

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 2013: Amos Fortune Forum (seven lectures), Monadnock Music concert, Conant High School's 21st annual Shakespeare Festival, the 97th annual First Church Fair, a Midsummer Swedish Festival, one relocated Downtown Summer Concert Series concert, a memorial service and seven weddings. 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, co-sponsored the 13th 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 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 (overseen by Kevin Sterling and with the professional involvement of D'Avanza Clock Repair of Goffstown); annual testing of the fire alarm system by Monadnock Security and the fire extinguishers by Guyette Fire Protection; and the usual touch-up painting, oiling of exterior stairs and ramps and minor plumbing (Devlin & Sons).

The major project in 2013: Dennis Wright and his crew prepared and painted the walls and ceiling of the Tower entry.

In 2014 the north façade will be painted by Dennis Wright, the back entry porch will be repaired by Andy Webber and the floor of the main hall may be refinished if sufficient funds are available.

During 2013 rental fees for the use of the Meetinghouse totaled \$3,600. Capital expenditures totaled \$1,140. The balance of the Meetinghouse Trust Fund at the start of the year was \$14,201.66; at the end of the year, \$19,503.37. At last year's Town Meeting, \$3,000 was added to the fund.

For the eighth year a Christmas tree was installed on the Common and a lighting ceremony with caroling was held on December 8th. As always, candles are set in the south windows of the Meetinghouse for the holiday season and remain lighted until the end of January.

The Meetinghouse has its own webpage, hosted on the Town's website at <http://townofjaffrey.com>. Go to > Boards & Committees > Meetinghouse Committee. Here you will find, among other things, historical and financial 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,
Kathleen Batchelder
Janet S. Grant
Robert B. Stephenson

For front matter of Town Report:

MEETINGHOUSE COMMITTEE

Kathleen Batchelder
Janet S. Grant
Robert B. Stephenson

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