



Town of Brookfield, NH Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 23

November 2009

News from Town Officials

Selectmen's News

Tax Rate This year's tax rate is 22 cents lower than last year representing a little less than a 2% **decrease** in our tax rate.

The new tax rates are as follows:

Town of Brookfield	\$3.94	Last year:	\$3.44
Carroll County	0.97	Last year	0.88
School District-local	7.07	Last year	7.88
School District-state	<u>2.08</u>	Last year	<u>2.08</u>
Total rate:	14.06	Last year	14.28

The Board of Selectmen is happy to announce that they were recently informed by the Technology Transfer Center at UNH that our road agent, **Ed Nason**, has achieved the status of Master Roads Scholar. This achievement is recognition of the fourth and last level in the Program. It means that Ed has attended close to 20 one day workshops on the various subjects covered. He is to be congratulated for his persistence and drive to maintain a leading edge in the field of local road maintenance and construction.

Assessor Clerk: Revaluation: 2010 means it's Revaluation time again. Happily by reviewing 25% of our town per year, most properties have been assessed already. Along with picking up a few stragglers, we will be concentrating on the overall projects. This includes reviewing all land-only parcels, updating all our Current Use property files, reviewing and updating all Elderly and Disabled Exemptions, and making sure all Veterans Tax Credit applications meet current DRA standards. It will be a busy year and we will really appreciate your assistance and cooperation as needed.

New Office Hours: Through 2009, the Assessing Office will continue to be open to the public on Wednesdays from 2-6 pm. In 2010 the **Assessing Office hours are changing to Wed. 8 AM – 12 PM.**

Property Cards: Would you pay your credit card bills without looking at the line item charges??? That's what you are doing when you pay your tax bill without reviewing your most recent Property Card. This is actually an 8½ x 11 sheet of paper containing all the data on your property. Do we have the correct information on your property? This is the basis for your tax bills – so please make sure your data is correct.

Please drop by to review your Property Card/Assessment, get assistance with applications for Elderly or Disabled Exemptions, Veterans Tax Credits,

Abatements, etc., to help you understand Current Use, Voluntary Land Mergers, and other assessing options that are available to you.

Tax Collector Notes: It's no secret things are hard for many people right now. This is a reminder that I will work with you to try and help any way I can. Partial payments help and also reduce the interest you pay. Please call me anytime and I will assist you deciding the best way for you. My work number is 522-3688 and my home number is 522-6551.

My office hours are 10 - 2 every 2nd & 4th Friday with special hours the month of December. These hours are Dec. 4, 11, 18, 23 and 28, 10 am to 2 pm, but I am available any time you call me.

Town Moderator: In 2010, Brookfield will experience 3 elections (Town and School District ballot elections as well as the Town Meeting on March 9; NH State Primary in September; and the NH General Election in November). Remember you must be a registered voter to vote in these elections. If you will be out of town for any of these elections, please obtain an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk.

Town Meeting and Elections: Town meeting will be held in the Town House on March 9, 2010 beginning at 7:00 PM until closing.

Polls will be open from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM on March 9th in the Town Offices. Voting on the school budget and election of school board members will take place at the Town Office Building at the same time. Absentee ballots for both Town and school voting must be received back by 5:00 PM on Monday, March 8th in person. If you are submitting the ballots by mail the deadline is 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 9th.

Board, Committee and Commission News

Agricultural Commission: Town Coffees
The Ag Commission will once again be hosting town coffees. They will occur on the first Saturday of every month November through March except for December which will be held on the second Saturday. The hours are 8:30-10:30 AM. We invite you all to come chat with old friends or meet new friends. You don't need to be a "farmer" to join us. Everyone is welcome. A point of interest is our March coffee which will include a Candidates Forum. Hope to see you there!

Conservation Commission: Thanks to the work of John Nelson and the road crew, Ed Nason and Brad Williamson, the Scenic Road signs were placed on Lyford, Garney, and Moose Mountain Roads. Copies of the revised Shoreline Protection Act were given to the

president of the Kingswood Lake Association to be distributed to shoreline property owners.

