

## 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 2014: Amos Fortune Forum (seven lectures), Monadnock Music and Electric Earth concerts, Conant High School's 22nd annual Shakespeare Festival, Jaffrey Historical Society program, Monadnock Garden Club meeting, 98th annual First Church Fair, one memorial service and five 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 14th 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 Dick Boutwell 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 exposed wood and minor plumbing (Devlin & Sons).

The major projects in 2014: The north façade was painted by Dennis Wright and his crew, the back entry porch was repaired by Andy Webber, and the lightning protection systems was inspected and brought up to modern standards by Smokestack Lightning, Inc.

In 2015 selected windows showing deterioration will be prepared, re-glazed and painted by Dennis Wright. The south façade will either be painted in 2015 or 2016 depending on an inspection in the Spring of 2015. Touch-up painting may be sufficient. The informational sign on the west façade beside the entrance ramp to the Tower is now being restored and painted by Dennis Wright and should be reinstalled in the Spring.

During 2014 rental fees for the use of the Meetinghouse totaled \$2,450. Capital expenditures totaled \$11,425.09. The balance of the Meetinghouse Trust Fund at the start of the year was \$19,503.37; at the end of the year, \$13,494.88. At last year's Town Meeting, \$3,000 was added to the fund.

For the ninth year a Christmas tree was installed on the Common and a lighting ceremony with caroling was held on December 7th. 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 Town was fortunate to receive a grant close to \$20,000 from the NH Division of Historical Resources to undertake a detailed documentation of the Meetinghouse to include an historical narrative, large-format film photographs and measured architectural drawings. The consultants were chosen in October. The project will continue until the end of September. Full information on the project may be found at <http://www.rs41.org/CLG/clg.htm>.

The calendar for next season is beginning to fill. Other than the usual events, one wedding and one concert 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