Fundraising, publicity and community input on this project has not commenced mainly because of the expected project start date, fall of 2021. These efforts will begin when the Town has some positive indications from the Conservation License Plate grant program and LCHIP. For this specific application and for its LCHIP conterpart LCHIP counterpate we include those letters of support that could be obtained at this juncture of the project.

To Whom It May Concern, June 07, 2020

The Jaffrey Historic Commission commends the Meeting House Committee and the Town of Jaffrey in their efforts in applying for a Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant; and a Mooseplate (Conservation License Plate) grant to assist in covering some of the costs of restoring the Tower of our Old Jaffrey Center Meeting House.

The Old Jaffrey Center Meeting House has been recognized in the Town History as Jaffrey's "dearest possession" and "has stood as the town's most important building, historically, architecturally and symbolically".

This project is fitting the mission of the Jaffrey Historic District Commission in helping to safeguard the heritage of Jaffrey Center by preserving its architectural history and helping preserve one of its finest treasures for future generations.

This proposal has the Commission's full support.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Reid, Chairman

E-mail: rclreid@gmail.com

The Jaffrey Historical Society

40 Main Street • Jaffrey, NH 03452
jaffreyhistory.org • 603-598-0120

June 2, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

The Jaffrey Meetinghouse Committee, appointed as stewards of the Town's most important historic structure, are seeking funds to repair and rehabilitate the building's iconic tower. This steeple houses the clock and the bell that have not only advised residents of the hour, but has called people to gather, signaled happy marriages, sad deaths, celebrations, victories, and alarms of concern.

Provisions to build a Meetinghouse were stipulated in the Town Charter of 1773 and the basic rectangular barn-like structure was completed in 1775. It was functional but lacking in creature comforts and maintenance for many years. In the 1790's the deterioration was addressed and a granite foundation laid beneath the building. As time and weather take their toll on wooden structures more repair and paint were required by 1822 and it was in this year that the residents requested a belfry be added, such as found in neighboring towns. This steeple which stands on its own base as opposed to sitting on the roof of the Meetinghouse was sponsored by generous public-spirited citizens on condition that the Town buy the bell. The clock was added at a later date but now fulfills the classic vision of a traditional New England steeple.

The Jaffrey Historical Society heartily endorses the efforts by the Meetinghouse Committee to preserve this valuable relic of the past and maintain the 18th century structure for future generations.

Respectfully,

Bruce W. Hill, President
Jaffrey Historical Society

THE FIRST CHURCH IN JAFFREY
Congregational – United Church of Christ
14 Laban Ainsworth Way
Jaffrey, New Hampshire 03452
admin@firstchurchinjaffrey.org ▪ 603-532-7979

June 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The First Church in Jaffrey overwhelmingly supports the Town of Jaffrey and its Meetinghouse Committee in the efforts to preserve the Meetinghouse which was completed in 1775. The Meetinghouse in Jaffrey Center has been recognized over time as Jaffrey's 'dearest possession' and 'has stood as the town's most important building, historically, architecturally and symbolically'

The funds requested will be used to repair and rehabilitate the iconic tower of the Meetinghouse. The steeple houses the clock and bell, calling the community to gather, to celebrate and to mourn, over the years. The hourly tolling of the bell, adds stability to life and continuity in times of stress.

Many early churches started their services in the Meetinghouse, including our own. We consider, as do many others, the preservation of the Meetinghouse at the core of our history.

More broadly, the Meetinghouse is a key and integral part of the New Hampshire history, as well as that of New England.

Your consideration of the application for this current project is most appreciated. We value our Meetinghouse, and thank you for all the fine work you continue to support over time.

Yours sincerely,

Janet S Grant
Honorary Treasurer
Executive Circle Member
The First Church in Jaffrey

JAFFREY CENTER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

June 15, 2020

To whom it may concern,

The Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society (JCVIS) enthusiastically supports the projects proposed by the Meetinghouse Committee and the Town of Jaffrey to repair the Tower of the 1775 Meetinghouse.

