

# Meetinghouse

## All mentions of the Meetinghouse from the Minute Books of the VIS.

Note: Some minutes and records are missing. Also, the period October 1914 through July 1920 is not included as the writing is not readable.

**July 12, 1911.**

At the house of Miss Alice Cutter.

Meetinghouse

“It was stated that as a result of Mr. Greene’s interview with the Selectmen last summer, some repairs were made in the belfry and elsewhere on the town hall building after which it was painted. Nothing further has been done to protect the building from further defacement by swallows. An electric light was placed near Mr. Cournoyer’s as was requested.”

**July 25, 1911.**

Fifth Annual Meeting [No 5].  
At the house of Misses Fox.

Meetinghouse

The town hall building has been repaired and painted at the suggestion of the Society as was also the curbing at the Shattuck Corner near the watering trough.

**September 6, 1912.**

At the house of Misses Fox.

Meetinghouse

“Miss Lucia Cutter and Mr. B.F. Cann were both asked to confer with the selectmen in regard to remedying the difficulty pertaining to the tower clock before winter.”

**July 5, 1913.**

At the house of Misses Fox.

Meetinghouse

“It was also stated that the town clock was put in order temporarily as winter was setting in, so that the clock might strike the hour, but not so that the bell could be rung. It was voted that Miss Mabelle Cutter should ask Guy Cutter to draw up a petition before the time of the Annual Meeting, which should be presented to the selectmen, requesting them to have the bell put in thorough working order by renewing timbers if necessary, the Conant fund for repairs on the old church probably being sufficient to pay for the same.”

Meetinghouse

“The practicability of securing a good piano for a few months in summer, to be places in the church probably, for use in sacred concerts, was also presented. ”

**July 30, 1913.**

Seventh Annual Meeting [No 7].  
At the house of Misses Fox.

Meetinghouse

“In accordance with the vote July 5, the petition was present and approved (by the Society) which had been drawn up by Guy H. Cutter, asking the Selectmen to repair the tower and steeple of the (town house) old church insofar as might be deemed sufficient to put it in good condition.”

**September 16, 1913.**

At the house of Misses Fox.

Meetinghouse

“It was reported that the Selectmen had expressed a willingness to repair the tower and steeple of the old church and had employed Mr. Cann to do the work. It appears, however, that through some misunderstanding the desired result is not to be accomplished. It had been intended by the Society that the bell should be provided with an iron yoke. Mr. Cournoyer, who has the care of the clock, was asked to explain to the Selectmen that the Society, in asking that the tower be put in good condition, meant to include specially the thorough equipment of the bell for ringing as in former years as well as for striking the house, and that it should be in condition to strike the hour in winter as well as in summer. It is thought by some that a new iron yoke should replace the old one of wood.”

**July 20, 1914.**

Eighth Annual Meeting [No 8].  
At the house of Misses Fox.

Meetinghouse

“Although the town clock does not always strike the hour, Mr. Cournoyer thought the work done by Mr. Cann at the request of the selectmen last fall to be satisfactory.”

**July 23, 1921.**

Annual Meeting [No 15]  
At the Academy.

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Robinson showed a window frame which was once in the old Church on the side next to the Manse through which the Bell Ringer used to watch for the approach of Rev. Laban Ainsworth, presented by Mr. Mortimer Cutter. It was stated that Miss Swazey has in her possession a fan window which was originally in the old Church which she would probably be willing to give to the Society, and Mrs. Robinson was appointed to interview Miss Swazey about this window.”

Meetinghouse

“On request of Miss Tilton, Mrs. Robinson brought up for discussion the project of the restoration of the interior of the Town Hall, replacing its rather unattractive present appearance, with as much of the original atmosphere when it was a church, as may be practicable, without interfering with its present uses. It is said that an old Church in Sandown near Exeter, N.H., is almost a replica of our old Church. Mrs. Harpham was appointed a Committee with Mrs. Robinson to see Mr. Noone about the old Sounding Board which is understood to be in his barn.— also to see Mr. Parker in regard to an Organ formerly used in the Church. Dr. Mills remarked that Mr. Annett is interested in the proposed restoration and would be willing to arouse interest in East Jaffrey. Mrs. Robinson suggested that we bear in mind the 150<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the founding of the town, in 1923, as an appropriate time for our goal in the restoration of the Church. Mrs. Strong thought that the Society of New England Antiquities might be willing to give us advice about the proposed restoration, and on request of Mrs. Robinson, she agreed to write to that Society about the matter. On the motion of Mr. Wetherell, it was voted to appoint a Committee to investigate the feasibility of restoring the Church and it was left to the President to appoint such a Committee, with all necessary power to carry on the work if found feasible.”

**September 10, 1921.** No location noted.

Meetinghouse “Mrs. Robinson appointed a Committee for the restoration of the Town Hall, consisting of the Committee for restoring the Academy.— Mrs. Robinson, Miss Kate Fox, Miss Tilton, Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Buck, Miss Emory, Mrs. Harpham, Mrs. Wetherell, with the addition of Mr. Cann, Mr. Mayo and Mrs. Mitchell.”

Meetinghouse “Mrs. Robinson then reported for herself and Mrs. Harpham, in regard to the Sounding Board of the old Church, that they found Mr. Noone away, and his wife assured them that he did not have it, as she had never heard of it. Miss Kate Fox stated that Mr. Noone had shown it to Miss Sheldon in his barn, and Mrs. Robinson proposed to take the matter up again with him.”

**July 31, 1922.** Annual Meeting [No 15, so stated; should be 16]  
At the Academy.

Meetinghouse “Mrs. Robinson speaking for the Committee for the restoration of the Old Meeting House, stated that she had appointed Mr. Wetherell and Mr. Young to serve with herself as a financial committee, with Mr. Young as Treasurer, to look after the funds; also that Mr. Jackson the architect will come up on Wednesday next, to confer with the Committee and Mr. Cann, who has consented to do the work.”

Meetinghouse “Dr. Bixler asked if any estimate had been made of the cost of the restoration of the Old Meeting House, and Mrs. Robinson replied that Mr. Jackson thinks the work may be done for \$6000. She read the draft of the letter she has prepared to send out to solicit pledges from those interested in Jaffrey, and remarked that even if we have to raise \$5000, she believes we can do it, to which Dr. Bixler heartily responded—”I believe you can.”

**September 11, 1922.** Committee meeting at Mrs. Strong’s.

Meetinghouse “Voted to open the Town Hall with a public reception with an oration as early as possible in July.”

Meetinghouse

“It was suggested that perhaps Mrs. Norman Torrey would decorate the curtain for the stage in the renovated Town Hall.”

**September 23, 1922.**

At the Academy.

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Robinson then read a letter from Mrs. Fred C. Demond, great grand daughter of Captain Samuel Adams, the builder of the first Meeting House...”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Robinson...stated that the special object of this meeting was to see whether we can meet the requirements of the Town for the restoration of the Town Hall. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Cann think it can be done for \$8000. including heating and lighting. On this supposition the Society will have to raise \$5000. During the past summer the following sums have been raised by our entertainments, Marionettes \$88. Play \$350. Miss Cann’s day at Tea room \$145. Mrs. Robinson talk at Shattucks. 76.10. Children’s two sales of flowers and candy. \$60.90. Garden Party at Mrs. Lawrence’s \$38, Mrs. Spencer’s Bridge party \$88. Academy Bridge \$45, making \$891. in all.”

Meetinghouse

“The time having arrived to take the vote of the Society in regard to this matter, on motion of Mr. Wetherell it was voted unanimously, that the Society undertake the obligation to raise the necessary funds for the restoration of the Town Hall (beyond the \$3000. voted by the Town) thereby meeting the requirements of the vote passed at Town meeting, on June 13, 1922, and that this vote be written and placed in the hands of the Committee appointed by the Town.”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Wetherell asked the President to give a resumé of what is planned to do, which Mrs. Robinson did, as follows: the door is to be put back in its original position in the middle of the south side. Mrs. Nightingale has promised to give us back the latch which is in her possession. The pointed window is to be restored to its original position in the middle of the north side. The Tower door is to be used as an entrance in cold stormy weather, with a dressing room and two toilet rooms (and the furnace below)[this last phrase crossed out].— The entrance to the stage is to be on the east end where there was originally a door. There are to be four small rooms, two on either side of the stage, one above and one below; three of these will be dressing rooms and one a store room, with electric attachments for heating water for tea, etc.. —there is to be gallery around three sides of the hall, and two flights of stairs.”

**July 30, 1923.**

Annual Meeting [Should be No 17]  
At the Academy.

Opens by saying last meeting was Sept. 23, 1922, so missing pages had no minutes on them.

Meetinghouse

“There has been one important and all engrossing object of interest. There being only one, it will require but a short report. This one great object of interest has been the renovation of the Old Meeting House,

Mr. Allen W. Jackson, architect, and Mr. B.F. Cann, contractor. It only requires a visit there to convince the most skeptical of the complete success of the undertaking an opportunity which was afforded to the public for the first time last Sat, night. Marie Nichols of Boston gave a delightful concert there, with Mr. Edward Ballantine as accompanist and assisting artist, which netted the Society about \$160. The cost of the renovation has been considerable, but contributions and entertainments have helped, and we are not burdened with a large debt; and we rejoice now that the work area was done right, and that the dignified and beautiful interior will be a credit to us and a joy to future generations.”

Meetinghouse

“Miss Haven spoke of the key to the Old Meeting House, which has been lately used rather promiscuously by the public. Mrs. Robinson having an appointment with the Selectmen on Saturday next, offered to take up with them the matter of appointing a Janitor to take charge of the keys. Miss Sheldon thought the greatest blot on the landscape, the ice cream stand recently erected on Mortimer Cutter’s land, which was open Sunday, and which there is a question whether they have a license.. Mrs. Robinson will take up that matter with the Selectmen, also the state of the road in front of the Old Meeting House.”

**September 17, 1923.**

At the Academy.

Meetinghouse

“It has been decided to try heating the Hall in the Old Meeting House, this winter, with two of the old stoves, placed in front of stage below, on either side.”

**July 26, 1924.**

Annual Meeting [Should be No 18]  
At Melville Academy.

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Cournoyer was asked to report on the work of laying out the grounds around the Town Hall. Mr. Cournoyer and Mr. Chamberlain have worked in accordance with the plan made by Mr. Whiting last Fall, improving the grading, widening the road, and moving it further from the building. Mr. Joel Poole’s gift of \$100. had been appropriated to this work, and Mr. Cournoyer said that it had been accomplished for \$80.”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Robinson reported that the piano tuner had said that the use of our grand piano for the dances at the Town Hall during the past winter had noticeably injured it could stand only a few years of similar usage.”

**July 25, 1925.**

Annual Meeting [Should be No 19]  
At Melville Academy

- Meetinghouse "The President then invited expressions of opinion as to the equipment of a stage curtain in the Old Town Hall..."
- September 5, 1925.** At Melville Academy.
- Meetinghouse "...the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Jaffrey had undertaken to assume the entire financial responsibility for necessary re-shingling of the roof of the Old Town Hall, instead of accepting the offer of the V.I.S. to advance without interest the sum needed for the work..."
- July 31, 1926.** Annual Meeting [Should be No 20]  
At Melville Academy.
- Meetinghouse "In regard to the Curtain for the Stage, Mrs. Robinson stated that the Committee had decided to get the curtain in time for the play, and that it been put up today, at which there was applause. It is a handsome red velvet curtain, bought at Paine's, at a cost of \$600. payable the first of October."
- July 30, 1927.** Annual Meeting [Should be No 21]  
At Melville Academy.
- Meetinghouse "Dr. Mills then read a very interesting letter from Mr. Gilchrist, concerning an enlarged photograph of Copley's painting of George Jaffrey, third, the godfather of our town, described in Bayley's "Life of Copley." Mr. Gilchrist's letter expressed a wish to present this photograph to the Village Improvement Society, to be hung in the Old Town Hall."
- Meetinghouse "Miss Kate Fox stated that Miss Lillian Sheldon had called on Mr. Albert Noone, and interviewed him about the old Sounding Board which was originally over the pulpit in the Old Meeting House. He [sic] that it was still in his possession, and that he would be glad to give it to our Society, together with some objects of interest."
- July 28, 1928.** Annual Meeting [Should be No 22]  
At Melville Academy.
- Meetinghouse "Mr. Mills then brought up the matter of the sounding board, formerly belonging in the old meeting house, promised to the Society by Mr. Noone. Miss Kate W. Fox reported that the letter mentioned in the report of the last meeting had been sent to Mr. Noone, but nothing further had been heard from him, and that the sounding board had not been received."
- Meetinghouse Pasted at bottom of page 5, a printed slip:

“Oct. 10th, 1928

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE JAFFREY VILLAGE  
IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY:

To complete the restoration of the Town Hall so that it can be used during the entire year, it has been found necessary to install a heating system. Proposals have been obtained from two heating companies, one of which from the Walker & Pratt Co., best meets the requirements. The cost of the installation will be six hundred and seventy-five (\$675) dollars. If it is your opinion that this work should be done, please so signify by marking and returning the enclosed ballot.

It is not planned to raise the funds by subscription but to borrow the above amount on the Society's note, same to be paid from the regular funds of the Society as they become available.”

**July 27, 1929.**

Annual Meeting [Should be No 23]  
At Melville Academy.

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Wetherell reported on the installing of a furnace in the Town Hall last fall, at a cost of \$600.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Chamberlain reported that the Town had paid for some shades for the windows in the Town Hall—and it was voted that a letter of thanks be sent to the Selectmen for doing this, and for the other things that they had done for the Hall.”

Meetinghouse

“Miss Kate Fox reported, in regard to the Sounding Board, that Miss Sheldon had been to see Mr. Noone, and that he said it could not be found anywhere on his premises and he was of the opinion that he never had had it.”

**July 26, 1930.**

Annual Meeting [Should be No 24]  
At Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“There remained one important piece of business to be considered, the question of installing lightning rods on the old Town Hall. Mrs. Wetherell had consulted the Hawkeye Co. of New Hampshire. They had figured the cost at \$275. She had consulted the Selectmen with the view of inducing them to help bear the expense, and after considerable persuasion, they had agreed to go halves.”

Meetinghouse

“Miss Kate Fox read a clipping about the bell which hangs in the Tower of the Town Hall, stating that the bell was made by Paul Revere 2<sup>nd</sup>. in 1823, but becoming cracked, was recast at the Watertown foundry in 1855.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Cann stated that he had examined the Tower of the Town Hall and had found some little defects which could easily be repaired when next painted, but that the hatch above the bell should be covered this fall, and the pigeons dislodged and kept out.”

**July 31, 1931.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 25]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Wetherell also stated that lightning rods had been installed on the Town Hall, and the tower repaired; that more work being needed than was at first thought necessary, she had interviewed the Selectmen who finally agreed to pay for it from the Conant fund. So now the roof is waterproof and there will be no more leaks. While on the subject of the Town Hall, Mrs. Wetherell spoke of the desirability of a new Stage entrance, and said that Mr. Cann had drawn up a plan which she had with her for inspection; the estimated cost being \$375. It would also be desirable now that the roof is repaired, to do over the inside of the Hall, paint and ceiling, and Mr. Cann had estimated the cost of this at \$400. ... Mrs. Wetherell left these two things for us to think about, and said she bring them again before the Society at the next annual meeting.”

**July 30, 1932.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 26]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“This amount being less than usual, it was not considered expedient to do over the Town Hall at present.”

**July 27, 1935.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 29]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The theme of the evening of main importance were necessary repairs on the Town Hall. While repairs on the inside of the hall are largely under the jurisdiction of the V.I.S., the outside of the hall is not. In that the Town Hall needs 2 coats of paint this next year as a matter of preservation as well as beauty, it was voted that Mrs. Wetherell be authorized to take this matter up with the selectmen and proceed as necessary to have an article inserted in the warrant for annual town meeting. The primary item of importance was the enlargement of the belfry entrance to town hall, the present conditions being unsanitary and inconvenient. It was voted that present toilet be removed and all necessary repairs be made as plastering, painting, installing a rail for coat hooks, also a lower one for the children, for a sum not exceeding \$45. This to be done later by Mr. Chas. E. Chamberlain.”

**July 25, 1936.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 30]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“Referring to the painting of the town hall Mrs. Wetherell expressed great satisfaction that through the kindness and supervision of one of the members of the V.I.S., Mr. L.C. Ryce, the work had been done most successfully. The first coat was put on in the fall and second one this summer...”

- Meetinghouse “The improvements in belfry entrance of town hall were admirably done by Mr. Charles E. Chamberlain and add much to the looks and usefulness of the hall. It now provides ample room for ticket selling, a serving room and a smoking room when so desired with handhewn pegs on wall for coats.”
- July 31, 1937.** Annual Meeting [Should be no 31]  
Melville Academy
- Meetinghouse “...screens have been made for entertainment purposes.”
- July 9, 1938.** Annual Meeting [Should be no 32]  
Melville Academy
- Meetinghouse “The matter of freshening the interior of the town hall was the next business of importance. Estimates had been received from Joseph Duval of \$598.00 and Auguste Bernier of \$300.00. After due consideration of the merits of each, it was voted to give the work to Bernier...”
- July 29, 1939.** Annual Meeting [Should be no 33]  
Melville Academy
- Meetinghouse “...and the two chimneys on town hall replaced having been blown down by hurricane.”
- Meetinghouse “The matter of inaccuracy of our town clock was brought up and it was voted that the President interview the Selectmen about this.”
- July 27, 1940.** Annual Meeting [Should be no 34]  
Melville Academy
- July 31, 1943.** Annual Meeting [Should be no 37]  
Melville Academy
- Meetinghouse “There has been no janitor for Town Hall for several years. For a time Mr. Dorr acted in that capacity. Through the kindness of one member the hall has been put in order. This will be done twice a year. It is hoped that any one using the hall will leave it in perfect order.”
- July 29, 1944.** Annual Meeting [Should be no 38]  
Melville Academy
- Meetinghouse “Glass missing in Town Hall, due to exuberance of youth, is to be replaced.”
- July 28, 1945.** Annual Meeting [Should be no 39]

Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Wetherell reported on Old Meeting House affairs. As there is no janitor the question of cleaning arose. Mrs. Fred Bunce offered to do it and did it most efficiently. ...