The commission participated w/ the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) (formerly the New Hampshire Estuaries Project) in completing environmental assessment documents. These documents will eventually be used as a tool for the PREP, the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) and the community of Brookfield as a comprehensive list and inventory of our conservation regulations, as well as a way to assess their strengths and weaknesses.

The commission updated the Natural Resource Inventory and submitted to the Planning Board to be added to the towns Master Plan. Thirteen hikers accompanied the Conservation Commission on hikes during Old Home Day up Cople Crown, Moose Mountain, and Tumbledown Dick. The commission continued to do its primary job of reviewing wetland permits that are to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Services.

Supervisors of the Checklist

Meeting Schedule Jan – May 2010

Jan 19 – 7:00 - 7:30 pm - correction to the Checklist

Feb 27 – 11:00 - 11:30 am - correction to the Checklist (Last date to register to vote before Town Election)

March 9 - Town Election (New voter registrations accepted also corrections to checklist)

May 25 – Meeting Announcement: The Supervisors will meet **June 1**, 7 - 7:30PM

June 1 is the LAST date voters already registered can change or declare their party affiliation prior to the Sept. 14 State Primary Election (RSA 654:34). Voters who register after this date may declare a party affiliation when they register (RSA 654:15).

All Supervisor meetings are held in the Town Office Building. The Supervisors reserve the right to extend hours. Additional meetings, if needed, will be posted. Contact Adeline Russo, 522-3458, Supervisor of the Checklist for **voter registration information**.

Brookfield Cemetery Trustees: Brookfield has over 70 cemeteries. If there is any person, family or organization that is willing to adopt one of these small cemeteries, send a request to the Cemetery Trustees at the Brookfield Town Office, 267 Wentworth Road, Brookfield, NH 03872 or give me a call at 522-5099. This would be a great help to the town. These only need care once or twice a year.

The 13th Annual Scholastic Recognition Award was given to Cate Giguere with the highest four-year grade-point average. Congratulations Cate! Contributions and memorial donations to Brookfield's Scholastic Recognition Award Fund are deductible from Federal income taxes for those who itemize deductions. Call Tom Lavender for information at 522-6108.

Brookfield Crafts Fair: Will be held Saturday December 5th from 10AM-3PM at the Brookfield Town House. Jewelry, woodworking, baskets, paintings, artisan cheese, photography, pottery, handcrafted chocolates,

wreathes, whimsical art and more will be featured! Come finish (or start!) Christmas shopping, support local artisans, have a chance of winning a Free Door Prize, and participate in The Artisan Raffle. All the \$\$\$ raised goes to the Brookfield Scholarship Recognition Award Fund. Questions? Call Sang at 522-5117.

Brookfield/Wakefield Food Pantry: Special Holiday Meals program for anyone who needs a little help, Saturday November 21 from 9-1 a full Thanksgiving meal and Saturday December 19 from 9-1 a full Christmas meal. Meals can be delivered on these days if needed. Please call 522-3094 or Martina at 522.9250.

Reminders

Emergency care files update: Residents are responsible to advise the county sheriff's office (539-2284) and Wakefield Fire Department of any special circumstances that those responding would need to be aware of. Call the Wakefield Fire Department's non-emergency number (522-3232) to list anyone who is on a **life support** ventilator, uses an oxygen system or any other type of life support system that runs on electricity, is **bedridden** and would need to be moved in the event of power failure, or **lives alone** and may need to be checked on in the event of power failure.

Severe Emergencies: In case of extended power outages or other emergencies, the Town House will be open to provide water, cooking facilities, and shelter to residents in need.

Dog licenses must be renewed by April 30 or a civil forfeiture fine of \$25.00 will be incurred in addition to a late fee of one dollar a month. Renewal forms will be available starting January 1st. Rabies shots must be current. Bring a rabies certificate from your veterinarian as proof. See the Town Clerk for new licenses.

