



Town of Brookfield, NH

Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 34 _____ November 2015

Selectmen Notes

After a long cold winter, we have enjoyed one of the nicer summers Brookfield can offer. We've had a busy year with many smaller projects being completed in order to maintain the Town's buildings and property.

We have recently finalized the purchase of land for Brookfield's new Town cemetery to be located on Lyford Road. The photo below was taken at the Closing on Oct 20, 2015. From left to right, Selectman Robischoeu, Mrs. Marsha Hunter(seller), Sharon Worster from Title Pro, Selectman Nelson and Selectman Zacher.



The Town will begin to prepare the cemetery land in the near future.

As discussed at the Town Meeting this March, the Board of Selectmen have been working with town residents, in order to explore our various options regarding the acquisition of approximately 250 acres of land from a resident. We hope to present our findings at the March 2016 meeting for further discussion.

As many have seen, the Town has completed our road renovations along Lyford Road. This summer a major road project was undertaken along a section of

Stoneham Road. Our hopes are to have the remainder of Stoneham Road completed in 2016.

We are pleased to report that our tax rate for 2016 will decrease from \$19.61 down to \$18.98. This tax rate decrease is despite a marked increase from Carroll County. With Brookfield's tax rate being set so promptly this year, we will be able to get the tax bills sent out earlier than normal. As required by the State of New Hampshire, the due date for the tax bills will be December 1st, 2015. Again, this is a bit earlier than normal, but that is due to the State's expedient tax rate setting for us this year and their December 1st due date for taxes.

Tax Collector Notes

As you probably noticed there was no newsletter this past June. We are sorry about that and hope we are back on track as people really use this means of communication to know what's going on in town.

First of all I wish to inform you that the Tax Kiosk I told you about in the last newsletter is up and running and being used all the time especially by the mortgage and title companies, and the banks. It saves time and provides a tool to help get the information out to those that need it in a hurry.

The past year has been busy and I do not see this changing as there is always more to do. Rose and I attended the Tax Collector's Convention for a day at the end of October to receive updates and information on deeding and liening of properties. We didn't have any deedings again this year as the Selectmen try to work with people to avoid this happening. We had 21 properties go to lien this year for the 2014 taxes for a total of \$72,398.59 in taxes, interest and fees associated with the process. This is up from \$60,018.28 in 2013 with 17 properties going to lien. There are 10 properties still outstanding for the 2013 levy year that will be subject to the deed process this coming spring. Payments for the delinquent amounts owed are coming in slowly. Needless to say, the town must still pay it's bills and that is why we really

encourage all who are able to, to make payments throughout the year.

I wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season, a Happy New Year and a good winter with maybe just a little less SNOW.

Diana Peckham (Your Tax Collector)

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission sponsored the town roadside clean up again this year on Saturday April 25th in conjunction with the Selectmen's breakfast. Eighteen people signed up and several others participated. The town roads look much better, thanks to all. The Commission created and installed a sign at the location of the Pike Mill Dam (circa 1828) on the newest section of the walking trail between Wakefield and Clark Road. The Commission also created and installed at the kiosk on Hanson Road a map of the trails to Mountain Lake. The Commission has decided to change the monthly meeting location to the Churchill School House beginning with the May 6, 2015 session. All are welcome to attend. We are looking for alternates to join the Commission.

Town Clerk

2016 promises to be a very busy year starting with the Presidential Primary. Next will be our own March Town Election and meeting. We skip on to September to the next Primary and then in November, the Big One. So everyone, do your homework and don't forget to VOTE!

Do you ever find yourself in need of a Notary? Please visit your town clerk, Virginia, for your notary needs FREE of charge!

