

The Lempster Meetinghouse Restoration Project



C. 1905

It is with great pride that we announce that a major restoration of Lempster's Meetinghouse is about to begin.

There are few buildings that characterize the image and charm of the quintessential New England village more than the Town Hall or Meetinghouse. Historically, a Meetinghouse was where members of a community gathered to worship, politic, govern, learn, and associate. Lempster's relationship with our Meetinghouse has been no different.

Lempster now faces the task of saving our own 213 year-old Meetinghouse. This is a critical juncture, where further neglect and hopeful patching will no longer work. Lempster must attack the problems that threaten this icon or risk losing it.

The **Friends of the Lempster Meetinghouse** (FLMH), is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) group, whose mission is to conserve, restore, and rehabilitate the Lempster Meetinghouse. Formed in 2006, FLMH received—on behalf of the town—a New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant in the amount of \$75,000 for emergency stabilization to the Lempster Meetinghouse. This generous grant requires monetary and in-kind "matching funds."

FLMH sees the need to tackle the challenge of preserving this building head-on. We not only want to raise the grant match but to complete the building's critical restoration. We intend to make the building useable and accessible by adding a first-floor level kitchen, toilet facilities, septic, well, modern electrical and fire protection, insulation, and handicap accessibility. The use of an architectural firm and contractors with expertise in historic restoration will be essential.

Lempster's Meetinghouse is a special connection to our community's past. Beyond our town, it is one of a diminishing number of tangible connections to New Hampshire's, New England's, and America's past. This historic building is our community's inheritance and our gift to the future. It needs our help now.

Your tax-deductible financial contribution will help make this restoration possible. All gifts directly support work on the Meetinghouse. Please consider donating to this important project.

NH State Architectural Historian James L. Garvin describes the Lempster Meetinghouse in his *Report On The Lempster Town Hall (1994)* as one of an estimated 5% of Eighteenth Century New Hampshire meeting houses still surviving and one of only thirteen that still retain much or all of their original appearance.

The Meetinghouse in Lempster has been, as termed by Garvin, "an embodiment of much of the town's history for two centuries."

Milestones

- 1794: Original construction.
- 1819: End of use as Congregational Church.
- 1822: Building moved to present location and bell tower added.
- 1835: Remodeled, removing traditional balconies and converted into a two story building.
- 1835: Second story used for an academy.
- 1854: Lempster Dramatic Union begins use of the building for dramatic presentations.
- 1893: Lempster Public Library is started and uses room on the second floor.
- 1897: Silver Mountain Grange No.196, remodels much of the second floor for its use and contributes significantly to the building's stewardship for the next 100 years.
- 1980: Entered into National Register of Historic Places.
- 1994: Structural concerns restrict use of the building.
- 1997: Repairs to tower and second floor framing.
- 2006: \$75,000 LCHIP Grant.
- 2054: 250-years Meetinghouse celebration.



C. 1938

You may use the donation coupon provided on the back of this flyer. If you have any questions, please call Bill Rodeschin at 603-863-4720 or Laura Pinkney at 603-863-8180. Join us by mailing your contribution, made out to FLMH or Friends of the Lempster Meetinghouse, to:

FLMH
5 Wheeler Lane
Lempster NH 03605

Thank you!



From:

Friends of the Lempster Meetinghouse
5 Wheeler Lane
Lempster NH 03605

To:

Yes! I support the restoration and rehabilitation of the Lempster Meetinghouse.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Please make your check payable to FLMH or Friends of the Lempster Meetinghouse and mail to:

FLMH
5 Wheeler Lane
Lempster NH 03605

May we publicly acknowledge your contribution? Yes _____ No _____