You are reminded that injury or destruction of any cemetery or burial ground including monuments, tombs, fences, gates, and other structures is a felony. RSA 635.6

Intent to Cut and Intent to Excavate forms must be signed by the selectmen and filed with the Town Assessor Clerk before work begins. Get applications from Ed Nason, our Code Enforcement Officer.

Town Driveway Permits are mandatory when putting in a driveway accessing a town road. Apply to the Code Enforcement Officer. State permits are required for accessing state roads.

Protect our town from forest fire! Get permits from our fire warden, Brad Williamson, 522-6018, for **all open burning** you plan.

"Good Morning, Seniors" Seniors or shut-ins who want to take part may call the Wakefield Police Department daily to let them know they are all right. Call Earleen DiPrizio at 522-3232.

Aluminum cans, rinsed, may be deposited in the collection trailer at the rear of the Town House. Mr. DeLisle donates half of the money raised to the Scholastic Recognition Award Fund.

ABBREVIATED BROOKFIELD CALENDAR JANUARY – JUNE 2010

All meetings and office hours will be held at the Town Office Building unless otherwise noted.

Dates are believed to be accurate at time of publication.

Check notice boards to verify. Changes will always be posted.

Selectmen Meetings: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 6:30 PM, Selectmen Hours: 1st and 3rd Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Town Clerk: Mondays, 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM; Tuesdays 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Tax Assessor Clerk: for **2009:** Wednesdays 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM, and for **2010:** Wednesdays 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Tax Collector: 2nd and 4th Fridays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, also December 4, 11, 18, 23 and 28th 10 AM - 2 PM

Agricultural Committee: 1st Tuesdays, 7:30 PM

Conservation Commission: 1st Wednesday 6:00 PM

Heritage Commission: 1st Wednesday 6:30 PM

Planning Board: 2nd and 4th Mondays 6:30 PM

Trustees of Trust Funds: 2nd Thursdays, Jan, Apr, July, Oct. 7:00 PM

Filing for office: Wednesday, January 20 – Friday, January 29, 2010

Final Town Budget Hearing: TBA

Final date to submit petitioned Town warrant articles: February 2nd

Town and school board elections / Town Meeting: March 9, 2010

School Board: Meetings are held on Mondays. Call 569-1658 or check www.govwentworth.k12.nh.us for dates and locations

Last day of school 2009-2010: June 4th, 2010

Kingswood HS graduation: May 29th, 2010

First day of school 2010- 2011: September 7th, 2010

No school: Nov 25–27, Dec 23–Jan 1, Feb 22–26, April 28–30, May 31

Senior Meals: St. Anthony's Church, Wakefield: Fridays 12 Noon; Greater Wakefield Resource Center, Union: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 12 Noon

Wakefield-Brookfield Historical Society, Little Red Schoolhouse, 2nd Tuesdays 7:30 PM

Brookfield/Wakefield Food Pantry: 138 Meadow St Sanbornville. Open every Wednesday year round from 9-12 and 5-7 PM, also open Nov 21, 9 AM - 1 PM and Dec 19, 9 AM - 1 PM

Brookfield Bloomers: 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

Hunting Season:

Fisher closes January 31, 2010

Snowshoe Hare closes March 31, 2010

Red and Gray Fox, Raccoon, night hunting of **Coyote** closes March 31, 2010

Youth Turkey Hunt May 1 - 2, 2010

Wild Turkey May 3 – May 31, 2010

Spring hunting season There is no closed season for coyote, porcupine, skunk, weasel, wild boar, or woodchuck. **Wear blaze orange** for visibility in the woods. Check the state website at <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us> for dates and details.

From the Archives: 1819 - "The only Town Cemetery in Brookfield was deeded to the town "in consideration of the love and affection I have for and bear towards said Town of Brookfield" by Timothy Johnson on 15 September 1819. Timothy Johnson, Junior and Joseph Goodhue had already been buried in the one-third acre plot."

The Town House was originally built between 1822 and 1823. In 1907 the bell tower was added to hold the bell donated by Frank Hutchins. The bell was dedicated with a town wide celebration on June 29th, 1908.