Bulkhead and foundation were in need of repairs. Selectmen were interviewed. They agreed to pay the bills and Mrs. Wetherell agreed to see that the work was done. Already a new bulkhead has been made and workmen hired to do the foundation repairs.”

**July 29, 1945.**

Executive & Finance’s Committees Report  
Home of Mrs. L.H. Wetherell at two o’clock.

**July 27, 1946.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 40]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The repair work on the old meeting house was completed with great satisfaction; north cellar wall straightened and cemented and cement gutter laid to protect foundation.”

Meetinghouse

“...were planning to give a Hobby and Collector’s show in the Old Meeting House on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> from 2 o’clock to 5 in the afternoon; 7 o’clock to 9 in the evening, admission to be \$1.00....

Meetinghouse

“The old Meeting House was put in order for the season with Mr. Harrington’s aid. ... Town hall will need painting. Selectmen to be interviewed in regard to this. Sanitary conditions in the hall must be considered as major repairs are needed and it is out duty to care for the interior.”

**July 26, 1947.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 41]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse  
Entertainments

Mrs. Bernbaum was called on for a report of the hobby show which was held in the Old Meeting House on August 24, 1946. Fine co-operation was shown by the members and all exhibit were works of art. It was truly a beautiful show with no expense to the society and netted \$200.”

**July 31, 1948.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 42]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The Old Meeting House was thoroughly cleaned and put in order the first of the summer. Window panes broken during the winter replaced; repair work done on irons[?] which hold back the curtains on the platform and everything now seems in good order. Painting of the exterior has been promised by selectmen for this summer and it was announced that the contract had very recently been signed for this work.”

**July 30, 1949.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 43]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“He reminded the society that in 1950, there would fall due about \$100 insurance on the Old Meeting House and \$45 on the furnishings of Old Meeting house.”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Harman was requested to inquire from the insurance company as to the regulations regarding smoking in the Old meeting house.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Farnham was announced as the custodian of the Old Meeting House, appointed by the Selectmen. A fee of \$5 is to be charged for the use of the hall, this sum to be applied toward the cleaning of the hall. The selectmen have promised to replace the old lights over the doors with suitable copies of antique lighting.”

**July 29, 1950.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 44]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The president reported that the floor of the Old Meeting House had been refinished by Mr. Farnham with the use of a sanding machine loaned by Mr. Homer Belletete, and is now in fine condition.”

Meetinghouse

“A letter read by Mr. Farnham asking permission to hold weekly square dances in the Old Meeting House hall. Being put to vote the request was refused.”

Meetinghouse

“The question has been asked about smoking in the Old Meeting House. Mr. Farnham said decidedly No.”

**July 28, 1951.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 45]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“He [the president] said that Oren Belletete expressed great interest in this part of the town and had provided the shingles for the south side of the roof of the Old Meeting house at a price far below the present cost of cedar shingles, and proposed to take care of the trees on the common, and mow the common.”

**July 25, 1953.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 47]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“Meeting House insurance 42.00”

**July 28, 1956.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 50]  
Melville Academy

<u>Meetinghouse</u>	“It is feasible and highly desirable to install a flush toilet in the Old Meeting House. There was no action taken on this.
<b>May 20, 1957.</b>	Meeting of the Executive Committee. No location mentioned.
<u>Meetinghouse</u>	“Advise any organization using the Old Meeting House that a fee of \$5 is charged.”
<b>June 14, 1957.</b>	Meeting of the Executive Committee. No location mentioned.
<u>Meetinghouse</u>	“Report on the installation of a flush toilet in the Old Meeting House. Mr. Mei gave an estimate of \$325 plus \$50 for digging. The digging price would depend upon whether or not ledges would be encountered. It was decided to proceed with this work, the money to be taken from the Finance Fund, to be replaced when possible.”
<b>Treasurer’s Report</b>	July 1, 1955 – June 30, 1956.
<u>Meetinghouse</u>	“Meeting House Insurance 100.00 Meeting House Furnishings Insurance 44.85”
<b>July 27, 1957.</b>	Annual Meeting [Should be no 51] Melville Academy
<u>Meetinghouse</u>	“Toilet facilities in the Old Meeting House had been sanitarily repaired and improved.”
<b>June 21, 1958</b>	Executive Committee Meeting Home of Mrs. Bernbaum.
<u>Meetinghouse</u>	“Some improvements on the Old Meeting House were discussed, such as a Tablet describing the history of the Old Meeting House, new lights over the entrances in keeping with the architecture of the building. Mr. Smith was appointed chairman to approach the Selectmen for permission to do these things (the V.I.S. is responsible <u>only</u> for the interior of the building).”
<b>July 26, 1958</b>	Executive Committee Meeting Home of Mrs. Bernbaum.
<u>Meetinghouse</u>	“Mr. Smith gave a detailed report on the matters of lanterns near the two doors of the Old Meeting House, and the Plaque giving a brief

history of the Old Meeting House. The Selectmen, who are agents for the Town which is responsible for the exterior of the building are willing for the Society to make these improvements at our own expense. Otherwise a warrant for the Town Meeting next March would have to be presented, and the Committee felt that this delay would be undesirable as well as doubtful of its passage. It was unanimously voted to limit the expenditure for the lanterns to \$50 and \$85 for the Plaque.

A careful discussion of the wording of the plaque resulted in the following, subject to the approval and revision of the Society at its Annual Meeting this evening.

ORIGINAL MEETING HOUSE  
TOWN OF JAFFREY  
ERECTED 1775  
RAISED THE DAY OF THE  
BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL  
USED FOR WORSHIP UNTIL 1844  
NAMES TOWN HOUSE JULY 5, 1855  
USED AS TOWN HALL AND SCHOOL  
TOWN USE DISCONTINUED 1914  
RESTORED 1922  
BY THE JAFFREY CENTER VILLAGE  
IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY  
IN COOPERATION WITH  
THE TOWN OF JAFFREY”

**July 26, 1958.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 52]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Bixler reported two projects which the Executive Committee had voted upon. (1) To install suitable lanterns over the doors of the Old Meeting House and (2) To place a plaque near the large door of the Old Meeting House, inscribed with a short history of the building. After a short discussion of the wording of the inscription, it was noted to include the name of Mrs. B.L. Robinson, President of the Society, at the time of restoration of the building.”

Meetinghouse

“Several suggestions were made to be passed on for consideration by the Executive Committee. (1) To cut several elms on the mountain road which now obscure the view of the Old Meeting House Tower which is visible further back, but which becomes lost due to these trees (William Torrey) (2) Safety of the Old Meeting House for such strenuous use as Square Dancing (Mrs. T. Page). (3) The sagging steps of the Old Meeting House entrances (4) Dying trees on the common (Sally Pierce).

**Treasurer’s Report**

July 1, 1957 – June 30, 1958

Meetinghouse

“Meeting House Toilet 315.49”

**October 11, 1958.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Mr. Farnham

Meetinghouse

“...the plaque has been placed on the Meeting House, at a cost of \$80.00 and...that the lanterns have been installed at a cost of \$45.50 (\$38 for the lanterns & \$7.50 for cost of installation.”

Meetinghouse

“The president reports that the Treasurer has engaged Mr. Felch to move forward and raise the steps at the entrance to the Meeting House...”

Meetinghouse

“The president next brought up the question of painting the interior of the meeting house. Two bids have been received, the lower from Harold Lang[?] of Troy who proposes to wash the walls, draw[?] the sashes, paint the woodwork (one coat with two where necessary) and replace broken window panes at a total cost of \$475, the work to be completed by June 1, 1959.” [Motion made and passed to authorize this.]

Meetinghouse

“The next item for discussion was the renovation of the window shades. O’Neil of Keene will furnish dark green oil shades of good quality for \$3.41 per shade, with a probable discount for the 43 shades.” [Motion made and passed to authorize this.]

**May 19, 1959.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Mr. Farnham

Meetinghouse

“A contract has been signed with Goodnow Bros. For window shades, individually cut and fitted and ready to be installed when the painting is done. Cost \$150.00.”

Meetinghouse

“There has been some question of the strength of the Meeting House floor, for square dancing etc. Carpenters have reported it satisfactory, but it has been decided to have the square dances this summer at the Peterborough Country Club.”

Meetinghouse

“There was some discussion of the question raised at the last annual meeting re cutting a clump of trees on the Mt. Road which obscure a view of the Meeting House Tower. Mr. Farnham has discussed this with Charlie Chamberlain. It would appear that this action involves too much trouble between the State, county and town.

**July 25, 1959.**

Annual Meeting [Should be no 53]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“...new lights have been installed, the plaque has been affixed to the outside wall, the steps have been repaired, new window shades installed and necessary interior painting done.

**Treasurer's Report**

July 1, 1958 – June 30, 1959

<u>Meetinghouse</u>	“Outside Lights	38.00	
	Wiring same	7.25	
	Plaque on Meeting House	80.00	
	Repairs to steps	31.95	
	Painting Interior	475.00	
	New Shades	150.00	
	Repairs to door	9.70	
	New lock and key	2.85	
	Cleaning	8.75	803.50”

**April 28, 1960.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Mr. Farnham

Meetinghouse “John Austin is now doing janitorial work at the Meeting House...”

**October 17, 1960.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Mrs. Wetherell

Meetinghouse “...the window shades in the meeting house had warped badly after the past winter.”

**July 3, 1962.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Location not given

Meetinghouse “They [the Selectmen] agreed to paint the meeting house next year and agreed that the trees should at least be trimmed of dead branches.”

**September 14, 1962.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Mr. Ford

Meetinghouse “The next item for discussion was our policy re: the status and care of the Meeting House. It is the responsibility of the Jaffrey Selectmen to give permission for its use to other organizations with the approval of the V.I.S. The VIS and the church should not be charged rental but should always continue to check with the Selectmen to keep the dates open.

The discussion about the lack of proper cleaning up after each use resolved in the decision by Mr. Ford to approach the Selectmen as to their attitude about assigning a janitor, with possible additional rental charge to cover.

The matter of the floor needing a complete sanding job and new resurfacing was discussed, and how and what to do subsequently to keep it in good condition.”

- January 24, 1963.** Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Mr. Ford
- Meetinghouse “In regard to the Meeting House, it was suggested that the Selectmen appoint some one to be responsible for putting the place in order, after use, and that the users pay for this service. The Committee agreed heartily that this is a good plan...”
- April 15, 1963.** Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Mr. Ford
- July 27, 1963.** Annual Meeting [Given as 56<sup>th</sup>; Should be no 57]  
Melville Academy
- Meetinghouse “...the Old Meeting House has been painted by the Town.”
- July 25, 1964.** Annual Meeting [Given as 57<sup>th</sup>; Should be no 58]  
Melville Academy
- Meetinghouse “...the floor has been sanded and varnished by the Town.”
- July 31, 1965.** Annual Meeting [Given as 58<sup>th</sup>; Should be no 59]  
Melville Academy
- Meetinghouse “The president reported the loss in a recent storm of the big maple tree in front of the Old Meeting House. The flood lights were hung on this tree and have now been placed on a pole.
- Meetinghouse “Mrs. Kitty Trimble told us of ideas which she has for the more frequent use of the Old Meeting House. She would like to see the building used for theatricals and concerts.”
- August 25, 1965.** Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of D. Glyn Millard
- January 10, 1966.** Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of D. Glyn Millard
- Meetinghouse “...the sign on the Meeting House has been repainted.”
- August 30, 1966.** Executive Committee Meeting  
Location not given

Meetinghouse “Mr. Green reported that the piano in the Meeting House was given by Mrs. Weselhof [sic], according to Mrs. Wetherell. [added in pencil: now stored in Sue de Wolfe’s barn.]”

Meetinghouse “Mr. Greene remarked that the blackout screens in the Meeting House be removed by the Forum Committee. He also stated that the loud speakers in the grilles, developed by John Torrey, provided excellent acoustics. Mr. Greene also felt that the sounding board should be restored to the Meeting House from the horse sheds where it now lies. He reminded the committee that the VIS is required to maintain properly the interior of the Meeting House, which included painting.”

**February 14, 1967.** Executive Committee Meeting  
Location not given

Meetinghouse “Dr. Millard read a letter from Dr. and Mrs. Norman Torrey generously asking that they be permitted to have built a proper stage in the Meeting House in honor of Jonathan Torrey, Dr. Torrey’s son. Permission was voted unanimously.

Mrs. Trumble moved that the Society place a bronze plaque in honor of Jonathan Torrey upon the finished stage.

Meetinghouse “Mrs. Trimble suggested that the lilac bushes by the Meeting House be properly pruned and manured.”

Meetinghouse “Mr. Green reported that Mr. Boudrieau had inspected the wiring in the Meeting House. He found it safe, but suggested that more outlets would be needed and higher voltage wiring provided for proper stage lighting.”

**April 24, 1967.** Executive Committee Meeting  
Location not given

Meetinghouse “It was noted that the outside steps of the stage side of the Meeting House need some repairs.”

**July 29, 1967.** Annual Meeting [Given as 60<sup>th</sup>; Should be no 61]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse “He [president] mentioned with appreciation the Norman Torrey Fund, which had risen to \$4,000, for the fitting up of the stage of the Meeting House in memory of Jonathan Torrey.”

Meetinghouse “Norman Torrey’s wish to refit the Meeting House stage in memory of Jonathan Torrey, with a bronze memorial plaque added, has been nearly fulfilled—only the rewiring remains to be inspected.”

**August 24, 1967.** Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of D. Glyn Millard

Meetinghouse           “\$5,000 insurance be taken out for the contents of the Meeting House.  
The interior of the Meeting House should be painted, especially the ceiling which is scaling badly. However, its calsomined surface would be costly to remove before paint could be applied.  
The floor of the Meeting House needs a careful cleaning; the waxing it received 18 months ago is not satisfactory. Mr. Belletete be consulted since he did the floor before.”

Meetinghouse           “Mr. Torrey suggested that the night lighting of the Meeting House be altered, having instead of a single beam focussed on the side of the building, lights placed along the roof to shine upon the tower, so it can be seen on the Keene road.”

Meetinghouse           “Fire extinguishers should be provided at each exist and in projection booth of Meetinghouse.”

Meetinghouse           “A letter of thanks should be sent to Mrs. Calking for her generous gesture in having hand rails installed at the Meeting House doors.”

Meetinghouse           “The president reported that the brass plate to commemorate Jonathan L. Torrey had been contracted for by S.M. Spencer, Peterborough. It should read as follows:

The Stage Renovated and Equipt in  
Memory of  
Jonathan L. Torrey  
1941–1967  
Who loved light and Drama  
and found their source  
on January 5, 1967”

**December 18, 1967.**       Executive Committee Meeting  
Location not given

Meetinghouse           “It was reported that \$750.00 will be required to rewire the Old Meeting House, including 3 strong lights outside t o illuminate the Meeting House. Mrs. Calkins has offered \$500 for lighting of Meeting House. Frank T. Eastman did the recent wiring work on the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse           “Frank Lindquist urged that the parking lot in front of the church on the Common be improved.”

**March 20, 1968.**       Executive Committee Meeting  
Location not given

Meetinghouse           A 3-page report from Kate Trimbball:

“The annual entertainment to raise money for the Village Improvement Society will be on Saturday, August 24th at 8 P.M. in the Old Meeting House. The offering will consist of two one-act plays. The First Play,

“Troll Magic” has a cast of children from Jaffrey Center, and two from Rindge, with ages ranging from eight to fourteen. The second play, “Paradise” has a cast of young adults, residents of Jaffrey Center. Tickets at \$1.50 apiece, can be purchased at the end of this meeting from Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Newbegin. I hope all of you will come and bring your children and your friends. Even the second play, “Paradise”, which is a comedy, is suitable for children to see...which is unusual today.

It was hoped that producing a V.I.S. Dramatic Entertainment, utilizing residents of Jaffrey Center, and the talents of various age-groups, would be far easier this summer than it has been in the past forty summers, because of the generous gift to the V.I.S. of the Norm an Torreys in memory of Jonathan, A well-equipped stage and dramatic lighting equipment is a great asset to the V.I.S. and the OLD MEETING HOUSE, which was preserved through the efforts of the V.I.S. under its first President, Mrs. Benjamin Robinson.

However, planning for this entertainment has been far more difficult this summer than ever before. No sooner was the stage properly equipped and the acoustics improved, than other organizations became eager to use the facilities of the Old Meeting House, That it should be used more frequently than it has been in recent years, is all to the good. But I doubt if many members of this organization would consider the “village had been improved” if the Old Meeting House was turned over to a summer stock company, a summer college or a summer concert group to the exclusion of activities by the residents of the town. That it should be used for diverse entertainments to benefit the community seems more in keeping with the concept of a village meeting house. It should be made available for entertainments of all kinds, but especially for organizations made up of residents of the community.

