

## 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 2011: Amos Fortune Forum (seven lectures), Monadnock Music (four concerts), Conant High School's 19th annual Shakespeare Festival, the 95th annual First Church Fair, and two weddings, a national Willa Cather conference, a flower show sponsored by the Dublin and Monadnock Garden Clubs, the annual meeting of the Monadnock Conservancy, one Downtown Series concert relocated because of rain and a session of Camp Quest. In August the newly cleaned and restored Grange curtain was lowered for the annual meeting of Jaffrey Historical Society. In September a Moderators' Forum was organized by the moderators of Dublin, Rindge and Jaffrey and all four State Representatives appeared for an evening of civic discussion. Several Town boards and committees met in the Meetinghouse one or more times. The Meetinghouse was also 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 11th 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 May 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 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.

Among the major projects in 2011: Dennis Wright continued the phased painting of the windows and completed the painting of the west end and tower. Andrew Webber rebuilt the front of the stage including the removal of the non-functioning foot lights. The entire stage floor was then sanded, stained and polyurethaned by Ron Cormier. Felt pads were placed on the feet of all the benches; and six new fire extinguishers were purchased and installed.

In 2012 the window painting will have been completed. Two major undertakings will be the replacement of the antiquated electric panel by Shea Electrical and the painting of the ceiling by Dennis Wright. (As best can be determined this major project was last done in 1922.) And the ramp leading to the Tower door will be rebuilt by Andrew Webber.

For the sixth year a Christmas tree was installed on the Common and a lighting ceremony with caroling was held on December 4th. As always, candles were set in the south windows of the Meetinghouse for 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, five weddings have already been booked. These and other private gatherings benefit the Town through rental fees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne LaBrie  
Janet S. Grant  
Robert B. Stephenson

For front matter of Town Report:

MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

Jeanne LaBrie  
Janet S. Grant  
Robert B. Stephenson

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