

2009 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 2009: Amos Fortune Forum (seven lectures), Monadnock Music (four concerts), Downtown Concerts (one relocation due to rain), Conant High School's 17th annual Shakespeare Festival, the 93rd annual First Church Fair, and six weddings. Several Town boards and committees met in the Meetinghouse one or more times, including the Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee, Conservation Commission, Cemetery Committee, Energy Committee, and the Historic District Commission. The Meetinghouse hosted the Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School District on June 22nd and on September 9th Governor Lynch and the NH Executive Council. 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 9th 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 in April and October. Between these inspections 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. Andy Webber rebuilt the bulkhead to the cellar and Dennis Wright and his crew painted the east façade. The Amos Fortune Forum kindly paid for two rubber floor mats for the entrances and for the installation of a floor outlet and two outlets on the base of the stage. Electrician Mike Shea accomplished these tasks. He also installed an exterior outlet under the rear stairs.

For the fourth year a Christmas tree was installed on the Common and a lighting ceremony with caroling was held on December 6th. As always, candles were set in the south windows of the Meetinghouse during the holiday season.

The Meetinghouse now has its own webpage, hosted on the Town's website at <http://town.jaffrey.nh.us>. Go to >Town Government >Committees/Commissions > Meetinghouse Committee. Here you will find historical information, photographs, the schedule of events, and the application and guidelines for use.

The major project in 2010 will be the painting of the windows. Six were removed on January 4, 2010, and a second six will be removed and painted after the first six are reinstalled. Another 12 or more will be similarly removed and painted in 2011. Dennis Wright is overseeing the work.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Janet S. Grant
Kathy Batchelder
Robert B. Stephenson

For front matter of Town Report:

MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

Janet S. Grant
Kathy Batchelder
Robert B. Stephenson

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