Because of the improved facilities, and the population growth of surrounding areas, the historic old building should be protected carefully against unnecessary damage or abuse. Although this thought was stated and urged repeatedly during the past winter, no definite set of rules for using the Old Meeting House and its new equipment was set up. This has already caused endless trouble and confusion. It will cause a good deal more this summer, unless something is done about it.

During the past years, the hall has stood unused during the month of June and most of July. This would appear to be a good time to schedule new activities and programs to benefit the community. For many years, it has been used in August by organizations in the town, such as the First Church Fair, the V.I.S. entertainment and the Amos Fortune Forums. This year the Jaffrey Historical Society is planning a show in the hall the latter part of August. It is my opinion that these traditional groups should have first priority in the hall at this time of year. They should not be discommoded by other organizations not indigenous to Jaffrey, no matter how worth while they may be,

As far back as February, plans were discussed about using the Old Meeting House for a series of free concerts. . . an activity that is indeed well worth while. Unfortunately, these concerts were scheduled for

Thursday and Sunday nights from July 25 through August, with exclusive use of the hall for many hours of rehearsals. Although a calendar was set up in duplicate to handle the difficult schedule accommodating all five groups, there was no coordinator named by the town or the V.I.S. to maintain overall supervision of the activities in the hall.

As the hall will be in use seven days a week, it is obvious that to keep each organization reasonably content, a lot of time must be taken by each group to clear the hall and the stage area of all their equipment after each use, to make room for the next scheduled event. Time had to be planned long in advance for periods in which the premises would be cleaned for the next public performance. It is also obvious that any disturbance or change in the posted schedule would affect each organization adversely, as well as making the cleaning of the hall unnecessarily difficult.

As I was appointed to oversee the renovating of the stage, producing the V. I. S. Entertainment and running the backstage activity for the Forum, I was put in charge of the person who was procured by Mr. Christian, a town selectman, to keep the Old Meeting House clean and send the bills for this service to the proper organization. No one in a responsible position in the Concert Group has bothered to contact me. The nice young musicians are sent to the hall with no directions as to how or when it is to be used. None of the private individuals residing in Jaffrey who sponsored the Music Group has offered to be at the hall when the out of town group is using it. Therefore there have been misunderstandings connected with the use of the hall and its equipment. These have caused considerable trouble to the musicians, to me, and yesterday... to the Forum Committee.

The President of this organization, Dr. Millard, announced in January that he was so anxious to have the Concert Group come to Jaffrey that nothing must stand in the way of their having complete use of the hall whenever they wanted it. As a private individual, he had a right to this opinion, However, he stated further, that should preparation for the V.I.S. entertainment interfere with the concert group in any way, he would cancel the V.I.S. moneymaking project entirely, in favor of the Free Concerts. With this dubious backing for our endeavors, it has not been easy to plan and prepare for a money-making project for which a great deal of the new equipment was designed.

It is my hope that when the time has come at this meeting for proposing and discussing new business, that the membership vote on a plan of procedure for the use and preservation of their equipment in the Old Meeting House, and also vote on making a recommendation to the Selectmen of the Town of Jaffrey which will include suggestions for rules governing the use of the hall and definite fees to cover the use and replacement of the new facilities. I hope this organization will also recommend that a Director be appointed from the V.I.S. by the town Selectmen to coordinate all phases of the use of the Old Meeting House in future.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kate Trimble”

**July 27, 1968.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 61st; Should be no 62]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

Kate Trimble’s Report was presented [see above].

“Votes: that the Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society give Mrs. Katharine Trimble the authority to care for and protect the Village Improvement Society property with the Meeting House in Jaffrey Center, and to have the authority to obtain help, if necessary, to maintain this protection; and if any V.I.S. equipment is used, that the organization using the property should be responsible for its costs.”

**August 18, 1968.**

Extracts from a copy of a 3-page letter to William Coleman from Katharine G. Trimble regarding Monadnock Music and use of the Meetinghouse.

Meetinghouse

“Because I know that none of you understood the problems involved, and because I know that the musical entertainments would not have great financial backing, I was willing to give my time to preserve property and order in the Old Meeting House. I have been trying to prevent damage to the hall and to save the Music Group added expenses, by supervising all activities in the hall, personally.

I found this was arduous, but absolutely necessary. The musicians left lights on, windows open, doors unlocked and ground-out cigarettes on the auditorium floor, as well as cigarette ashes and matches on the stage floor. Closing opened windows in the Old Meeting House is difficult for one person alone, but I had to do it several times.

Last Thursday, when I went to check the hall after the concert, I reminded Mr. Bolle that the windows should be closed, and was treated to a temper tantrum before witnesses. I did not care to be the unpaid recipient of any more of this type of artistic temperament, which is not unusual, but was unfortunate under the present circumstances.”

**September 18, 1968.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of D. Glyn Millard

Meetinghouse

“The President read a letter from Mr. Bill Torrey, Selectman, suggesting that the Selectmen await the action of the Executive Committee on the censure action against Mrs. Trimble before the Selectmen can plan the activities involving the Meeting House. However, the Executive Committee failed to take action on the Trimble case. This despite

- 1) her repeated violation of the “No Smoking” rule in the Meeting House;
- 2) her having locked all doors to the Meeting House, even using chains and padlock to prevent others who were authorized to enter the building;

- 3) her autocratic refusal to cooperate with the several groups that had been given permission to use the Meeting House during the summer of 1968; and
- 4) her untrue accusations against the President of the V.I.S., Mr. Wm. Coleman, and Mr. Wm. Torrey.”

The Executive Committee moved and voted unanimously that the Town Selectmen be responsible for the scheduling of the Meeting House, and that they delegate an individual to be responsible for the Meeting House during its use. This individual may be a member of an organization that desires to use the building. It is also suggested that a written agreement be made between each organization using the Meeting House and the Selectmen of Jaffrey.

The V.I.S. Executive Committee moved, seconded and voted unanimously to call a special meeting of the V.I.S. members on October 16<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8 p.n. for the purpose of resolving the Trimble dilemma by a vote of the membership. [Note in margin says: ‘omit.’]

Meetinghouse

“It was voted to return the check of \$30.00 paid for the use of the Meeting House by the Historical Society for its excellent “Dress Rehearsal” of historic costumes.”

**October 16, 1968.**

Notice of Special Meeting  
Civic Center 8 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“The following business is to be discussed and necessary action taken:  
4. The motion passes at the last Annual Meeting of the Society concerning the delegation of authority to care for and protect the V.I.S. property in the Jaffrey Meeting House.”

**September 10, 1969.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Newbegin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Richardson stated that six white benches were stolen from the Meeting House. He had had six gray benches moved from Melville, Academy to replace these six in the Meeting House balcony. He was returning them immediately to the Academy. He said he would investigate and report on other possible replacements at the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Richardson brought up the matter of service and cleaning of the Meeting House last summer and related events. The music people had not cleaned up after use nor paid for three \$8-dollar bulbs. It was agreed that they would be billed and that the V.I.S. would pay for the one bulb that was burned out during the “Mark Twain” reading sponsored by Mr. Wise. A discussion followed in which the responsibility of the Selectman for scheduling functions and for cleaning was reaffirmed. It was pointed out that private property should not be stored in the Meeting House and that Mrs. Trimble had not removed certain property including flats which belonged to her.”

Meetinghouse

“There was a discussion of the squeaking floors and stairs of the Meeting House. It was agreed that they should be repaired and that this might be done in conjunction with the Amos Fortune Forum which, it was understood, might be able to help financially.”

**July 15, 1970.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Newbegin

Meetinghouse

“The condition of the interior of the Meeting House was discussed and it was thought by some that there may be a leak in the roof producing some discoloration of one of the walls and part of the ceiling.

Meetinghouse

“Voted: to buy six benches at a cost of \$460.00.”

**July 25, 1970.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 63rd; Should be no 64]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The president introduced the question of repainting the interior of the meeting house. He reported the roof to be in very bad shape, with holes. A general estimate was \$6,000 for wooden shingles and perhaps half that amount for asphalt shingles. There was discussion, but not action pending action of the town at the March meeting.”

**October 9, 1970.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Newbegin

Meetinghouse

“Fred Richardson reported that six new benches have been put in the Meeting House. They can be taken to Melville Academy any time they may be needed,”

Meetinghouse

“Discussion of the re-shingling of the Meeting House roof. The Town is responsible but might not vote for wood shingles which would be much more expensive but would be authentic restoration and in keeping with the Historic Commission. It was unanimous that wood shingles should be used.

The motion was passed that if necessary the V.I.S. will assume responsibility for the difference in cost for wood shingles, which difference would be \$3,000.”

**July 20, 1971.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Location not given

Meetinghouse

“It was decided to seek the advice of the State Fire Marshall, Herbert Whitney as to the maximum seating capacity of the Meeting House,

according to State Fire Regulations, this number to be posted within the building.”

Meetinghouse

“It was noted that the exterior painting of the Meeting House would be financed by the Town of Jaffrey, the interior by the V.I.S., with permission of the membership at the Annual Meeting. Also to be brought before the membership is a cost estimate of this painting as well as other interior repairs to the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“Questions not resolved were concerning payment by groups using the Meeting House and control of smoking within the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“Fred Richardson made known a willingness on the part of the Amos Fortune Forum to donate to the expenses of repairs to the interior of the Meeting House.”

**July 31, 1971.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 64th; Should be no 65]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The need to paint the interior of the Meeting House would come up for discussion later in the meeting.

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Newbegin commended Mr. William Torrey, Mr. Don Proctor and Mr. Fran Quinlan for their efforts in putting an article in the Town Warrant with regard to repairing the wooden shingle roof at the Meeting House. This has now been done and the interior is ready for painting. The new president will appoint a Decorating Committee to look after this.”

Meetinghouse

“A motion was made and passed that the Executive Committee be authorized to proceed with the arrangements for painting the interior and to expend in its discretion any funds necessary for such painting and repairs in connection therewith, including the stairs.”

Meetinghouse

“A discussion of fire hazards at the Meeting House, which is increased by the use of the building for the Monadnock Music program. Paul Leach, Fire Chief, has been asked to survey the building and report on safe capacity. He will also be asked about the safety lights, the fire alarm, lightning rods, and whether insurance would be invalidated if there is smoking in the building.

It was urged that the No Smoking rule be emphasized and John Poole will be responsible for following through on the observance of the rule. Mr. Richardson has been in touch with the Monadnock Music chairman, who will stress this again with the musicians.”

**September 8, 1971.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Coburn Kidd

Meetinghouse “It was noted that keys to the Meeting House are now held by Richard Cunningham, Frederick Richardson and the Town Office.”

Meetinghouse “Mr. Kidd appointed the following committee for painting the interior of the Meeting House: Walter Greene, Bill Torrey, Schuyler Van Santford and either Leonard or Helen Krause.”

Meetinghouse “Fred Richardson recommended refinishing, the floor at this time. It was the sense of the meeting that estimates could be obtained separately or together for the horseshed roofs, the carpentry work on the stairs, the interior painting and the floor, and that bids could be obtained from Fred Carpenter, Belletete, Brodmerkle and others, as desired by the committee.”

“It was suggested that the Amos Fortune Forum might make a contribution toward the painting and Mr. Kidd will pursue this when the bids are in.”

Meetinghouse “The meeting reviewed the use of the Meeting House and established that the Selectmen are authorized to grant permission but that they are open to the views of the V.I.S.”

Meetinghouse “The problem of operating the expensive and complicated lighting systems at the Meeting House was brought up. Mr. Kidd will talk with Mr. Eastman who installed them, and with Norman Torrey who donated them in memory of Jonathan Torrey. It is hoped that we can get directions in order to make better use of them.”

Meetinghouse “Mr. Kidd brought up the question of a custodian for the Meeting House during the summer. It was agreed this is a necessity. He will talk with the Selectmen about it and will cooperate with them in selecting a man. The V.I.S. and the Amos Fortune Forum will finance this (on a reimbursable-by-use basis).”

**February 1, 1972.** Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Coburn Kidd

Meetinghouse “Mr. Krause had drawn up specifications for the painting of the interior of the Meeting House and the meeting voted to accept the bid from Mr. Excel of Keene for \$6,140. The painting is to be done in April and May and completed by June 1st. Mr. Cunningham will stand by if Mr. Kidd has to be away during the painting of the building.”

Meetinghouse “Mr. Greene reported that some work has been done on the stairs by Mr. Brodmerkle. This work of tightening, etc., plus carpeting, should do a great deal to cut down the noise. Mr. Belletete will be asked for an estimate on carpeting the stairs.”

Meetinghouse “The need for new lighting fixtures at the Meeting House was discussed. The meeting authorized the Painting Committee to buy suitable fixtures at their discretion with available funds. Mr. John Poole will serve on this Committee to assist with regard to the style of the fixtures. The fixtures should be purchased in time to be installed while

the scaffolding is up.”

Meetinghouse

“The meeting noted that Mr. Townsley French had been appointed by the Town to be custodian of the Meeting House. He is to be remunerated by users of the building during the summer season when the building is in use at the rate of \$2.50 per hour. This was understood to be the rate used in the neighboring First Church of Jaffrey. For incidental assistance as custodian during the course of the year the meeting voted to give Mr. French an honorarium of \$100 this fiscal year.”

Meetinghouse

“The meeting noted that the question of janitor services for the Meeting House had also been raised by Mr. Christian, Selectman. Mr. Christian thought that Mr. James Roberts of Jaffrey would be available for the job if the V.I.S. wished to employ him. It was the sense of the Executive Committee that janitor’s services might well be needed but this should be the responsibility of the Town. Mr. Kidd was requested to discuss the matter with the Selectmen. (See Memorandum of conversation 2/3/72).”

Meetinghouse

“It was the sense of the meeting, for the record, that the Meeting House might appropriately be used for amateur theatricals, as it often had been in the past, or any other suitable purpose, if authorized by the Town and practical arrangements worked out. It was understood that Monadnock Music hoped to reserve Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons as in the past, and the Amos Fortune Forum Friday evenings. Except for the pianist, the building had not been used by Monadnock Music for rehearsals last season.”

**June 27, 1972.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Coburn Kidd

Meetinghouse

“The Meeting House has been painted and it is an excellent job, thanks especially to Fred Carpenter, foreman of the painting crew. A check for \$6,140 will be sent to the contractor, Stephen Exel.”

Meetinghouse

“The contribution of \$2,000 from the Amos Fortune Forum has been used to pay for the purchase and installation of new lighting fixtures. There is a balance of a couple of hundred dollars still in reserve. The four large chandeliers purchased in Boston cost \$1195. Mary Kidd donated the two wall fixtures. The chandelier in the tower vestibule was purchased in Fitchburg with the help of Wilfred Boudrieau for \$54. The retail list price was \$135. Mr. Boudrieau’s bill was \$568.58, which included the chandelier and heavy voltage fixtures for the dimmer system, about \$300. The balance was wiring and labor costs.”

Meetinghouse

“The Chickering grand piano in the Meeting House was given to the V.I.S after World War I by Mr. and Mrs. Wesselhoeft. It has much sentimental, but no longer great practical value. Mr. Russell on Thorndike Pond Road is married to one of the Wesselhoeft heirs. Dr. Millard will contact him to see if they would like the piano back or have any suggestions for its disposal,. Otherwise the Executive Board will consider what to do with it bearing in mind that it will continue to

deteriorate if left where it is. The record fully indicates the gratitude of the V.I.S. for this gift from the Wesselhoefts, which was highly valued and often used in the old days.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Kidd recommended that Mr. French be paid \$40 for his services during the painting and renovation of the Meeting House. The Board authorized this.”

Meetinghouse

“Walter Greene was not present but under his Buildings Committee jurisdiction it was noted that the renovation of the Meeting House was completed. Some work might be needed on the windows at the Meeting House (including screens and new shades) and this will be taken up at a future time.”

**July 29, 1972.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 65th; Should be no 66]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The principal business this past year has been the repainting of the Meeting House interior, the installation of new lighting fixtures, and the re-roofing of the horsesheds. This came to a total of \$9,788.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Kidd reported that the Amos Fortune Forum had made a generous donation of \$2,000 toward the redecoration of the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“The president announced the appointment of Mr. Townsley French of the nearby Figaro Bookstore as Custodian of the Meeting House. Mr. French is in charge of the keys and should be contacted by anyone wishing to get into the building. Permission for use of the building must come through the Selectmen. Users are to pay Mr. French the customary \$2.50 an hour custodial fee. In view of the special interest of the V.I.S., a small annual donation will be made to the Custodian, who is of help in many ways.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Walter Greene reported for the Buildings Committee and said the major project had been the redecoration of the Meeting House. He also reported a large dead elm in the Cemetery which should be judiciously removed. Even though this might be the province of the Town, the sense of the meeting was that the V.I.S. Executive Committee be authorized to attend to it.”

Meetinghouse

“The need for painting the exterior of the Meeting House was brought up. Since this falls within the province of the Town fathers, the chairman invited signatures for a petition to include an authorization in next year’s Town Warrant. Mr. Torrey suggested that the Chairman discuss the matter, by appointment, with the Selectmen; a petition might not be necessary.”

**Treasurer’s Report**

July 1, 1971 – June 15, 1972

Meetinghouse

“Painting and wiring Meeting House 6,787.49”

Meetinghouse

“Chandeliers for Meeting House 1,196.05”

**November 1, 1972.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Coburn Kidd

Meetinghouse

“Molly MacCready’s report on Buildings brought the information that Clyde Felch had examined the floor of the Meeting House and found it in excellent condition. He recommended that several grills be installed in the basement for circulation of air, and the Selectmen have agreed to take care of this.”

