceremony with caroling was held on December 9th.

The three major projects in 2007 were the exterior painting of the south façade and the east stairs and bulkhead, and the interior painting of the north wall and underside of the gallery on the first floor. This was carried out by Wright Painting of Jaffrey. No major projects are planned for 2008. The East façade will probably need painting in 2009.

The calendar for next season is beginning to fill. Other than the usual events, five weddings have already been booked. The Jaffrey Historical Society will present a public program on the evening of August 12th in celebration of its 50th anniversary. 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

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