

2008 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 (one relocation due to rain), Conant High School's 16th annual Shakespeare Festival, the 92nd annual First Church Fair, and nine weddings, the most ever in one season. Several Town boards and committees met in the Meetinghouse one or more times, including the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Cemetery Committee, and the Historic District Commission. The Jaffrey Historical Society celebrated its 50th anniversary in the Meetinghouse and staged a well-received historical fashion show. A prayer meeting was held on September 11th, to our knowledge the first in the modern era. The Meetinghouse was the scene of numerous other meetings, school group visits, and gatherings throughout the year. The Committee along with the Jaffrey Historical Society, the Village Improvement Society and the Historic District Commission cosponsored the 8th 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 April 11th and November 10th. 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, oiling of exterior stairs and ramps and minor plumbing and electrical repair.

For the third year a Christmas tree was installed on the Common and a lighting ceremony with caroling was held on December 7th.

The major projects in 2009 will be the exterior painting of the east façade and continuing window work.

The calendar for next season is beginning to fill. Other than the usual events, four weddings have already been booked and Monadnock Music will introduce an extended Sunday afternoon series of ticketed concerts. 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