Meetinghouse

“Fire Chief, Paul Leach, reported that fire extinguishers were needed both at Melville Academy and the Meeting House. The Town Fathers will pay for those at the Meeting House and the V.I.S. will pay for those at Melville Academy. Mr. Leach win got those for us at a discount.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Leach also recommended that the cardboard wastebaskets be replaced with metal ones and this has been done by the V.I.S. at a cost of \$14.”

Meetinghouse

“The meeting also voted to sponsor a Square Dance, in the Meeting House, possibly on August 4th or 11th, the date to be discussed with Mr. Gordon of the Town Bicentennial Committee. Mrs. Tribble [sic] will make necessary arrangements. Mr. Laufman of Canterbury, N.H. would be engaged. Tickets would be limited to the size of the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“It was suggested that Mr. Kidd obtain prior estimates on the cost of painting the exterior of the Meeting House in order to have a reasonable figure to put in the Town Warrant. The meeting agreed that the V.I.S. would consider assisting with regard to costs that might be incurred. It was agreed that the specifications should a for a brush job, not spray painting as was done last time.”

Meetinghouse

“The possibility of fresh planting near the side doors (facing the green) of the Meeting House will be considered after the building has been painted.”

**June 26, 1973.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Coburn Kidd

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Kidd reported for Molly MacCready, Buildings Chairman, that the repairs at the Meeting House have been completed. This included louvres for ventilation of foundation; new back stairs; new lock in tower door; window glass replaced; fire-proofing curtain; lightning rods renewed; and fire extinguishers.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Kidd said the plaques for the Meeting House and Horsesheds are at the painter’s. He hopes they will soon be ready.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Kidd reported that George Merriam has been engaged as Custodian for the Meeting House. The meeting approved a payment of

\$100 to him at the end of the summer, this to include his fee for the Country Dance, plus a bonus for miscellaneous services.”

Meetinghouse

“The most expensive item requiring approval was the \$750 for gold leaf on the Meeting House clock and weather vane. The Chairman reported that he had obtained by telephone and personally, the approval of a majority of the Board and a number of local residents. He had first tried to economize by having gold paint used, but this economy met with little support.”

Meetinghouse

“The Chairman reported the following with regard to the Wesselhoef grand piano. It could be put in minimum serviceable condition for about \$200; into quite serviceable condition (action reconditioned) for about \$400; and if \$1,200 to \$1,500 were spent on it, it might be worth as much as \$3,000 if a buyer could be found for it. He said further that the Monadnock Music group would like very much to be given the piano on permanent loan, or as an outright gift, and that they would take care of removing it and repairing it. It was the feeling of the Board that the question should be brought to the Annual Meeting for a vote but with the recommendation that the piano be given to the Monadnock Music group who would use and appreciate it as it deserves.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Kidd asked for discussion of the policy that no food or drink be allowed in the Meeting House for wedding receptions or other occasions. It was agreed, particularly since the renovation, that this policy be strictly adhered to in the future, especially to avoid the danger of smoking, the attraction of vermin, and the expensive reconditioning of the hardwood floor.”

**July 28, 1973.**

Annual Meeting [number not given; Should be no 67]  
Notation: For Press  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The painting of the exterior of the Meeting House was done this June by the Town of Jaffrey.”

Meetinghouse

“The lighting systems in the Meetinghouse is being repaired by Homer Sawtelle to the extent that it may be used for the Historical Society’s Fashion Show on August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Katharine Trimble is in charge of lighting and staging for the Historical Pageant.”

Meetinghouse

“The disposition of the 1890 Chickering grand piano which had been given by Mrs. Wesselhoeft in 1919 was discussed. ...the meeting voted to give the piano to the Monadnock Music group which had expressed great interest in it.”

**July 28, 1973.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 66th; Should be no 67]  
Melville Academy  
To supplement the entries above, prepared for the press.

Meetinghouse

“As last year’s major activity was the painting and redecorating of the interior of the Meeting House, this year the painting of the exterior was a priority. A Town Warrant resulted in an appropriation of \$8,000 for this purpose and the job has been done. The V.I.S. was responsible for the gold leaf on the hands of the clock and weathervane and since this involved an expenditure of \$750, Mr. Kidd consulted members of the Executive Committee and a number of long-time members for the decision. Opinion was overwhelmingly in favor of gold leaf rather than machinist paint.

**November 6, 1973.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Richard Cunningham

Meetinghouse

“The question of keys and new locks for the Meeting House was brought up. Mr. Kidd reported that the longer he remained in office the more keys he kept discovering for the Meeting House. A set was possessed by the Town Office. There was a set for the president, and another for the Custodian. George Sirois, who wound the clock, had a key, as did Mrs. MacCready, chairman of the Buildings Committee. William Torrey appeared to have a hereditary key. Kate Trimble had retained a key to the stage door. Once when some of the musicians were demonstrating how the main door could be opened, even though locked, by a slight shove of the toe, they mentioned that James Bolle had told them that any time they could not find the Custodian, they could obtain a key from the Frenches or the Village Shop.

Mr. Kidd suggested it might be time to have a new Yale lock for the stage door, have the main door made firm, with a new lock if necessary, and to have a limit of five keys for the tower door ... (1) the president (2) the custodian (3) Mr. Sirois (4) the Town Office, and (5) the Buildings Chairman.

The meeting agreed that the Chairman of the Buildings Committee should look into the matter of keys and locks and do what was necessary. Suggested that Henry Gallup might be employed to fix the main door and replace the Yale lock on the stage door.”

Meetinghouse

“Mention was made of Dr. Mosshammer’s impression that somebody had been holding a party in the Meeting House on Halloween. Mr. Cunningham believed Dr. Mosshammer had been mistaken since he had had a look around. There were a number of cars parked there that night but the party was in the former French house which students now rent.”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Merriam asked whether the Meeting House clock must always be wrong. Mr. Greene explained that the old clock was hand-tailored and when anything broke the parts had to be specially made. He thought remarkable progress had been made; even the clock hands on the cemetery side now function, which is more than they used to do.”

Meetinghouse

“Although the Monadnock Music Trustees had expressed their appreciation for the piano, the piano had not yet been removed from the Meeting House. James Bolle had intimated that fewer sessions in Jaffrey Center might be preferable next summer since the musicians

desired a place where they would not have to be constantly moving their piano and harpischords.”

**April 17, 1974.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Richard Cunningham

Meetinghouse

“Molly MacCready, Buildings Chairman, reported that Henry Gallup has started work on repairing doors and changing looks at the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“Coburn Kidd reported that Monadnock Music wished to use the building one Sunday evening in June for a performance by Bramwell Fletcher for the benefit of Monadnock Music. They also requested the use of the building for Sundays and Thursdays as in the past. The meeting approved.”

Meetinghouse

“Monadnock Music has not yet removed the piano and Dick Cunningham will follow through on this.”

Meetinghouse

“Dudley Laufman had requested the use of the Meeting House for square dancing on Wednesday evenings through the summer, either as a sponsored activity or for a reasonable donation. For the following reasons the meeting decided they did not wish to have the building used for this purposes 1. The floor might not hold up. 2. Smoking would be difficult to control. 3. Moving the chairs in and out would be damaging. 4. In consideration of those living near the Meeting House, it was felt that enough activity is already scheduled. 5. The dances would not be for our local people so much as for Mr. Laufman’s following. 6. We have a responsibility toward the building as a historic heritage.”

Meetinghouse

“The meeting voted to ask George Merriam to be Custodian again this summer, with two considerations: 1. Anyone using a key be required to sign a book so that there will be a record from which to track down lost or forgotten keys. 2. The Independent Help Co. of Jaffrey do a special cleanup job at the beginning and end of the summer.”

**July 9, 1974.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Richard Cunningham

Meetinghouse

“She [Molly MacCready] said the doors have been repaired and the looks changed at the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Kidd said that some repair painting had been done at the Meeting House by Fred Carpenter, the painter who had done the recent painting. While Mr. Carpenter did not bill the VIS, Mr. Kidd felt he should be paid for his time and a token for the paint, and suggested \$30. The meeting voted to do so.”

**July 26, 1975.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 68th; Should be no 69]  
Melville Academy  
Attendance not given

Meetinghouse

“It was discovered this summer that both of the velvet curtains on the stage of the Meeting House had been badly scorched due to the twisting of lamps by Monadnock Music last year. Fortunately, the curtains were only scorched, not set on fire, but the repairs or replacement will be expensive and the matter is now under discussion with both Monadnock Music and the insurance company. Other abuses and damage to stage lighting were mentioned, and continued smoking offences by the musicians. Coburn Kidd suggested that in case of lack of cooperation in repairs, Monadnock Music be required to post a bond to cover damages in future.”

Meetinghouse

“...Molly MacCready...reported that windows have been repaired in both Melville Academy and the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“Under new business, Charles Bacon suggested widening the blacktop parking area by the Meeting House which has to be plowed for snow. He is going to try to put an article for this in the town warrant.”

**July 20, 1976.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of David Gourd

Meetinghouse

“There was discussion of the use of the Meeting House by Monadnock Music Group. Nothing, has been done about the scorched curtains. After some discussion it was agreed that, because the damage is not too noticeable, the matter should be mentioned once (more?) to Mrs. Skinner then forgotten. More serious is the fact that some of the musicians are still smoking in the building. This poses an insurance problem. Mr. Kidd said that Mr. William Coleman is the person to approach on such a question.”

Meetinghouse

“The Board was not enthusiastic about the widening the black top at the Meeting House.”

**July 31, 1976.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 69th; Should be no 70]  
Melville Academy  
Attendance not given

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. MacCready, for the Building Committee, reported a shift of a couple of stones in the Meeting House foundation. This matter has been reported to the selectmen.”

**May 17, 1977.**

Executive Committee Meeting

Home of David Gourd

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Gourd reported that the selectmen are concerned about the use of the meeting house and questioned who had the responsibility for giving permission and setting and enforcing rules. Mr. Kidd suggested that the schedule be studied and revised. He said that the town owns the building and that there should be a custodian. It is most practical to have someone who lives in the center and who is easily available. Mr. Gourd agreed to meet with the selectmen to revise the price schedule. Mr. Kidd agreed to check with the Cunningham boys who have been very good about cleaning the building.”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. MacCready reported that the town meeting voted to electrify the meeting house clock. All old parts not used will be saved.”

**August 23, 1977.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Gourd brought up the fact that the floor covering of the Meeting House stage is in very bad condition. It is some kind of fabric and is frayed and ripped. He thinks it is so dangerous it should be replaced. Mr. Brandin, Mr. Angeloro and Mrs. MacCready will check on this. Mr. Brandin said he also believed the curtains need cleaning.”

**February 13, 1978.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin reported that he had solicited estimates for the exterior painting of the Meeting House, using the specifications which were used for the last painting job. He received from Carpenter of Keene \$5800 and from Griffin of Jaffrey \$4500. As a result, an article has been placed in the town warrant for the allocation of \$5000. He has requested but not received estimates for interior painting, which is the responsibility of the Society, from the same two painters. If the interior is to be painted, there are other jobs that should logically be done at the same time. Mr. Brandin has gotten estimates for the replacement of the draperies from Caprone: \$1000 plain or \$1215 with a denim lining. The installation cost would be \$375. The floors need attention. The canvas on the stage is in dangerous condition, being so badly worn. Painting of the stage floor would cost \$350 - 425 and painting of the rest of the floor would be \$300 - 350.

MOTION- Mr. Kennedy moved and Mrs. Rich seconded the following motion.

The Executive Committee delegates to Mr. Brandin the authority to proceed with the interior painting and the replacement of draperies.”

Meetinghouse

“It was also suggested that a railing at each door of the Meeting House would be desirable. Mr. Brandin said he would bring this up with the Selectmen.”

**March 27, 1978.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin reported that he had had a letter suggesting railings at the Meeting House, that he had spoken of this to the selectmen who thought it a good idea. They will have railings installed at each door.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin further stated that it was up to us to appoint a custodian. It was agreed that we would like to have Dick Cunningham Jr. serve in this capacity and asked Mrs. Cunningham to write him to this effect.”

Meetinghouse

“Cathy Torrey came to present her request for use of the Meeting House. She has applied to the selectmen for permission to have contradancing there after her wedding on May 20. There was some opposition because of a ruling against dances there made a couple of years ago. She pointed out that this ruling was directed at public dances and that hers would be private and easily controlled. Her reception will take place at the manse. The guests would provide their own music. No food or liquor would be served there. Toilet facilities would be at the manse. At the most there would, be 100 people with most use in the early evening. They would certainly be through by 12 and would agree to be out at 11. Mr. Brandin pointed out that the three concerns about the use of the building were: the fire hazard, the use of food and liquor and the condition of the floor. It was felt that the first two could be satisfactorily met. Mrs. MacCready believes that Clyde Felch investigated the soundness of the building at the time of the bi-centennial and found it in good condition. Mr. Brandin agreed to contact him or Henry Gallop [sic] for an opinion, which will determine our recommendation to the selectmen. If there is no problem, he will report to the selectmen the following motion:

MOTION: Mr. Gourd moved and Mr. Brandin seconded the following motion which was carried unanimously: That we urge them to allow Cathy Torrey and her husband to use the Meeting House for dancing, from 7 p.m. to 12 p.m. May 20 after their wedding, with the understanding that there would be no smoking, drinking or eating.

She has made a deposit for use of the hall and understands there would have to be a caretaker.”

Meetinghouse

“The selectmen have suggested that the V. I. S. take the initiative on arrangements for the outside as well as the inside painting. Mr. Brandin has met in the hall with both Fred Carpenter (who did the last painting) and Dan Griffin. Both are agreed on two things: Sept. or Oct. would be the best time for painting as the building will be well dried out, and neither would be interested in doing just the outside or inside. Mr. Brandin has reworked the specifications with them. Mr. Angeloro suggested that we set an Oct. deadline and get bids from both, asking them to separate the two sections (out and in) so that we can compare both. It was felt that no decision had to be made on the draperies immediately, though there was a unanimity of opinion of some form of red.”

**May 17, 1978.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“The selectmen have given permission for Cathie Torrey to use the Meeting House and also for the First Parish Woman’s Society Fair to be held there August 2. Dick Cunningham has agreed to be the caretaker.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin has looked closely at the condition of the Meeting house paint and, through the Merriams, arranged for Earl Brodmerkle to give his opinion. Mr. Brodmerkle looked the paint over carefully and advised that all surfaces should not be painted, as they were in good condition to a great extent, and the paint would build up too heavily. As a result of this consultation, Mr. Brandin has redrawn the specifications for part painting as follows: to paint the tower, west facade, windows, east side stairway and a few other spots. The floors will need painting. Mr. Gourd agreed to get an opinion on various painters from Ted Boote, who is knowledgeable about local workmen.  
MOTION: Mr. Gourd moved and Mr. Kennedy seconded a motion that we go ahead with plans for the partial painting. The motion carried.”

**July 29, 1978.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 71st; Should be no 72]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The town...has agreed to put up railings by the Meeting House steps, at both main door and tower entrances.”

Meetinghouse

“He [Mr. Brandin] said the contract for painting of the Meeting House for which the town voted: \$5,000, has been awarded to the low bidder, a Gardner man, Charles Burnham. The work will include the ceiling, spot work on walls inside, windows and sills, and the back room. Floors will be refinished, the torn stage carpet removed and its floor refinished. The painting should total \$1896, floor \$900. To replace the heavy stage curtains, the Keene Mill End estimate of about \$1650 was lower than the alternate Boston bidder.”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Angeloro proposed running movies in the Academy or the Meeting House, which will be considered.”

**November 8, 1978.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin reported that the 12 fire extinguishers at the Melville Academy and the Meeting House have been tested @ \$2.00 each and will hereafter be checked annually by a local company. There was some discussion as to whether that or taking them to the Fire Department were better, and that will be looked into further.”

Meetinghouse

“The Meeting House exterior painting has been completed and Mr. Brandin met up there with the Selectmen who OKed it. The interior has also been completed but the touch-up work on the walls was less than perfect and those walls will have to be completely painted. The ceilings under the balconies likewise now show up as in need of painting. This extra work can be done for an extra \$700. The removable extension for the front of the stage now looks shabby and in need of paint, but since that belongs to the Monadnock Music, it will have to be discussed with them in connection with the Music, the damage done to the stage floor by the cellos’ spikes was considered. T-boards for the cellos were suggested, as well as the fact that the deposit left each season with the town office is desired for just such repairs and should be called on. Mr. Brandin will follow these things up, as the floors have been beautifully refinished. On next Friday Mr. and Mrs. Romano will hang the new stage curtains. Ventilation of the attic space above the main ceiling, which had been examined before the painting was done, was discussed, but it was not in the painting contract and will have to be done by a carpenter. Mr. Brandin will get an estimate on it from Earl Brodmerkle. Likewise, weather stripping for the stage door is needed to keep snow from driving in, and will be considered at the same time. Mr. Gourd move that the \$700.00 needed to complete the painting be voted by the Committee, which was done.”

Meetinghouse

“The promised railings for the steps at the Meeting House have not yet been installed...”

**February 11, 1979.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin reported that Earl Brodmerkle had considered the ventilation of the space above the Meeting House ceiling to be adequate. Further painting will have to wait until the building is thoroughly dried out next summer. The railings for the steps also have to wait for warm weather, as does the new halyard and painting of the flagpole on the common.”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. MacCready asked if it would be suitable to let the Woman’s Society of the First Church make “forum cushions” of the old curtains from the Meeting House stage, which are in her custody. These might make popular souvenir items for sale at the Church Fair. Mr. Gourd so moved and it was seconded and voted.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin presented two requests for the use of the Meeting House: one for the First Church Fair on August 1<sup>st</sup>, and one from the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklore on June 23/24. Both were approved...”

