

## **The 1835 Town Hall Committee**

It was a year of transition for the 1835 Town Hall Committee. Vern Gaw resigned from the Committee mid-year and was succeeded by Robert McKay Jones as Chair. The Committee is extremely indebted to Vern for his persistence and dedication for more than a dozen years helping nurture the Town Hall back to life with purpose and beauty insuring it will continue to stand proudly at the center of our common and community for many years to come. Vern was instrumental in accomplishing great things and will continue to be a valued resource as we continue to maintain and care for the building.

This has also been a year of progress. David Gibbs and Rob Barwise have joined the committee providing a high level of expertise on historical, architectural and structural aspects of the Town Hall. The Committee now has an enviable base of knowledge and experience providing insight and guidance.

A three-member Building Sub-Committee and a two-member Historical Review Sub-Committee were established to foster productive working sessions to research, evaluate and discuss restoration alternatives and provide the Committee with considered recommendations. Number one on the list of projects to be undertaken is the restoration of the roof structure and sheathing and opening up of the great hall.

The Committee is working very closely with the Town Facilities Maintenance Technician, Tom Rutherford, for the general care and maintenance of the Town Hall. The Committee thanks Tom for his enthusiasm and interest in keeping the Town Hall safe and in good condition. We have had several productive meetings and have agreed on specific actions.

Sean Hamilton and the Sterling Municipal Light Department removed the unsightly telephone pole that has been at the side of the Town Hall for many years. Sean was able to organize a team of people including Town employees and outside companies to finally rid us of this eye-sore. The Light Department is also working to replace the old florescent lighting with new efficient and attractive LED lighting on the first floor of the Town Hall. The Committee is very grateful for their support.

The Town Hall painting project was completed with the south side exterior wall scraped and painted. The Committee wishes to thanks the Sheriff's Department for their assistance. We continue to have the exterior in our sites and have made plans to repair, clean and paint the Doric columns and entry portico.

The Sterling Historical Commission and the 1835 Town Hall Committee procured and proudly mounted a beautiful plaque for the Town Hall commemorating:

**This property has been placed on the  
National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior  
Site of the First Town House in Worcester County 1800  
The Original Town House was moved and this building erected in 1835**

The Committee is grateful to Kristin Deitel and the Recreation Department for being great day-to-day stewards of the Town Hall. They schedule all meetings, events and reservations and organize all of the varied building uses. This past holiday season, the Town Hall was adorned with charming decorations and holiday music welcoming all visitors and passersby's from the portico of the Town Hall.

The Committee is excited about the prospects for progress in the coming year and thank the people of the Town of Sterling and the Board of Selectmen for their ongoing support of this beautiful and historic landmark.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert McKay Jones, Chair