Planning Board

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a yearly function performed by the planning board. CIP consists of town project and maintenance data collected by the board. The data is presented to our Selectmen for disposition. The CIP model built last year by the town and planning board allowed the CIP process to move quickly this year. We are getting better! The 2015 input from participating town departments has been collected and prepared for submission to the Selectmen. Thanks to all the

people who helped prepare this important planning tool. Other projects include clarification and enhancements to our Zoning Ordinances. All zoning changes will be reviewed in public sessions and presented before the town meeting as warrant articles. Continuous work on the zoning keeps our documents current, helps maintain the historic and agricultural characteristics of our town, and helps us avoid time consuming problems. The Board is preparing to work on updating the Master Plan for the town. Please attend your Planning Board meetings on the third Thursday of every month (6:30 PM) at the Town Offices. We try to keep the meetings to the point and focused on town business. **All are welcome!** Consider filling an open Alternate position on the planning board. Brookfield needs people willing to develop leadership and planning skills.

Respectfully,

Rick Surette, Chairman

New Town Cemetery Update

The Board of Selectmen completed the purchase of the five acre parcel on Lyford Road for the new town cemetery on Tuesday, October 20th, with the deed transfer between Mrs. Marsha Hunter and the town. The parcel was subdivided from a much larger parcel in September and is part of the land formerly connected to the Belknap Farm. A section of the property has been selected to be cleared, stumped and excavated, under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen. Once the site work is completed, the Cemetery Trustees will assume responsibility for the management of the cemetery, with a tentative opening date of late summer/early fall, 2016. The Cemetery Trustees are responsible only for the designated area that will be used as a cemetery. The Trustees are currently developing rules and regulations that will manage the cemetery. Anyone wishing to donate funds towards the site preparation expense should contact the Board of Selectmen.

Supervisors of the Checklist

2015 is a quiet year for elections. Our next election is the Presidential primary, which is planned for next January, although the exact date is not known at this time. The Supervisors will be scheduling meetings to update the checklist, register new voters and handle any other issues. Watch for notices of these meetings in the Granite State News, on the town website, and on the bulletin boards in front of the Town Office and at Stoneham Corner. You may also register to vote with the Town Clerk during her regular office hours.

Are you interested in becoming a Supervisor? We will have an opening for a 6 year term next year, as Carol Leary has decided not to run again. Thanks for your years of dedication to Brookfield, Carol!

Moderator's Report

I have nothing to report since the June newsletter – we haven't had an election since the town election last March – it's been a nice time to be Moderator but 2016 will be busier.

To date, the Secretary of State has not set a date for the NH Presidential Primary. It's more important to retain our 1st in the nation primary than to give election officials time to plan. Once I know the date, I will notify everyone involved promptly.

There have been some changes in Election Laws. RSA 657:17 now has a provision for family members to bring absentee ballots to the polling place. RSA 658:2 now gives the state political committee the opportunity to appoint their respective Inspectors of Election (who also serve as ballot clerks). If they have not done so by July 15th, then this responsibility falls to the Selectmen. As I have not heard from either, I am presuming Frank Frazier and Susan Brown will continue to serve in this capacity. RSA 658:29a directs the Selectmen to post the Proof of Voter Identity Instructions 14 days prior to the election, rather than having the Moderator do this the night prior as we have done with all the other posters. RSA 659:13 now elaborates the procedure if voters do not have a valid photo ID. If we are required to complete a Challenged Voter Affidavit, the Moderator now has to take the voter's picture and attach it to the form. The state provided a polaroid camera for us to use – I was not aware that they still made polaroid cameras and hopefully film will continue to be available going forward. Fortunately, there remains a provision for the Moderator and/or the Supervisors personally knowing a voter to be a valid photo ID.

After that, the Town Election on the 2nd Tuesday in March comes early this year – March 8, 2016. We hope this year has a good turnout – every vote counts!

William M Marsh, Moderator

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. Please contact the Selectmen for access.

Please visit the Town website for Emergency Alerts @ www.brookfieldnh.org

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 Code Enforcement Officer 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.