**April 22, 1979.**

Executive Committee Meeting  
Home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Gourd spoke of the reservation of the Meeting House by the First Church for its bicentennial celebration next year.”

**July 28, 1979.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 72nd; Should be no 73]  
Melville Academy  
Attendance not given

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin reported that the Meeting House has been painted outside by the town and that the new stage curtain has been installed inside.”

Meetinghouse

“The town put up railings at the Meeting House steps, but those at the main door, are not solidly anchored and will be reset when Mr. Saunders returns from vacation.”

**Treasurers Report**

June 15, 1978 – June 15, 1979

Meetinghouse

“Repairs to Meeting House including painting, sanding floors, stage draperies, 5,196.20”

**April 14, 1980.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin presented an application for the use of the Meeting House for a wedding, no smoking and no food or beverages to be served in the Meeting House. He will check up for more details, but the general opinion was for disapproval.”

Meetinghouse

“A custodian for summer activities at the Meeting House was discussed. The Cunningham boys are no longer available, and several names were suggested Ron Reid, Billy Sawtelle, Andy Kottke.”

**May 19, 1980.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Ronald M. Reid, Bryant Rd., Jaffrey Center, was present also, since he will be the custodian of the Meeting House this summer.”

Meetinghouse

“...the town has billed the V.I.S. \$5 for turning on the water in the Meeting House. This will be checked on, as it has not been billed in other years.”

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Fisher, the new road agent has inspected the shaky railing at the Meeting House and will have it repaired.”

**Treasurers Report**

June 15, 1979 – June 15, 1980

Meetinghouse

“Re-Wire Meeting House 101.30.”

**November 2, 1980.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Brandin opened the meeting with a discussion of the rate of pay for the custodian of the Meeting House. Ron Reid has agreed to caretaker for next summer. Mr. Cournoyer, the Selectman, had showed Mr. Brandin a letter from a young couple used the Meeting House for their wedding last summer, protecting their having to pay \$15 for custodial services. The Committee agreed that hereafter the application for use of the Meeting House must state a minimum fee of \$15 for custodial service, balance to be negotiated with the custodian by the user depending on services.”

Meetinghouse

“The painting, following use of the Meeting House for the Wharton movie, has been completed and bills paid: floors redone upstairs and down, \$450 of which the film company paid \$200 (it was two years since the last painting). Likewise, stair risers, front of stage, and touching-up outside, \$175; horse sheds, \$600, Melville Academy \$1,300.”

**April 29, 1981.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of Robert Brandin

Meetinghouse

“Ron Reid is caretaking the Meeting House again his season.”

**July 25, 1981.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 74th; Should be no 75]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The Meeting House floors were refinished after the filming of Edith Wharton’s Summer, the film company paying part of the cost. The movie will be shown in Peterborough for the benefit of the McDowell Colony, and a copy has been promised to the V.I..S. probably by April 1, 1982.”

**Treasurers Report**

June 30, 1980 – June 30, 1981

Meetinghouse

“Refinish Meeting House floors 450.00”

Meetinghouse

“Painting around Meeting House 175.00”

Meetinghouse “Custodian (Meeting House) 175.00”

**January 15, 1982.** Executive Committee  
At the home of Edward Read

Meetinghouse “A new caretaker must be found for the coming season. Frank Wright, who, helped by his wife, did a fine job, is too busy to do it again. Gregg Cunningham is eager to try. His youth, in dealing with Monadnock Music could be a handicap.

**April 16, 1982.** Executive Committee  
At the home of Edward Read

Meetinghouse “Meeting House caretaker this summer will be Gregg Cunningham.... Guidelines for use of the Meeting House for weddings and receptions were discussed. Some residential connection with the community has been the old pattern, and since food cannot be served in the Meeting House, its use for receptions will be discouraged.”

Meetinghse/Melville “The new Chamber of Commerce secretary, Anna Lawn, has inquired about tour groups from travel bureaus having access to the Meeting House and Melville Academy. The Committee felt that purely commercial tours were not in order, while historical society and school groups, with adequate supervision, would be welcome. The Academy’s historical collection is too fragile and valuable to be shown without at least 3 V.I.S. attendants on hand. Rob Stephenson urged that it be catalogued, photographed and appraised as soon as possible.”

**July 31, 1982.** Annual Meeting [Given as 75th; Should be no 76]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse “Mr. Alderman advised caution and careful study of the proposed 65’ parking strip at the Meeting House. Work out with the town the costs of both paving and plowing. ... He [Mr. Stephenson] also urged caution about the parking area.”

**August 13, 1983.** Annual Meeting [Given as 76th; Should be no 77]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse “Bissell Alderman urged widening the parking strip at the Meeting House to 75 feet, and said the logs at its edge are a hazard, especially at night. Mr. Read said that Ken Saunders had proposed and provided them because of the mud. Charles Bacon said mud is normal and simple caution should suffice. Black top is too expensive.”

**Treasurers Report.**

January 1, 1982 – December 31, 1982

Meetinghouse

“Meeting House caretaker 100”

**January 20, 1984.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of Edward Read

Meetinghouse

“The next major job will probably be the painting the interior of the Meeting House.”

**July 28, 1984.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 77th; Should be no 78]  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The parking area at the Meeting House has been widened by the town...”

Meetinghouse

“Painting of the Meeting House was the next subject. It was last painted, outside and in, in 1978, inside partially 1980. Martin Stevens reported that the windows are urgently in need of paint. The exterior is the town’s responsibility, so the chance of getting anything done before next Town Meeting is small...”

Meetinghouse

“...Henry Gallup for tending the tower clock...”

**October 16, 1984.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of Edward Read

Meetinghouse

“Since the Annual Meeting and as a result of the Save-the-Windows Party at the Monadnock Inn, \$8000 has been given to the window fund... Fred Carpenter agreed to do the painting and gave up other jobs for it. On Monday, Oct. 8, he started work, but after two hours, reported that many of the muntins were worn down beyond repair and decided he would have to withdraw from the whole project.

Bissell Alderman and Clyde Felch were both consulted. There are some problems on the North side, but the South windows are the worst. ... Martin Stevens asked about repair vs. replacement. The public relations problem that might arise was pointed out by Bill Arthur and Bill Locke. A committee of Stevens (chairman), Angeloro, Arthur and Locke was formed to look into firms that specialize in restoration.

...

Bill Arthur asked whether such structural type work as restoration would be considered Town or V.I.S. responsibility. The Selectmen will be consulted.”

**February 9, 1985.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of Edward Read

Meetinghouse

“The Window Fund is \$8,000, and due to the large number of plywood sheets needed, the plywood could not be free, but can be resold. ... The correct name of the restoration company is Glass and Aluminum Construction Services, Alstead, N.H....

One half [of the windows] are already completed and replaced. The other half are to be picked up t his afternoon. Clyde Felch is doing the removal and replacement part of the job. Some of the jambs are split and he will replace them. Adequate funds are on hand. The town plans to paint the exterior of the building after Labor Day.”

**February 15, 1985.**

Letter from Edward M. Read, President

Meetinghouse

“Dear Friend(s) of the Old Meeting House:

The purpose of this brief communication is twofold: 1) to thank all those who contributed to the Save-the-Windows campaign launched last September 16th at the Pane Saving Benefit Cocktail Party held at the Monadnock Inn, and 2) to report to you on what has been accomplished thus far.

After a considerable amount of discussion last fall, we finally decided to have the work of restoration and preservation done by some people in Alstead, N.H. who are specialists in this kind of work. Half of the old windows, which were delivered to the plant in Alstead in December, were returned in late January and are now back in place. The rest of the windows were removed by Clyde Felch and his two workmen and sent off to Alstead last weekend.

If you happen to be near enough to visit the Meeting House, all the windows you will see have been restored. Where you now see plywood, the windows are still to be completed and should be back in place by early April.

We hope and believe that you will be pleased with the restoration project, and we thank you for your generosity in enabling us to proceed with it.

For the Village Improvement Society

Edward M. Read  
President”

[NOTE: A copy of the party invitation accompanies this letter in the minute book.]

**April 22, 1985.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of Edward Read

Meetinghouse "Meeting House windows: \$7,600 received in contributions. Bills totalled \$184.04 beyond that sum. It was moved and voted to pay this from the V.I.S. general fund."

Meetinghouse "Painting of the rest of the exterior of the Meeting House: This has been voted by the town and will be done by William Roche of Troy. Mr. Stevens suggested that Ken Saunders be asked to include a second coat of paint on parts of the upper windows that were scantily done. The town may also re-gild parts of the clock."

Meetinghouse "Interior of Meeting House: Stops and sills of some windows need paint. The outside floor-light has been out for several weeks due to broken conduit for the wires... Also two faces of the clock are not working."

**July 28, 1985.** Annual Meeting [Given as 78th; Should be no 79]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m. (rather than 8 p.m.)

Meetinghouse "The special 'Window Fund' for repairing the Meeting House windows reached \$7,776.81, and only \$176.81 short of the entire cost."

Meetinghouse "Returning briefly to the Meeting House maintenance, Mr. Read said the town voted to paint the outside later this summer, the V.I.S. having done the windows. Martin Stevens asked a vote of thanks to Clyde Felch for his help and advice..."

**September 22, 1985.** Executive Committee  
At the home of George Cox

Meetinghouse "There is still painting of the interior window sills of the Meeting House to be done."

**March 25, 1986.** Executive Committee  
At the home of George Cox

Meetinghouse "The Meeting House painting by the Town waits on the weather. The V.I.S. still has the window sills to do. The worst are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and especially in the dressing rooms."

Meetinghouse "Someone has urged that the electric meter should be boxed for esthetic reasons. George Cox will see if Merrill Hill would do it."

**July 26, 1986.** Annual Meeting [Given as 79th; Should be no 80]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“Meeting House is yet to be done—the Town hired new painters, and it should be done this year.”

**Treasurers Report**

January 1, 1985 – December 31, 1985

Meetinghouse

“A special...account...for accepting contributions and paying for the repairs and replacement of windows in the Meeting House. Balance Jan. 1, 1985 \$7,768.81. Additional contributions in 1985 125.00. Interest 144.79. Gift from V.I.S. to cover final deficit 184.04. Balance 8,222.64.

Expenses. Belletete’s Inc 371.34; Clyde Felch 1,289.30; Alum. & Glass Construction Serv. 6,562.00”

**April 27, 1987.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of George Cox

Meetinghouse

“Meeting House window shades: Ted Shea will get an estimate for their replacement.”

**July 25, 1987.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 80th; Should be no 81]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.  
42 present

Meetinghouse

“The Meeting House painting has been done except for the windowsills which will be completed.”

Meetinghouse

“The V.I.S. installed new shades in the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“A letter is being sent to the Town Manager about the unfinished Meeting House windowsills and needed repairs to the loading platform at the end of the Meeting House.”

**Treasurers Report**

January 1, 1986 – December 31, 1986

Meetinghouse

“Painting—Meeting House 375.00

Meetinghouse

“Summer caretaker 100.00”

**October 1, 1987.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given (probably Kell home)

Meetinghouse

“A new caretaker for the Meeting House is needed... to help get a replacement for Vernon Wright.”

Meetinghouse “8 concerts were given, admission charged for 6 of them. They pay for set-up and cleaning. The stage floor is a problem—may be rotting from a damp basement, and the piano is very heavy.”

**May 4, 1988.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given (probably Kell home)

Meetinghouse “The question of Monadnock Music’s selling tickets for concerts at the Meeting House while paying only for janitor work was discussed at some length. The consensus of the meeting was that if Monadnock Music sells tickets for its concerts, they should pay something into a building maintenance fund for such occasions. Only their Sunday concerts are now free. Tom Kell will discuss this with them, since janitor charges do not cover wear and tear.”

Meetinghouse “...schedule for the use of the Meeting House for the summer: a Bible Study group, 2 weddings (receptions not to be held in the Meeting House), Amos Fortune Forums, Church Fair, 8 Monadnock Music concerts... It was agreed that a ‘donation’ toward building maintenance for must uses would be in order.”

Meetinghouse “A motion was made and voted that donations to the V.I.S. for use of the Meeting House should be required, subject to approval by the Selectmen.”

**Treasurers Report**

January 1, 1987 – December 31, 1987

Meetinghouse “Painting—Meeting House flag pole 495.00

Meetinghouse “Window shades—Meeting House 489.61”

**April 12, 1989.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Tom Kell

Meetinghouse “Tom Kell reported on the meeting house, mentioning that its exterior needs are the responsibility of the town and the interior that of the V.I.S. The town electrician has repaired the clock. The floors, and benches need some attention, and discussion followed as to who would be hired to do the work. Tom Kell also reported that he needs to talk to the selectmen, about future work on the aging foundation and septic system.”

**July 28, 1988.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 82nd; Should be no 83]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse “At the meeting house the benches need some repairs and repainting. Shrubbery needs to be trimmed and the sidewalk still needs repair. Don Stillman and a committee have installed new portable mikes.”

Melville/Meetinghouse “Discussion ensued as to whether the contents of the meeting house and Melville Academy should be appraised professionally. This was last done for the Academy in 1974. The appraisal was \$110,000 for the Academy and \$8134 for the contents. The V.I.S. owns the contents of the meeting house and also has the responsibility for repairs and maintenance. A motion to update the contents of the meeting house and have a professional appraisal of them together with those of Melville Academy was seconded and passed.”

**August 27, 1989.**

Executive Committee  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse “Plumbing problems at the meeting house were attended to by the town as they repaired the overflowing and cracked toiled.”

Meetinghouse “Benches in the meeting house need painting and a new inside-outside lock on the main door is needed. New saddle boards on the roof are needed as the present ones are rotting. Apparently the town is aware of this.”

Meetinghouse “The cleaning woman for the meeting house is Mary Emerson. She is soon to leave the job as she is moving.”

Meetinghouse “Mrs. Payson stated that the fee for use of the meeting house is \$100.00 per event with an additional \$30.00 for the caretaker. These fees are paid separately by the client. She would like to charge \$150.00 and have V.I.S. take care of paying the extra charges. This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.”

**December 3, 1989.**

Executive Committee  
Monadnock Inn

Meetinghouse “George Cox reported that the wedding dance in the Meeting House last September left the floor badly scarred. It was necessary to clean and buff the floor before blending in an initial coat of high gloss polyurethane. A second and final coat was applied several weeks later. Stuart Davidson assumed responsibility for the bill of \$1010 sent to us by E.C. Flooring of Keene.”

Meetinghouse “The toilet in the Meeting House was properly connected to town sewer at the expense of the V.I.S. On motion it was voted to provide painted wooden signs in the Meeting House designed to cover the subject of no smoking, no eating, no drinking.”

Meetinghouse “A discussion ensued concerning photographs which Bissell Alderman had taken of the outside of the Meeting House. It becomes obvious that since this is one of the most photographed buildings in New England the electrical box and wires located on the South-west corner of the building should be moved. Public Service would be able to do this for us, in concert with someone to dig a trench from the pole to the Meeting House, and a skilled electrician to get it all working again. This could be accomplished in late spring 1990.”

Meetinghouse

“In concluding the discussion of the Meeting House it was noted that the benches are in need of paint and repair.”

**April 4, 1990.**

Request for Proposals

1 page. Draft.

To investigate the Meetinghouse, Melville Academy, Little Red Schoolhouse and the Old Firestation.

**April 7, 1990.**

Executive Committee

Monadnock Inn

Meetinghouse

“Our first discussion had to do with the schedule of the Meeting House this summer. The V.I.S. received a letter from Andy’s Summer Playhouse suggesting that we might be interested in sponsoring a show in our Meeting House this summer. It was moved and seconded that we pursue the matter. A possible conflict is the piano which Monadnock Music moves on to our stage. The mention of the piano brought up the need to talk to the Town about strengthening the loading platform.”

Meetinghouse

“George Cox...also suggested the formation of a work party to clean out and refurbish where necessary the Meeting House belfry, dressing rooms, and any other back stage rooms. ... He also suggested removing the extra hasps from the belfry door, filling in the holes and painting. Finally, his report advised that we ask (no, demand) that the Jaffrey DPW scrape and level the Meeting House parking lot.”

Meetinghouse

“Mary Payson noted that during the summer season the Meeting House will play host to Amos Fortune Forum, Monadnock Music, the Monadnock Garden Club, the Annual Fair of the Woman’s Society of First Church in Jaffrey, and two August weddings. Door mats have been purchased for the main and belfry doors and wooden no smoking, eating, drinking, signs have been painted by Walt.”

Meetinghouse

“Rob then suggested there be an Article on next year’s warrant for Town Meeting establishing a capital improvement fund for the Meeting House. The Article could either be by petition or perhaps sponsored by the Selectmen.”

**April 16, 1990.**

President’s Letter

Meetinghouse

“George Cox has asked for a work party to clean out, and refurbish where necessary, the Meeting House belfry, dressing rooms, and any other back stage rooms. ... We’ll gather at 10 a.m. at the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“V.I.S. Project 1990 is to bury the power line leading from pole 36-30-4 to the south-east corner of the Meeting House.”

**July 14, 1990.**

Executive Committee

Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“Two hundred and fifty school children have visited the meeting house this spring.”

Meetinghouse

“Grading and cosmetic work on the parking area will be done later after repairs have ‘been made for the leaking of water into the cellar hole under the meeting house.”

Meetinghouse

“The burying of the power line will cost between \$400 and \$500.”

Meetinghouse

“...the VIS must consider the interior painting of the meeting house. After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed to ask the town to establish a line item in the budget to maintain the exterior of the meeting house.”