BROOKFIELD DIRECTORY

2009-2010

Town Offices: 522.3688

Town Fax: 522.6245

EMERGENCIES: Call 911 for Fire, Police, and Ambulance

Website: www.brookfieldnh.org

Selectmen: Clifton Camp, **Chair** 522.6077 Email: CJ@disneydazed.com

Craig Evans, **Vice-Chair** 522.5069 Email: selectcraig@roadrunner.com

Ernest H. Brown Jr., 522.8338 Email: ehbrownjr@earthlink.net

Administrative Assistant to Selectmen: Jennifer Sonricker 522.3688 Email: jsonricker@roadrunner.com

Town Clerk: Virginia McGinley 522.3688 Email: town.clerk@brookfieldnh.org

Deputy Town Clerk: Jennifer Sonricker 522.3688 Email: jsonricker@roadrunner.com

Tax Collector: Diana Peckham 522.3688 or 522.6551 Email: rlpeckham@myfairpoint.net

Assessor Clerk: Pamela Frazier 522.0031 Email: pam@mooseview.com

Welfare Clerk: Lynn Watts 473.8939 Email: frogprincess285@hotmail.com

Town Treasurer: Marilou MacLean 522.5338 Email: uwmarilou@hotmail.com

Trustee of the Trust Funds: Tom Lavender, **Chair** 522.6108 Email: telavender@roadrunner.com

Cemetery Trustees: Marilyn Bushman, **Chair** 522.5099 Email: brookfieldnh@hotmail.com

Webmaster: Jim Murfey (603) 941.0656 or 522.6474 Email: jim@murfey.net

Animal Control Officer: Wakefield Police Dept. 522.3232

Brookfield Bloomers: Lois Royle 522.8972 Email: nroyle@roadrunner.com

Conservation Commission: Cassandra Curtis 522.5117 Email: sangcurt@myfairpoint.net

Agricultural Commission: Frank Frazier 522.0031 Email: frank@mooseview.com

Heritage Commission: Marilou MacLean 522.5338 Email: uwmarilou@hotmail.com

Code Enforcement Officer: Ed Nason cell 651.3055 Email: code.enforcement@brookfieldnh.org

Building Inspector: Ed Nason, cell 651.3055 Email: code.enforcement@brookfieldnh.org

Forest Fire Warden: Brad Williamson 522.6018 Email: janbrad@roadrunner.com

Deputy Forest Fire Wardens: Jack & Helen Baker, 522.6121; Mike Moore, 522.3005; Janet Williamson, 522.6018; Sam Morrill, 522.8336; Todd Nason, 522.8336

Emergency Management Director: Brad Williamson, 522.6018 Email: janbrad@roadrunner.com

Food Pantry: Martina Cyr, 522.9250 Email: martinatedesigns@yahoo.com

Moderator: Richard Peckham 522.6551 Email: rlpeckham@myfairpoint.net

NH Fish and Game Region 2: Region 2 (Lakes Region) 744.5740 Email: reg2@wildlife.nh.gov

Planning Board: Janet Murfey, **Chair** 522.6474 Email: janet.murfey@murfey.net

Zoning Board of Adjustment: Tom Lavender, **Chair** 522.6108 Email: zoning.board@brookfieldnh.org

School Board Representative: Dr. James B. Manning 522.9900 Email: jbmanningdds@myfairpoint.net

School Board Member-at-Large: Ernest H. Brown Jr. 522.8338 Email: ehbrownjr@earthlink.net

State Police Communications: (24 hrs) 1.800.832.2100

Supervisor of Checklist: Adeline Russo 522.3458 Email: rvnrusso@yahoo.com

Timber and Gravel Monitor: Ed Nason, cell 651.3055 Email: code.enforcement@brookfieldnh.org

VNA: Hospice: 569.2729 General Inquires, Email: intake@vnahospice.net

Wakefield Transfer Station: Open to permit holders: Friday through Monday, 8:00 AM - 3:00PM

The Community Affairs Committee, Town of Brookfield, NH, publishes Town of Brookfield, NH Newsletter twice a year. Write to Editor, 267 Wentworth Rd, Sanbornville, NH 03872.