The scope of these projects, focused entirely on the Tower which dates to 1822, is as follows:

1) Scaffold the entire Tower
2) Repair and possibly replace portions of the deteriorated upper balustrade of the Bell stage
3) Conserve and restore the four clock faces and re-gild the numerals, hands and digits on it
4) Paint the entire Tower and the western façade of the Meetinghouse
5) Repair and in some cases replace the Tower flooring and stairs to insure safer access to the clock and bell and upper stages. The goal is to have the entire Tower, inside and out, brought to a high level.

The Jaffrey Center Village Improvement Society, founded 1906, has had a long involvement in the restoration and maintenance of the Meetinghouse dating back as far as 1922 when it worked with the Town to rehabilitate the building to its present state. Since then, the JCVIS has supported all efforts related to the Meetinghouse including the major restoration undertaken in 1991-1993, and more recently putting a new roof on it.

The JCVIS is pleased to write a letter of support for the Meetinghouse Committee and the Town to proceed with funding efforts for the Meetinghouse Tower project which is expected to be completed by the fall of 2021.

Sincerely,
Susan T. Campbell, President, JCVIS
On behalf of the Board of Directors: Ken Campbell, Sam Greene, Sam Hackler, Bruce Hill, Mary Ley, Peter Russell, Tom Schiele, Rick Stein

POST OFFICE BOX 722 • JAFFREY CENTER, NH 03452-0722

Jaffrey Conservation Commission

NH Division of Historical Resources
PO Box 2043
Concord, NH 03302

To Whom it may Concern:
The Jaffrey Conservation Commission avidly supports the Jaffrey Meetinghouse Committee's application for Grants to repair and replace portions of our Historic Meetinghouse Bell Tower. Jaffrey's meetinghouse has been a focus of our community events and activities including the Amos Fortune Forum, Our Fourth of July Celebration, Musical events, Weddings, and Conservation Commission educational lectures on topics ranging from Black Bears to Caterpillars.
Our Meetinghouse is a living symbol of all that we cherish in Jaffrey. The conservation and restoration of the Bell Tower is essential for future preservation and use of the Meetinghouse. Please help us preserve this beautiful functional historic symbol.
It is with enthusiasm that the Jaffrey Conservation Commission supports this application.
Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn D Garretson, Chair
Jaffrey Conservation Commission

The Amos Fortune Forum
P.O. Box 153
Jaffrey, N.H. 03452
Amosfortune.com

June 15, 2020

NH Division of Historical Resources
PO Box 2043
Concord, NH 03302

Re: Conservation License Plant Grants

To Whom it May Concern:

The Amos Fortune Forum strongly supports the application of the Town of Jaffrey for a "Mooseplate" grant to assist our community in its efforts to restore the tower of the Jaffrey Meetinghouse.

The Jaffrey Meetinghouse, built in 1775, is not only an historical treasure, but is a building that still works hard to bring together all people of the Jaffrey community and the wider Monadnock region.

The Amos Fortune Forum is an annual lecture series that is held over 7 Friday evenings during the summer. The Forum has been holding its lectures at the Meetinghouse since the summer of 1945. Attendance at the events averages about 100 people. This summer, due to the dangers presented by COVID-19, the Forum Committee felt it had to cancel the series. We chose not to present our speakers on line, largely because, as we said in a letter to our mailing list, "The Committee believes that the Amos Fortune Forum is more than the experience of listening to an excellent presenter. It is also a gathering of the Monadnock community to meet in person and to engage in face to face, meaningful dialogue. The gathering together on a warm summer evening to enjoy the beauty of a classic New England village in our magnificent Meetinghouse is integral to the Forum experience."

We need our Meetinghouse to be restored and safe for our Forum to continue into its next 75 years.

Sincerely,

Nancy Beiter, Co-Chair