**July 28, 1990.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 83rd; Should be no 84]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“The toilet has been connected to plumbing. The floor was refinished by Stuart Davidson following his wedding reception. The benches are being painted by our caretaker, Charlie Ishmael, at \$20 a bench. Amos Fortune Forum has donated half of the sum needed to paint the 30 benches on the ground floor. This summer the Meeting House will be used by Monadnock Music, Amos Fortune Forum, Annual Fair of First Church, Monadnock Garden Club, Andy’s Summer Playhouse and two August weddings. There is a new lock on the belfry door and wooden no smoking, eating, drinking signs. The good news is that the Town of Jaffrey will replace the wooden loading platform and bury the power lines.”

Meetinghouse

“George Cox reported the Meeting House belfry is in need of stair repairs. The first floor has been cleaned. George is the person who resets the clock.”

Meetinghouse

“The stage of the Meeting House needs repairs and the dressing rooms need cleaning and painting.”

**Treasurers Report**

January 1, 1989 – December 31, 1989

Meetinghouse

“Plumbing-Meeting House 412.82  
“Custodial-Meeting House 210.00”

**October 14, 1990.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“John Strauss discussed the draperies on the stage of the meeting house and their need for new fireproofing and repairs.”

**November 1990.**

President’s Letter

Meetinghouse

“The sagging power line leading to the Meeting House has been buried, and the loading dock on the east side of the Meeting House replaced.”

**December 29, 1990.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Discussion ensued concerning the meeting house and the responsibility which the town and the VIS share in its upkeep. The outcome of future conversations with Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager, should be to come up with proposals for arranging moneys between the two groups, wherein lies the responsibility. This involves dispersing income from summer rentals, maintenance costs, etc. Mrs. Payson, Rob Stephenson and George Cox will meet with Hunter Rieseberg to effect this, with Chris Bean as legal representative. A sum of approximately \$5000 is in the town budget to help pay for consultations and specs for the renovation of the Meeting House. R. Stephenson is writing the application from the town Historic District Commission to the National Trust for a matching grant of \$5000 to help in paying the costs.”

**January 28, 1991.**

Report regarding the Meetinghouse

Meetinghouse

“This is to report on meetings with Town Manager, Hunter Rieseberg in reference to the Old Meeting House in Jaffrey Center. Mary R. Payson and George H. Cox met. with him in the Town Offices for a preliminary discussion on 7 January 1991. At a second meeting we were joined by William C. Arthur and Robert K. Massey, Trustees of the Trust Funds of the Town of Jaffrey.

1. The Town is ready to recognize the Old Meeting House as a Town building and to assume responsibility for its upkeep and maintenance, exterior and interior.
2. The Village Improvement Society would remain stewards of the Meeting House and would retain responsibility for scheduling its use.
3. The Warrant for the 1991 Town Meeting contains an Article submitted by the Selectmen pertaining to the Meeting House. This Article will ask for the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for the Meeting House to be placed in Trust and managed by the Trustees of the Trust Fund.
4. Money would be expended from the Capital Reserve Fund on the recommendation of the Village Improvement Society. We would annually send our recommendations to the Selectmen in time for them to incorporate these expenditures into the budget for the year to come.
5. We have been assured that this arrangement WOULD NOT preclude the V.I.S. from privately funding any project the Selectmen felt the public funds were not able to support. Nor would it preclude our giving to the building small gifts and the usual housekeeping

necessities.

6. The Town WOULD expect us to follow our recommendations through to conclusion, to include keeping an eye on work-in-progress.

7. It does not seem that we would give up our favored position as overseer of the building, but it would relieve us of the financial burden we have heretofore assumed for the interior of a Town building.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Payson  
President, V.I.S.  
January 28, 1991”

**February 10, 1991.**

Executive Committee  
Monadnock Inn

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Payson asked for volunteers to help raise money for the renovation of the Meeting House. Francis Cheney has offered to help, as well as Tom Kell, Sally Roberts and Mary Payson from the Executive Committee. The town has suggested starting a capital fund to maintain the inside and outside of the Meeting House. This calls for a request at Town Meeting for \$35,000 to be put into the town budget to start the fund. Mr. Riesberg felt the town should provide some upfront funds before town meeting so that the request will be more feasible. We hope more townspeople will help in the fundraising as this is not solely a VIS project but a joint project with the town.”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Payson discussed user fees for the Meeting House. These fees would be put into the aforementioned capital fund for maintenance of the Meeting House, yet VIS would continue as overseer of the building. After discussion the sense of the committee was that whatever understanding was reached between VIS and Town should be covered by a written agreement.”

**February 24, 1991.**

Executive Committee  
Monadnock Inn

Meetinghouse

“Johnson is working on informal fundraising and has raised \$10,500 in pledges so far in hopes that the town will be encouraged to vote the maintenance fund of \$35,000. Strauss suggested the fundraising come under the hat of the Historic District Commission. Francis Cheney will help in the fundraising and Mark Bean will make a request to the historical society for funds. There will be two articles in the town agenda, the first that \$1.00 be put in to start the trust fund and the second that \$35,000 be made available to start the town fund for the meeting house renovations. Discussion followed on user fees for the meeting house but no decision was reached. Strauss suggested four categories of use for the meeting house:

1. Non-profit organizations be charged no fee.

2. Non-profit organizations who plan functions for fund raising would give a planned donation (ex. church fair)
- 3 Private functions a fee of \$250 or \$300 (ex. weddings)
- 4 Sales and seminars – to charge more.”

**April 1991.**

President’s Letter

Meetinghouse

“While I have you here, let me tell you about the cooperative agreement entered into by the town of Jaffrey, the VIS, and the Historic District Commission regarding the Meeting House. The town recognizes the Meeting House as a town building and has assumed responsibility for its upkeep and maintenance, exterior and interior. The VIS will retain its stewardship role by submitting annual recommendations to the selectmen and by accepting responsibility for scheduling use. As you know, a Capital Reserve Fund for the Meeting House was established at Town Meeting and a sum of \$35,000 was voted toward immediate repairs, to be supplemented by private donations. This public-private partnership extends to the effort now underway to repair the Meeting House steeple. We will depend upon your generosity in support of our ‘dearest possession.’”

**May 12, 1991.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“In repairing the Meeting House floor the idea is to have a temporary, quick, inexpensive repair so it can open by July 1st. Then in September a permanent job will be done. This will call for some more fundraising, \$25,000 to \$30,000. Margo Johnson has collected \$13,000 toward the Meeting House repairs and would like to have a small group help her with the next fund raising. A carefully prepared manuscript for this fund raising would be readied for the callers.”

**July 7, 1991.**

Executive Committee  
Monadnock Inn

Melville/Meetinghouse

“The work on the windows of Melville Academy, \$2600, and the need for \$450 for fireproofing of the stage curtains for the meeting house...”

Meetinghouse

“The meeting house floor has been temporarily repaired and will be used until September. The job has been very well done. ... New bids will go out in September to do the permanent job and hopefully the same contractor (Colonial Restorations of Acworth, NH) will get the bid. The weathervane will be put in the Monadnock Bank alongside a donation box and a donation box for the meeting house will also be placed in the meeting house.”

**July 27, 1991.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 84th; Should be no 85]

Parish Hall, First Church of Jaffrey at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“Mr. Cox reported that the best advice given for the meeting house floor repair was to place-a temporary floor for the summer activities. The program to follow after September 1st will be to tear out that temporary floor and replace it with modern materials which will have the same appearance as the old. The meeting house spire was taken off and placed on a pad, where it will remain until enough money has been raised to renovate the spire. The town has now elected to take care of the interior as well as the exterior of the meeting house and the VIS will remain as steward, reporting to the town in the fall of necessary repairs, which will be placed in the town budget. Mrs. Payson, representing the VIS, George Cox, representing the Historic District Commission and Peter Davis, Selectman, will act as the committee to report meeting house needs to the town.”

Meetinghouse

“Mrs. Payson announced that the stage curtains of the meeting house have been fireproofed, light bulbs replaced and stage area cleaned by the crew of Showtime.”

**July 27, 1991.**

Buildings Report to the Annual Meeting

Meetinghouse

“The Meeting House inspection also uncovered needed extensive work on both the main floor, the stage and the spire above the belfry. Extensive shoring was done under the main floor during the late Spring which made it safe for this summers activities. In September the floor, joists and supports will be removed and replaced with modern materials. On June 13th the spire was removed and placed on a pad in the Common. Restoration and replacement of the spire on the tower will be done as soon as funds are available. We hope to see this successfully completed by the summer of 1992.”

**Treasurers Report.**

January 1, 1990 — December 31, 1990

Meetinghouse

“Repairs & Maint.–Meeting House 871.89”

**September 28, 1991.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Work on the Jaffrey Center Meeting House may not proceed further until an additional \$40,000 is raised, according to a request by the Selectmen’s Meetinghouse Committee.”

Meetinghouse

“John Strauss reported on the fireproofing of the Meetinghouse curtains. First installed in 1926, last replaced in 1968, these curtains should be fireproofed every 2-3 years. The amount of fireproofing (ascertained we were told by nibbling on a corner of the curtain) gives them an almost wet feeling and can be too wearing on the fabric if done too often.”

**January 25, 1992.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“President Payson talked about the Restoration Committee for the Meeting House Steeple, the people who are on the committee and recent progress. S. Roberts reported the committee’s first benefit project—a dance, Steeple Stomping, to be held on Valentine’s Day, February 14th, at Conant High School from 8 to 12 p. m. , \$20 per couple. Norm Lambert will provide his band, the Persuasions, and Meeting House memorabilia will be sold at the door. R. Stephenson will get help to move the steeple vane from the bank to the dance floor for the evening. A large painted thermometer indicating how much money has been raised has been placed in Jaffrey; it is hoped the money can be raised before Town Meeting. “

**March 7, 1992.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“George Cox reported for the Committee for the Restoration of the Meetinghouse. Total funding to date, \$92,099.46. Mary Payson circulated a letter to be sent to local newspapers urging a YES vote to Article 16 on Jaffrey’s Town Meeting Warrant. A YES vote would appropriate the sum of \$35,000 to be placed in the Meetinghouse Trust to be used for the completion of this important project.”

**June 27, 1992.**

Executive Committee  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“George reported on a presentation by Structural Engineer Conor Power regarding the specifications for the restoration of the Meetinghouse. George has a set of the engineering drawings if anyone is interested in studying them. Bids are being accepted by the Town of Jaffrey from 1-31 July.”

Meetinghouse

“The VIS is sponsoring Andy’s Summer Playhouse Touring Show Rootabaga Stories. The performance will take place at the Meetinghouse on 8 August at 7 p.m. There is no charge for admission. The cost of sponsoring a Tour is \$250 per performance. We are raising this amount privately. Trish Strauss has collected the initial \$125.”

Meetinghouse

“The benches and tables in the Meetinghouse have been painted by Dennis Wright. The 1992 caretaker is Sharon Frazier.”

**July 26, 1992.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 85th; Should be no 86]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“Bids on the Meeting House restoration will go out Friday, July 31st. Whoever gets the job will start immediately. Cox explained the

ventilation which will be provided under the Meeting House floor—one opening at the tower end of the building and one at the east end. Conor Power will be questioned as to whether this is enough. Hopefully the Meeting House and spire will be completed by the end of October.”

**Treasurers Report.**

January 1, 1991 – December 31, 1991

Meetinghouse

“Structural Inspection 1,000.”  
“Fireproofing curtains 400.00”

**August 29, 1992.**

Executive Committee  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“He [George Cox] also reported on the Meeting House project. Bids had been received by the Town, and that there was a \$19,000.66 difference between the high and low bid. A decision is to be made soon and that George and Mary will consult with the Town authorities.”

Meetinghouse

“She [Mary Payson] also stated that the raffle of the Meeting House model had generated \$500.00. Helen Krause had been the winner of the raffle, and had donated “her prize” to the Committee for the Restoration of the Meeting House.”

**November 9, 1992.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Buildings. George Cox reported that the contractor who was working on the Meeting House floor was experiencing many difficulties, and were using wooden beams instead of steel beams and also concrete pilings to hold up the floor. There may be a cost over run, but that was not the responsibility of the V.I.S.—rather to be borne by the contractor. There was much discussion concerning the restroom within the Meeting House. There was concern whether the bathroom met the specifications of the new Federal law concerning the handicapped. There were various suggestions such as not having a rest room, assuming that it was a private room, but in the end, it was decided to consult the Town lawyer, David Tower to have his interpretation of the Act, so that we could proceed with this problem.”

Meetinghouse

“He [Rob Stephenson] also brought up the possibility of paving Meeting House road and Maple Street. There was no consensus on what should be done.”

Meetinghouse

“Mary further discussed the custodian of the Meeting House and the problems that have been associated with this position. After much discussion it was suggested that a volunteer system be instituted to achieve the opening and closing of the Meeting House, and the operation of the lighting system.”

**January 4, 1993.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Buildings. George Cox reported that the work on the Meeting House continues, and should be completed in a month or two. Due to the work, the possibility of painting or cleaning of the inside of the Meeting House will be discussed at a later meeting. The Belfry tower will be replaced soon and the weathervane will be “gold leafed.” It seems appropriate that the V.I.S. supply the commemorative book and glass case to record the restoration. Eleanor McQueen will oversee the book and complete the memorials and list of donors in calligraphy. Charles Royce has donated seasoned black cherry for Andy Webber to fashion the standing glass case. On a motion duly made and seconded Voted: to accept the quotation of Andy Webber for \$300.00. On a motion duly made and seconded Voted: to expend \$500.00 for Walter Hautanen to “gold leaf” the weathervane of the Meeting House.”

Meetinghouse

“Rob Stephenson reported that...he is going to attend a meeting in Concord, New Hampshire where the new disability law will be reviewed particularly in relation to Historic Buildings. The problem of the restroom in the Meeting House was discussed and this subject will be raised at the meeting in Concord. Some landscaping will have to be done alongside the Meeting House, and it was suggested that the V.I.S. supervise this to prevent the destruction of grass verges by snow plows.”

**March 9, 1993.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Buildings. The repairs of the interior of the Meeting House is almost completed, and should be by May 1. It is anticipated that the steeple will be in place on or about April 27 1993. A handicap toilet has been installed.”

Meetinghouse

“Mary outlined some thoughts on the activities at the time of the dedication of the Meeting House on July 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>, 1993. The American Legion band will be present and a tent will be rented for the occasion.”

**April 23, 1993.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“3-4 July – Celebration of Restoration of the Meetinghouse on the Town Common.  
The spire will be replaced on the Meetinghouse steeple in mid-May.”

Meetinghouse

“George Cox made a motion that the VIS fund railings at the Meetinghouse, light fixtures over both doors, and the fee for the design plan for the Meetinghouse Common. Seconded by Ron Reid. The Committee voted unanimously in favor.”

**June 2, 1993.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“George Cox reported on the renovations of the Meeting House. Progress is slow and feelings are being frustrated and people are discouraged. The steeple is partially completed, but the floor has to be done, and after these have been completed, there is still a lot of work to be done such as ‘the clean up.’ Plans have been received which demonstrate the changes to be made around the Meeting House. There has been some confusion over the ‘cutting down’ of a maple tree near the Meeting House, and the Society had received a bill for \$130.00. On a motion duly made and seconded. Voted: to meet with the Town officials and discuss who is responsible for payment of this bill.”

**July 10, 1993.**

Executive Committee  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“Mary commented on some future expenses, to create outlets for water near the Meeting House for outside ‘watering’ and for the installation of a new culvert, which will help to drain the swale, beneath Bryant Road. The anticipated cost is \$4000.00. On a motion duly made and seconded. Voted. to finance these projects.”

**July 18, 1993.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 86th; Should be no 87]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“George Cox reported on the restoration of the Meeting House, and the future work required to beautify the Common.”

Meetinghouse

“Mary Payson passed the gavel, newly made from timber from the Meeting House by Dr Robert Chase, to Trish Strauss who thanked Mary for her contributions to the Society.”

**July 18, 1993.**

Buildings Report at Annual Meeting. George Cox.

Meetinghouse

“Due in part to the effort expended in the past few years nothing was necessary this past year in the upkeep of Melville Academy. Therefore, the effort was spent on the Meeting House. The total cost of restoration was \$155,585.

Of this amount \$89,094 was raised publicly and the balance of \$66,491 was raised by private donations. There is now a trust fund that is set aside for the future upkeep of the meeting house.

The town accepted a bid from Abet Construction Co. of Salem, N. H. The contract was originally made with a completion date of 12/31/1992, however it was extended again and again and was eventually completed on Friday July 2--just in time for the re-dedication ceremony on July 3, 1993.

The spire was completed approximately 2 years after it was removed. The work was accomplished by two contractors: Dovetail, Inc. Winchester, N.H. and Vermont Timberframers, Bennington, Vt. They were excellent craftsmen and it was with pleasure that our spire was again in place with the weathervane turning with the winds of summer and winter. Though few will ever see the work done in excavating the cellar hole and installing the cement footings, and the 2 x 12 pressure treated framing, this work will last for many generations.”

**Treasurers Report.**

January 1, 1993- June 30, 1993

Meetinghouse

“...weathervane 600.00”  
“...outdoor light 126.00”  
“...Book of Record 150.00”  
“...standing case 430.00”

**August 26, 1993.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given

Meetinghouse

“Rob also suggested planting trees on either side of the entrance to the parking lot as a sort of definition. We decided to wait until the parking lot is done.”