ABBREVIATED BROOKFIELD CALENDAR November 2015 – JUNE 2016

Selectmen Meetings: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 6:30 PM

Selectmen Hours: Last Saturday of the month 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Administrative Assistant: Wednesdays 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Assessor Clerk: Fridays 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Town Clerk: Mondays 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Tuesdays 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Last Sat. of the month 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Tax Collector: 2nd and 4th Fridays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Building/Code Enforcement: Thursdays 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Conservation Commission: 1st Wednesday 6:00 PM

Heritage Commission: 2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM

Planning Board: 3rd Thursday 6:30 PM

Trustees of Trust Funds: 2nd Thursday Jan, Apr, July, Oct. 6:30 PM

Senior Meals: St. Anthony's Church, Wakefield: Fridays 12 Noon; Greater Wakefield Resource Center, Union: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 12:00 PM

Wakefield-Brookfield Historical Society: Little Red Schoolhouse, 2nd Tuesdays 7:00 PM

Brookfield/Wakefield Food Pantry: 1500 Wakefield Road (Route 153) Wakefield, NH 03872. Open every Wednesday year round from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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

Last day of school 2016: June 17, 2016 (tentative)

Kingswood HS graduation: June 11, 2016 (tentative)

No school: Nov 23-27, Dec 23, 2015 – Jan 1, 2016, Jan 18, Feb 22 – Feb 26, April 25 – April 29, May 30

ABBREVIATED BROOKFIELD DIRECTORY

Town Offices: 522-3688

Town Fax: 522-6245

EMERGENCIES: Call 911 for Fire, Police, and Ambulance

Website: www.brookfieldnh.org

Selectmen: Brian Robischeau, **Chair** 522-5122, email: brian4selectman@hotmail.com
William Nelson, **Vice Chair** 522-5279 email: billnelson2012@gmail.com
Rich Zacher, 522-6651 email: rpzacher@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Laurie Champy 522-3688 email: admin.asst@brookfieldnh.org

Assessor Clerk: (open) 522-3688 email: assessor.clerk@brookfieldnh.org

Code Enforcement Officer: Ed Nason, 520-3686 email: code.enforcement@brookfieldnh.org

Tax Collector: Diana Peckham, 522-3688 or 522-6551 email: tax.collector@brookfieldnh.org

Town Clerk: Virginia McGinley, 522-3688 or 522-3231 email: brookfieldnhtc@hotmail.com

Town Treasurer: Marilou MacLean, 522-5338 email: uwmarilou@hotmail.com

Cemetery Trustees: Craig Evans, **Chair** 522-5609 email: selectcraig@roadrunner.com

Conservation Commission: Tom Hill, **Chair** 522-6730 email: conservation.commission@brookfieldnh.org

Heritage Commission: Marilou MacLean, **Chair** 522-5338 email: uwmailou@hotmail.com

Planning Board: Rick Surette, **Chair** 918-6962 email: rick@seabrisket.com

Supervisor of Checklist: Rose Zacher, 522-6651 email: supervisor.checklist@brookfieldnh.org

Trustee of the Trust Funds: Tom Lavender, **Chair** 522-6108 email: trustee.trust.fund@brookfieldnh.org

Zoning Board of Adjustment: Paul Tremblay, **Chair** 345-1164 email: zoning.board@brookfieldnh.org

Animal Control Officer: Wakefield Police Dept., Fred Guldbrandson 522-3232

Brookfield Archivist: Craig Evans, 522-5069 email: selectcraig@roadrunner.com

Emergency Management Director: Brad Williamson, 522-6018 email: janbrad@roadrunner.com

Fire Warden: Brad Williamson, 522-6018 email: janbrad@roadrunner.com

Moderator: Dr. William Marsh, 569-6382 email: wmarshmd@gmail.com

NH Fish and Game Region 2: (Lakes Region): 744-5740 email: reg2@wildlife.nh.gov

State Police Communications: (24 hrs) 1.800-832-2100

VNA: Hospice: 569-2729 General Inquires, email: intake@vnahospice.net

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

Welfare Officer: Lynn Watts, 473-8939 email: watts.lynn@yahoo.com