

## 2010 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 2010: Amos Fortune Forum (seven lectures), Monadnock Music (four concerts), Conant High School's 18th annual Shakespeare Festival, the 94th annual First Church Fair, and five weddings and one memorial service. Several Town boards and committees met in the Meetinghouse one or more times. 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 10th annual reading of *The Declaration of Independence* on the Fourth 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 November. 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 with the assistance of Kevin Sterling and with the professional involvement of D'Avanza Clock Repair of Goffstown); 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. A new rope was strung up to the bell after the old one broke during Fourth of July celebrations. An important project, sponsored by the Jaffrey Historical Society, was the cleaning, repair, re-rigging and restoration of the colorful stage curtain that once graced the Jaffrey Grange. The work was accomplished by the experts at Vermont's *Curtains Without Borders*. The curtain will be lowered for the Annual Meeting of the Jaffrey Historical Society set for the Meetinghouse on August 11th.

The major project in 2010 was the painting of the windows. A total of 24 windows (in batches of 6) were removed in 2010 for restoration work and painting, and reinstalled in time for events in the spring. In December the next batch of 6 was removed. With luck, the overall project will be completed in 2011 (there are 50 windows in all). Dennis Wright is overseeing the work. He will also undertake the painting of the west façade and tower in 2011. The stage floor may be refinished and some interior painting may also be scheduled for 2011, including the re-painting of the tables.

For the fifth year a Christmas tree was installed on the Common and a lighting ceremony with caroling was held on December 5th. As always, candles were set in the south windows of the Meetinghouse during the holiday season.

The Meetinghouse 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 current and past schedules of events, and the application and guidelines for use.

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

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

For front matter of Town Report:

MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

Kathy Batchelder  
Janet S. Grant  
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Selectmen's Representative  
Historic District Commission Representative  
Village Improvement Society Representative