Meetinghouse

“Rob got a quote for installation of a wrought iron railing at the main door of the Meeting House from Larry Day of Winchendon. The \$385.00 price includes 3 posts, lambs tongue railing. The rail would not be attached to the building.”

Meetinghouse

“The clock is not ringing. The town manager and the selectmen have had the motor for 5 weeks. It is still behind doors in the manager’s office. Peter Davis said he’d take care of it ‘tomorrow.’ That was last week. We feel we should keep after the town to see it’s fixed. H and A Electric of Dublin think the cost should be about \$400.00. Town expense. Also put in no-overload switch so can’t burn out again.”

Meetinghouse

“The Meeting House needs more outlets to void long cords across aisles.”

Meetinghouse

“Bruce Feltus, town building inspector, said we needed one railing 42 inches high around the balcony, Trish got the BOCA code from Monahon’s and discovered that was not exactly the case. There are many options. Code says 26 inches in front of seats--we have 24 inches. Perhaps 2 inches could be forgiven; railing on top of existing etc? Need 36 inches in front of aisles and 42 inches in front of steps only. It was decided we should talk with Linda Wilson of the Historic Preservation Commission in Concord to discuss options. We should

also talk with J. Sistare, J. White and B. Feltus and say we'd like to explore other options."

Meetinghouse

"Tricia Strauss, Mary Payson and George Cox will meet with Town Manager and Selectmen on Tuesday, August 31, to discuss the following:

1. options on installation of balcony railing at the Meeting House.
2. street lights
3. wiring at Meeting House not up to code.
4. why user fee into general fund?
5. place is dirty--town should clean up.
6. parking lot
7. town talk to Thompson regarding floor."

**February ??, 1994.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given

Meetinghouse

"George Cox ... did, however, remark upon problems having to do with the Meeting House balcony railings. George also discussed cleaning the interior of the Meeting House."

Meetinghouse

"A discussion concerning monies for the Meeting House was next on the agenda. It was agreed that the town does not contribute enough towards maintaining the Meeting House (\$3,000.00 a year, that's it). Although the town is responsible for the building, they rely too much upon VIS funding. And the more the VIS does, the less the town does. With this problem in mind, an endowment fund for the Meeting House was discussed. According to Rob, starting an endowment fund is not terribly complicated. Moreover, Mary has quite a bit of information on setting up such a trust. It was decided that we will have a meeting on the 20th at 3:00 P.M. to discuss whether to pursue this matter."

**May 27, 1994.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given

Meetinghouse

"George has agreed to find someone to put another coat of stain on the new railing in the Meeting House. Rob mentioned that Conor Power's report placed the repair of the belfry roof a #1 priority. George will follow up at his next Meeting House Committee meeting. George will also obtain estimates for the painting of the clock face."

Meetinghouse

"A motion was made by George Cox, seconded by Jane Cunningham and unanimously passed "That the VIS contract with Leo at the rate of

\$20 per mowing for the lawn in front of the Meeting House and include the “triangle” with permission for the Town.”

**June 30, 1994.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given (Home of Trish Strauss)

Meetinghouse

“George Cox reported that the “clock man” has not contacted us recently. We must also have the steeple jack present a quote. Joe Cheney will charge \$100.00 to finish painting the balcony.”

Meetinghouse

“There will be a LIVE OAK concert at the Meeting House on July 2nd and 9th. While the VIS is cosponsor, we are not financially obligated in any way. The concert is free; donations are suggested.”

**July 24, 1994.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 87th; Should be no 88  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“Trish also expressed gratitude on behalf of the VIS ...to Rob Stephenson for putting up the railing for the handicapped at the Meeting House...”

Meetinghouse

“George Cox reported that the VIS paid \$4000.00 for the Meeting House balcony railing. Much of the work was done by Andy Webber. George went on to say that the interior of the building is in need of redecorating and the clock still needs repairs. We are waiting for a quote for restoring the face and hands. In addition, the mechanism needs work. A maintenance schedule is called for.”

Meetinghouse

“Rob announced that the Meeting House doors and the area around the doors will be stripped and then painted in October.”

**July 23, 1994.**

Buildings Report to the Annual Meeting

Meetinghouse

“The V.I.S. agreed to pay for the Meeting House balcony railing that was mandated by the ADA. The cost of this was in excess of \$4200 and was built and installed by Andy Webber with the painting being done by members of the V.I.S.

Meetinghouse

This Spring a work party of 15 VIS members met to clean the dirt and grime from the interior of the Meeting House. Approximately 6 hours of labor was necessary to put a dent in the job. In the near future a complete redecorating job will be necessary. Even a cursory inspection reveals chipped and peeling paint, bare wood, poorly fitted and cracked moulding, etc., etc.

Meetinghouse

An expert in antique clock restoration recently inspected the faces, hands and numerals to determine what was necessary to restore them. I am expecting a quotation shortly. Another clock expert examined the clock mechanism and found it operable but in need of repairs, e.g. complete cleaning and correct lubrication, new bushings and redesigning the area around the clock to reduce dust and possible

weather damage. In addition an annual maintenance program. The total for this was approximately \$13,000.

**Treasurers Report.**

January 1, 1993 – December 31, 1993

Meetinghouse

“Walt’s Signs, gold leafing the Weathervane 600.00”

“Outside lamp and repair of fixtures 151.00”

“Book of Record, Eleanor McQueen 100.00”

“Book of Record, binding, Harry Kenney”

“Standing Glass Case, Andrew Webber 430.00”

“Architectural drawings, Richard M. Monahan, Jr., landscaping and ramp 502.45”

“Grading, seeding, watering new lawn 1,636.47”

“Restoration Celebration 260.48”

“Iron railing at main entrance 385.00”

“Motor for Meetinghouse clock 378.40”

“Landscaping at entrance to parking lot 320.43”

**September 30, 1994.**

Executive Committee  
No location given

Meetinghouse

“George Cox listed all that needs to be done at the Meeting House: a new roof; interior and exterior painting; floor refinishing.”

**November 14, 1994.**

Executive Committee  
No location given

Meetinghouse

“...George Cox discussed several issues concerning the Meeting House. He disclosed painting estimates. Exterior: \$14,875.00, not including paint, which would cost around \$1,095.00. Interior: \$26,040.00. This came to about \$45,000.00 all together. We also need about \$20,000.00 for the roof and another \$1,000.00 to finish the floors. We discussed whether we can ask the town for money to do the inside work. Rob suggests we do some touch up work on our own and then wait until fall to see what happens.”

Meetinghouse

“The Meeting House doors have been painted (by Rob) and the bill received. Next, the committee will approach the town for money to pay for exterior painting.”

**May 16, 1995.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given

Meetinghouse

“Trish reported that Marilyn Ash would be willing to work on the Meetinghouse clock for an estimated \$8,000 which is about the same as the Gilmore estimate. George Cox is requesting a quote from Quinn...”

**July 16, 1995.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 88th; Should be no 89]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse “As you already know the roof work has begun on the Meeting House. Dan Nelson has the contract and it will be completed this summer. “

Meetinghouse “However the painting of the outside of the Meeting House will not be completed this summer. The bid will go out some time in the future and the work will not begin until next spring.”

Meetinghouse “Amos Fortune Forum will be purchasing new shades for the Meeting House. It’s been noted that the rear curtains in the MH are in need of repair. I believe a quote will be coming to me by mail.”

**July 16, 1995.**

Report on Buildings to the Annual Meeting

Meetinghouse “At the March Jaffrey Town Meeting it was voted to allocate \$35,000 to be used to Paint and Re-roof the Meeting House. Incidentally, this warrant was passed over the objections of the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.”

Meetinghouse “The Roofing contract was awarded to Dan Nelson, who is working on the project despite high heat and winds. The specifications for the materials etc. were compiled by Rick Monahan, Architect.”

Meetinghouse “The specifications for the paint...were determined by Sara Chase, an Historical Building Expert. The bidders have submitted their bids and the Town will shortly award the contract. It is possible that this phase of the work will not be completed this year.”

Meetinghouse “We still hope to finish the restoration of the Meeting House Clock this year. This includes the four faces, numerals and hands--restoration and gilding. We are still waiting for a bid from Dan Quinn who was responsible for the excellent work done on the Cutler Memorial Clock. The other bids are all approximately \$10,000.”

**Treasurers Report.**

January 1, 1994 – December 31, 1994

Meetinghouse “Putnam Fund (Meetinghouse railing) 1,000.00”

Meetinghouse “Restroom 153.42”  
“Railing (handicap) 73.47”  
“Railing (balcony) 3800.00”  
“Painting (doors & Bulkhead) 258.00”

**January 26, 1996.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given

Meetinghouse “CLOCK: After George listed the necessary repairs to the clock, it was decided that we should contact some one in the near future and make appropriate arrangements if we are to have it fixed this spring. A number of questions were raised concerning the repairs: Will the faces

be repaired along with the clock? What are the qualifications of the various contenders for the job? How much can we afford?

According to Jane Cunningham, we have \$4,780.00 and we need another \$2,5000.00 [sic]. With this in mind, we should see if some of the work can be done by volunteers. George will make further enquiries. When the job is done we must either avoid conflict with the painting dates or coordinate the two jobs so that the same scaffolding can be used.”

**March 22, 1996.**

Executive Committee  
At the home of Trish Strauss

Meetinghouse

“After a lengthy discussion about the CLOCK repair, it was decided to hire either Phil D’Avanza or Dan Quinn. Trish will ask Phil to meet us and Dan Nelson at the Meeting House to answer questions about his Proposal.”

**July 19, 1997.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 91st; Should be no 91]  
Location not given but Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The peeling front of the Meeting House will be repaired this summer and the interior painted in the fall.”

Meetinghouse

“...George Cox brought members up to date on the various painting projects. Estimates are due for painting the interior. George estimates the cost at around \$24,000.00.”

**September 17, 1997.**

Executive Committee [JANE TORREY]  
In front of Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“A report from George Cox indicated that only Tim Kervin’s bid to paint the Meetinghouse interior had been received. Therefore bids will be solicited again in the Spring for the job to be completed by mid-June. The lighting also needs to be examined for safety and appearance, and nonfunctional speakers behind grids need to be removed. Dan Nelson will be asked about it.”

**January 7, 1998.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

“George reported quotations for painting the interior of the Town Hall. The decision awaits further bids. The copper roofing under the belfry will cost \$12,000, which must be found somewhere. Some of the electrical work for stage lighting needs to be removed for safety reasons. Necessary work will be done by mid-May.”

**March 4, 1998.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

“Work is proceeding on the Meeting House.”

**July 8, 1998.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

George Cox reported for the Meeting House Committee that the town clock, disordered since a recent wedding, will be reset in time for the first forum. Problems of supervising the use of the Meeting House were discussed. Responsibility for the supervision is uncertain.”

**July 25, 1998.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 93rd; Should be no 92]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“He went on to acknowledge the expert woodworking skills of Bob Chase who had made replacement hat pegs for the vestibule of the Meetinghouse.”

Meetinghouse

“We started with the removal of the steeple and its subsequent restoration, then the partial rebuilding of the main floor and the shingling of the roof. Last year we completed the exterior painting and this year Drogue Painting of Marlborough did an excellent job on the interior. In short, the main projects are complete. There are still projects to be done. There is always something with buildings of this advanced age but at least we know that the major problems are fixed and we have money available to take care of the small problems. Such as: the clock which needs some TLC from time to time. Last week it was necessary to call in Phil D’Avanza, the Clock Man, to rectify a problem of the clock losing time.”

**September 15, 1998.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

“George reported a meeting with Jonathan Sistare and Jennifer Morris regarding a proposed formal system for management of the Meeting House. Rob plans to prepare a booklet stating policies. George will seek a future volunteer Keeper of the Clock against the time when he will no longer hold the post.”

**November 11, 1998.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

“Rob will prepare a plan of distributing responsibilities for the Meeting House maintenance and use.”

**January 27, 1999.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

“The Christmas lights have been turned off at the Meetinghouse and will be momentarily at Melville. George mentioned asking the Boy Scouts to help out during the Spring Clean-up Day specifically on cleaning the tower and cellar of the Meetinghouse.”

**June 30, 1999.**

Executive Committee  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“Margo Johnson and Nancy Lloyd reported for the committee to replace the stage curtains at the Meeting House. It was moved, seconded and voted to ask the town for \$4000, enough to start the work. Nancy Lloyd will write the request. The V.I.S. will undertake to raise or find the approximately \$4000 more that probably will be needed to complete the project.”

**July 24, 1999.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 94th; Should be no 93]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“The state of the buildings in Jaffrey Center, to wit: The Meetinghouse, the Horse Sheds and Melville Academy are in a good state of repair and upkeep. The paint on all was touched up this spring and miscellaneous repairs were done such as drilling holes in the frames of the Meetinghouse windows for pegs to discourage entry, adding signs to the stalls of the horsesheds designating the original owners. It is still a future chore to line up help to clean the belfry from top to bottom and to clean out debris from the basement--possibly this fall during the October clean up. The clock was off for several weeks due to the failure of the small motor that operates the clock hands. The clockman thought the ice that formed on the hands created sufficient weight to burn out the motor. He subsequently replaced it.”

Meetinghouse

“Nancy Lloyd reported on her efforts, along with Margo Johnson, in researching the purchase of new stage curtains for the Meetinghouse. These are now in production and will cost close to \$8000. The Town will pay \$4000 from the Meetinghouse fund and the VIS will spearhead a campaign to raise the necessary additional money.”

**September 13, 1999.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

“The stage chairs are reupholstered, but now need refinishing as well.”

Meetinghouse

“Nancy Lloyd reported that the gray curtains are made and will be installed early in October. The pink curtains are being repaired and will be put in place in time for next spring and summer. The gray ones cost \$6384 ;and \$1500 will be needed for the pink ones. The V.I.S. at this

meeting voted to pay \$1000. The town, the Amos Fortune Committee and the Historical Society will be solicited for the balance.”

**November 10, 1999.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

“The new curtains are installed and look quite good. The building inspectors would prefer bolt over screw holders, but took no action at this time. The red curtains are yet to come.”

**April 5, 2000.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

“In the Meeting House the new gray velour curtains are up. There is a mess, e.g. dead flies, in the tower which may be removed on clean-up day.”

**July 22, 2000.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 95th; Should be no 94]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“Nancy Lloyd and Margo Johnson were thanked for the efforts at overseeing the replacement and cleaning of the Meetinghouse curtains.”

Meetinghouse

“The Meetinghouse  
The building was fitted with new gray stage curtains which has completed the renovations, coupled with the cleaning of the red velvet drapes. The men installing the drapes felt the hooks holding the curtains were not heavy enough and that we were taking a chance on the unit breaking loose. We have had this corrected. For years I have complained that the interior of the belfry was dirty due to the normal dust and grime and sawdust left from many carpenters. During the VIS cleanup Charlie Marvin volunteered to give it a go and worked a complete morning making it a dust free environment.”

**January 24, 2001.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given; probably home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse

“It was noted that the clock on the east side of the Meetinghouse belfry is not working. George knows what has to be done, but said that the time has come for him to have an assistant for Meetinghouse maintenance. Charlie volunteered.”

Meetinghouse

“A 4” square block box has been attached near the belfry door by the Jaffrey Fire Department. It holds a key to the Meetinghouse to preclude forceful entry.”

Meetinghouse “George will discuss with him necessary touch-up painting in the interior of the Meetinghouse.”

**April 4, 2001.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given; probably home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse “George, Charlie and Dan Nelson met to reset the clock for daylight savings time.”

Meetinghouse “Jaffrey Fire Chief, Jack White, has required the following—a. emergency lights and exit signs over doors, b.panic bars on exterior doors, c.safer wiring for Christmas window lights, d.sprinklers. The Town has called a meeting with the State Fire Marshall and those involved with the Meetinghouse to discuss regulations with our Fire Chief. Flexibility is afforded historic buildings.”

Meetinghouse “... two Monadnock Music concerts, and a fund raiser on 21 July to benefit the Meetinghouse, sponsored by Kevin Hampsey and Daffodils, featuring Lisa McCormick.”

Meetinghouse “We are suggesting a reading of the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July in the Meetinghouse. Following the reading there would be a walking tour of the village and a reception at Melville. The Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce, JHS, VIS, HDC to be invited.”

**June 11, 2001.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given; probably home of Robert Stephenson

Meetinghouse “The Town has scheduled regrading of the parking lot.”

Meetinghouse “George will make the town aware that the Meetinghouse needs painting in selected areas.”

Meetinghouse “4th of July event from 12pm on. 13 buntings have been reserved for the window sills of the Meetinghouse. An American flag will hang on the stage curtains, with a framed Declaration of Independence and flowers on the stage. Community leaders have been asked to be readers of the Declaration of Independence. After the reading there will be a walking tour of the village, ending at Melville Academy for Kimball Farm ice cream. Sally R. and Nancy Nelson are making arrangements for helium to blow up red, white, and blue balloons and for ice cream. Crushed strawberries furnished by the VIS Executive Committee.”

**July 14, 2001.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 96th; Should be no 95]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse “The past year the Meetinghouse was used frequently, though not to capacity. The season started off with Conant-Rindge Schools putting on the Shakespeare Festival which was well received. The Amos

Fortune Forums, as usual played to a full house. This was mixed in with a couple of Monadnock Music presentations. Several brides took their vows in the building, we wish them a lifetime of happiness. The Historic District Commission held their monthly summer meetings. Independence Day the VIS held an event that filled the hall, Rob Stephenson lined up 38 patriots to read the Declaration of Independence. Hampsey & Grenier and Atlas Pyrotechnics are hosting a musical show to aid the Meetinghouse Fund; this will take place on July 21.

The South side of the building still has paint peeling, despite frequent touch-ups, Charlie Marvin took the couplings holding the four drive mechanisms of the clock, to his workshop and thoroughly cleaned and lubricated them. We are now within a few seconds of Greenwich Mean Time. It has been noted that the gray back curtain has been stained--the town has submitted an insurance claim for this.”

**September 13, 2001.**

Executive Committee  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“He will oversee the Christmas lights which will make use of a new cord system based on comments from Fire Chief Jack White. The stained curtain will be replaced, covered by the Town’s insurance, and there was discussion about the peeling of the south façade paint. Rob Stephenson will carry on for George as the VIS member of the Meetinghouse Committee although this has not been formally approved by the Selectmen.”

**November 8, 2001.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“He [Rob Stephenson] summarized the minutes of the re-organization meeting of the Meetinghouse Committee which was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October and included Rob, Nancy Nelson (JHDC), Jean Labrie, Jon Sistare and Rex Maxfield. The Committee will inspect the Meetinghouse at 11 am on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of November. Some of the other points mentioned: The Committee will meet at least quarterly with 2 inspections a year; the electric panel will be re-labeled; the lock will be re-keyed in the spring; the rear stage curtain, which had been stained, will be replaced with the old curtain possibly being used to make cushions for the benches; some of the Fire Dept recommendations will be attended to before next season; acknowledgments were sent out to those who donated to the Hampsey/Grenier fundraiser; John VanNess will be asked to study options for the PA system and will report back to the Committee with recommendations; the clock will be annually inspected by Phil D’Avanza along with the Woman’s Club clock.”

Meetinghouse

“Mary Payson reported that George Cox is working on the Christmas lights cord situation (one of the Fire Dept recommendations).”

**January 17, 2002.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“He [Robert Stephenson] noted that the Committee had made an on-site inspection on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November which also included George Cox and Charlie Marvin. The major work for next season will be the exterior painting of at least the south façade. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January.

Meetinghouse

“George Cox reported on buildings. There was little to report other than the turning off of the Christmas lights in the Meetinghouse. The two new custom-made extension cords will be removed and stored by George and Rob momentarily.”

**March 21, 2002.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob Stephenson reported on Meetinghouse matters. He noted that the Meetinghouse Committee will make an on-site inspection on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April at which time it is hoped that painting contractors, the fire and burglar alarm contractor, and possibly other contractors will be in attendance. He mentioned the idea of placing a sign-in book inside the tower entrance of the Meetinghouse during the off-season for recording those entering the building. He reported that the replacement stage curtains had been installed and that one of the two stained curtains had been taken apart into its five 54-inch wide sections and that one had been taken to cleaners in Keene to see if the stains might be removed. There followed extensive discussion about using the fabric for cushions for the Meetinghouse benches. One sample cushion will be made at a cost of \$100-125 and tested out during the upcoming season. If it seems satisfactory, a campaign might be launched to have enough made for the first floor benches, approximately 24 in number. If it doesn't prove satisfactory, other uses might be considered. The source and cause of the stains remain unknown; the replacement curtains were covered by insurance, however.”

Signs/Meetinghouse

“George Cox made the suggestion that appropriate signs might be considered for the area around the Meetinghouse designed to encourage dog-owners to clean up after their pets. This will be mentioned to the Historic District Commission. This prompted Rob to report that at the Budget Committee hearing, Bud Lyle strongly condemned the condition of the Meetinghouse parking lot and wanted to know why it shouldn't be paved. Rob said this would be mentioned at an upcoming meeting of the Meetinghouse Committee, although with no enthusiasm that might be construed to be support for the idea.”

**May 30, 2002.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

- Meetinghouse “Gregg Fletcher is now scraping the south façade of the Meetinghouse prior to painting. He will also be painting the northside of Melville and the west end of the Horsesheds.”
- Meetinghouse “The locks on the building have been replaced. Now all locks can be open with a single master key. The new screen doors are in place and are now being painted by Rob.”
- Meetinghouse “Rob and Mary reported on the issue of flags. The standard flag set available through the State is too short for the space. Mary has found a source for taller sets. The sets include base, pole, flag and eagle/spear on top. Prices: US \$322.30; NH \$344.00. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to purchase the flag sets and to request that the Town pay one half.”
- Meetinghouse “Charlie Marvin, as Trustee of Trust Funds, reported that the curtain work at the Meetinghouse was more expensive than expected. Although the curtain was paid for by insurance, the additional work on travelers, etc., was extra. Janet suggested that we post some instructions on the use of the curtains as there was some confusion at the Shakespeare festival.”
- Meetinghouse “Mary reported on the Meetinghouse cushion project. The curtains that had been stained were found to be cleanable. Kathy Sterling has agreed to make cushions at a cost of \$50 each. Materials (cording, zippers, foam) would be extra. A prototype will be made to determine the feasibility and desirability of making enough cushions for at least the center ground floor benches.”
- Meetinghouse “Mary reported on the Fourth of July Reading of the Declaration of Independence. Many people have signed up to be readers. There was discussion on how best to end the reading as last year it was a little unclear when it was over. A piper was mentioned, so too handbells and perhaps a cheer. Mary will continue exploring options. There will be an ice cream social at Melville. Bryan will handle contacting the newspapers. Rob will provide him with a press release updated from last year’s.”

**July 20, 2002.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 97th; Should be no 96]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

- Meetinghouse “The Meetinghouse has been partially painted including the back stairs and bulkhead and later in the season touch-up work will be completed. The old electrical wiring in the control panel has been done over so that any wiring that is not actively used has now been disconnected. The new curtains are now adding a professional touch to the stage. New screen doors have been installed. There were many old stage lights which were going to be scrapped and Andy’s Summer Playhouse expressed an interest so they were given to them. The locks were changed and new keys issued to responsible persons. The clock has been given its annual physical and was given a clean bill of health. Melville Academy is in nigh unto perfect condition...”

Meetinghouse

“Rob Stephenson reported on the activities of the Selectmen’s Meetinghouse Committee which he is a member of representing the VIS. The following has been accomplished this year: Replacement stage curtain and new travelers installed; prototype seat cushion from old stage curtain fabric made; south façade and areas of the tower and bulkhead painted by Gregg Fletcher; two new screen doors built and installed by Andy Webber; two ceremonial flags and stands were donated by Mary Payson in memory of John Batiste; electrical circuits were mapped and unused circuits disconnected; a new and safer extension cord system for the Christmas lights was made by Paul Winsor and Rob Stephenson; old theatrical lighting equipment donated to Andy’s Summer Playhouse; new door locks were installed. The Committee is keeping its eye open for an attractive piano that might be donated to the Meetinghouse.”

Meetinghouse

“Bryan oversaw the publicity for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Reading and led us all in the concluding singing of Yankee Doodle.”

**October 19, 2002.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on the Meetinghouse Committee. A fire alarm system is in the process of being installed. The Christmas lights will be installed after Thanksgiving. Clay offered to help in the installation.”

**December 14, 2002.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on the installation of a Fire Alarm system at the Meetinghouse.”

**February 15, 2003.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported that he had met with the Fire Chief and Monadnock Security at the Meetinghouse to make a final inspection and test of the new Fire Alarm system.”

Meetinghouse

“Janet raised the idea of a line dance at the Meetinghouse. The Trimbles have agreed to do it and Janet has made a tentative reservation of the Meetinghouse for Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. It would go from 7 to 9 pm, be free and open to all. Suggestions were made that the Jaffrey Recreation Department might be consulted and that the Meetinghouse Committee be a co-sponsor. The VIS might provide refreshments and possibly food outside in conjunction with the event.”

**April 12, 2003.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on the Meetinghouse Committee which will have its spring inspection at 11am on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April. A sash has been removed for repair and repainting by the company in Alstead that did the original restoration. The company will then submit a per window price and the Committee may then select the number of windows to be done each year given need and budget. Phil d’Avanza inspected, reset and maintained the tower clock on April 8<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that a meeting was scheduled at 11am this day for testing a portable p.a. system. Mary reported that two cushions had been made, one by Kathy Sterling and another by the millstore in Keene. The Meetinghouse Committee will consider how to pursue the question of cushions. (These would be fabricated from fabric salvaged from the stage curtains.)”

**June 14, 2003.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Discussion then moved onto the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Amy Meyers will orchestrate the activities at the Meetinghouse. Rob and Mary will put up the bunting and the flag above the stage. Bryan English will do the press release using previous ones as a guide. He will also lead the singing. His daughter will again participate. Margaret Pokorny offered to do the flowers again. Mary will do the welcoming. Rob will display the numbers at the front. Amy discussed some of the people already lined up as readers. Executive Committee members will serve as back-ups in case of ‘no shows.’ Amy has checked with John Van Ness re the new speaker system. Jackie Johnson needs to be checked with regarding the Little Red Schoolhouse. It is not clear yet with the JHDC will do a walking tour or some other activity. Melville will be opened and ice cream will be served on the lawn.”

Meetinghouse

“The Line Dancing event is set for the 16<sup>th</sup> of August in the Meetinghouse. Bryan will do the press release.”

Meetinghouse

“Bench cushions for the Meetinghouse were discussed. The sample is presently in the Meetinghouse. It was suggested that perhaps it might be mentioned at the first Amos Fortune Forum, that the sample (from the old curtains) has been made as a trial for this season and that comments would be welcomed. Margaret offered to do up a flyer on the cushions inviting people to donate towards the cost of production. To “purchase” an entire cushion it was suggested that \$175 be set as the donation level.”

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on the Meetinghouse, saying that during the clean-up day all the windows had been cleaned inside and the ground floor ones on the outside. The lower sash that had been removed for repair and painting by Historic Window and Door in Alstead will be reinstalled on Friday June 20<sup>th</sup>. Based on the cost, the Meetinghouse Committee will

recommend a certain number of windows be done each winter. He also raised the question of the use of candles at weddings in the Meetinghouse. These currently are not allowed but those involved in the wedding set for 23 August have asked if a candle can be used. Clay Hollister has asked the Fire Chief to consider what, if anything, might be done to accommodate such requests.”

**July 19, 2003.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 98th; Should be no 97]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“A fire alarm system has been installed; the old curtain fabric has been used to make a prototype seat cushions which will be sold at \$175 each; a new sound system provided by the Amos Fortune Forum has been installed and the old system removed; a typical window sash has been restored and grant applications have been submitted to assist in redoing all the windows; the windows were washed during clean-up day for the first time in some years; a new wastebasket has been made by Bob Chase using wood from the old floor of the Meetinghouse; a piano is being sought preferably for donation. Bud Lyle mentioned that he had donated a piano to Monadnock Music some years ago and it might be available. He offered to look into it.”

**September 20, 2003.**

Executive Committee  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“The Town will be receiving at least one of the grants it applied for to help in the restoration of the windows. No official word yet. Cushions for 4 benches have been donated. Mary will be meeting with another person who might do the cushions for much less. Mary will also contact Amos Fortune Forum about making a cushion donation.”

Meetinghouse

“Amy Meyers submitted a report on the Reading of the Declaration, appended below. There was discussion about shorter people not being heard. One possible solution mentioned was to do away with the podium. Marc Tieger’s letter suggestion that the event begin with the Pledge of Allegiance was read and discussed. It was decided not to include it. However, the Committee did feel that having someone play the fife or flute for Yankee Doodle would be a good addition.”

**November 15, 2003.**

Executive Committee  
Location not given

Meetinghouse

“Mary reported on the status of the Meetinghouse cushions. Seven have been ‘purchased’ for a total of \$1225. The cushions will be made this winter.”

Meetinghouse

Rob reported on the Meetinghouse Committee. The Town will be receiving two grants to assist in the restoring of the windows but no written confirmation has been forthcoming as yet.

**February 1, 2004.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on the Meetinghouse windows project (the 13 south façade windows have been removed and are now being restored. The west façade windows will come out next. Both south and west windows will be completed and reinstalled by 21 May.”

Meetinghouse

“The east screen door has been removed and a new replacement of the same design has been purchased. It will be painted this winter.”

Meetinghouse

“Rob also floated the idea of having a “birthday party” for the Meetinghouse on Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of the raising of the frame. If done, it will be a modest affair initially. A simple cake and singing ‘Happy Birthday.’”

Meetinghouse

There was some discussion on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Reading of the Declaration. The 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday. The Thorndike Club picnic is also on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Mary will ask Bill Schofield if the time can be adjusted (the Club has since decided to have its picnic on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup>). Whether the Reading should be delayed until 1 pm to allow for churchgoers out of town to attend was discussed. In the end it was decided to stay with noon time. This will allow those at First Church to attend following church if they wish.

Margaret Pokorny raised the idea of having red, white and blue bunting surrounding the main double door. She will look into what might be available.”

**April 17, 2004.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on the Meetinghouse, specifically the window restoration project and paint issues. Gregg Fletcher is unable to paint higher than 2-1/2 stories so we will have to find other painters.”

Meetinghouse

“It was mentioned that Holly Saunders plays flute. Lives in Peterborough. A possibility for playing at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July reading.”

**June 19, 2004.**

Executive Committee  
Melville Academy

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on the Meetinghouse. Windows on two façades have been restored and returned. The 3<sup>rd</sup> (east) façade will be done by 30 September of this year. The Meetinghouse Birthday Party was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> and was an interesting time. “

Meetinghouse

“Amy Meyers, unable to attend, submitted an update on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Reading. Bryan will do the press release. Virginia Eskin will be asked to play the piano; a second possibility mentioned was Dick Boutwell.”

**July 24, 2004.**

Annual Meeting [Given as 99th; Should be no 98]  
Melville Academy at 4 p.m.

Meetinghouse

“35-1/2 of the 50 windows have or are being restored. The remaining 14 are due for restoration between October and May. Over \$30,000 in grants through the NH Division of Historical Resources have assisted this effort. This year the east façade is to be painted. Next year the Tower is due to be painted. The Governor and Council will hold their August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in the Meetinghouse. To date \$1400 has been donated by 8 donors for producing seat cushions from the old stage curtain fabric. 11 cushions are now in place, and more are now being made. Rob then asked Louise Curran (who along with Mary Payson and Janet Grant constitute the newly organized Piano Committee) to announce the recent arrival of an antique box grand piano that was donated to the Town by Eugene Roux who, in turn, received it from the Hancock Historical Society.”

**July 24, 2004.**

Buildings Report for the Annual Meeting

Meetinghouse

Annual Report on the Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Once again the Reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Meeting House was a success. A collaboration of the VIS, the Jaffrey Historic District Commission, the Jaffrey Historical Society and the Selectmen’s Meetinghouse Committee of the Town of Jaffrey, this 4th reading involved 38 members of the community in reading and all the audience in the singing of Yankee Doodle afterwards. I am most grateful to Rob Stephenson for publicity, programs and organization on the day of the event; Janet Grant for introducing the event; Peg Castle for the flowers; Sean Driscoll for managing the sound system; and Virginia Eskin, pianist. Also thanks are due to those who organized the ice cream social following the reading.

The community interest and support in the event is tremendous and heartwarming. However as I plan for next year, I struggle with how to continue to keep the list of readers diverse and representative of the entire town of Jaffrey without offending those who have read and want to continue to read. If anyone knows of someone who would like to read next year, please have them call me.

**September 25, 2004.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on the Selectmen’s Meetinghouse Committee, mentioning the Chamber of Commerce ‘After Hours’ gathering in the Meetinghouse and then at Melville; the window project (the phase 3 windows—east façade—are due back by the end of September); the painting of the east façade by Sunshine Painting; the Governor and Council Meeting at the Meetinghouse on 18 August; and the status of the cushion project (will result in 23 cushions).”

**November 20, 2004.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on Selectmen’s Meetinghouse Committee. The last phase of the window restoration will commence after the New Year. At this time Jade Mortimer will also remove a sash from Melville to undertake a trial restoration. The Committee is recommending an increase in Meetinghouse rental fees for weddings.”

**February 19, 2005.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on Selectmen’s Meetinghouse Committee. The last batch of Meetinghouse windows has been removed and are now being restored by Jade Mortimer. She has also removed the sash from one opening on the west side of Melville on the second floor. She will determine how involved restoration will be and the unit cost. It should be finished in May. The fire alarm has been tested; also, the Town is now plowing/shoveling paths to both entrances. Janet said the lectern needs repair, also a couple of benches. She will contact Dave Sargent who may undertake the work. It was suggested that the piano be covered in the off season. Monadnock Music will be performing on 10 July (reception at Melville) and 21 August.

Meetinghouse

“Mary suggested that Amy Meyers be asked to shift to being an Advisor and continuing to coordinate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Reading of the Declaration. This would allow for the bringing on a new vice president.”

**April 16, 2005.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Rob reported on Selectmen’s Meetinghouse Committee. The fire alarm was tested and it was suggested that a unit be placed in the cellar. The cost for this will be \$1400. The last batch of windows are due back on the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> of May. The first event is the next week, the Shakespeare Festival. Rob hopes to have paint specifications prepared soon for repainting the Tower which hasn’t been done since it was remade and reinstalled.”

**June 24, 2005.**

Executive Committee  
Home of Mary Payson

Meetinghouse

“Amy Meyers discussed the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July Reading of the Declaration. This will be her last year organizing the event. Margaret will provide flowers. The Soney children will do the presentation. Owen Houghton will be asked to lead the singing.”

Meetinghouse

“Rob and Janet reported on Selectmen’s Meetinghouse Committee. Dave Sargent repaired two benches and the podium, gratis. The windows are all finished and in as of May. Twelve more cushions using the old stage curtains for a total of 23 have been delivered. The piano will be tuned on July 14 before the Musicale.”