



Town of Brookfield, NH

Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 30

May 2013

News from Town Officials:

Selectmen's News: As we all ease our way into June, it is hard to believe that the year is half over! With the exception of black flies and getting your tax bill, it is an exciting time of the year. We are pleased to note that we are going into the 2nd half of the fiscal year on target with the budget.

For several years we have discussed actions to be taken in regard to repairs to the Town House and School House. As some of you may know, due to a frozen pipe burst, the Town House sustained some water damage. This claim has given us all some renewed interest in properly caring for these structures. After initially securing the structures to prevent further damage, efforts were made to restore the Town House to a functioning condition.

After several meetings with the Heritage Commission, Brookfield residents, and your selectmen, we've opted to devise a survey, allowing all participants to consider our options. We are initially focusing on the School House as it is the most immediate area for concern due to the fact that the Town House's utilities are contained in the School House. The most pressing needs are structural repairs to the foundation and roof and potential modifications to the overall structure.

You will be receiving this survey over the summer. We **strongly urge** you to return it as we want your voice heard. Our intention is to do any major work in stages, to not be a big drain on the budget in any one year. All major projects will be put out to bid. We ask that you give thought as to the financial impact of each; what will serve the community's current needs as well as our future needs. We plan to have projected costs for the various options to help you in making your choices.

The Selectmen will begin having office hours 9 - 12 PM on the last Saturday of the month. This is being done on a trial basis and some modifications may be made. Please check the town's web site or the bulletin boards for any adjustments in dates or hours. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Tax Collector Notes: First of all I would like to thank you all for voting for me for another three year term as your Tax Collector. I never thought years ago that I would still be your collector twenty seven years later. The job has changed a great deal with many state regulations and requirements that were not thought of years ago. You may have noticed that more notices and reminder letters are required and hopefully they are helpful to you in planning your payments.

Rose and I attended the Tax Collectors' workshop in May. This allows us to interact with other collectors and exchange ideas, as well as meet with representatives of the DRA and our association's attorney. The Tax Lien for the 2012 taxes was held April 12, 2013. Thirty two properties went to lien this year, down from thirty four last year. However we still have eighteen unredeemed from last year and three properties scheduled for deeding, this is the result of nonpayment of the 2010 taxes. This makes it very hard for the Town to pay its bills in a timely manner.

I will be having office hours every Friday in June as well as July 1 from 10AM to 2PM to receive payments. I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Town Moderator: Congratulations to our town for an excellent turnout for the March election! Usually March town elections have the lowest turnout of the year, this year we exceeded 50% and did much better than our surrounding towns.

Of course, when that many people vote, then the votes need to be counted and counted accurately. Those of you who waited patiently for this to happen before Town Meeting could begin realized we had stressed the system. Thanks especially to the people I drafted to help count: Gerald Ciccarone, Alfred Cann, Becky Marsh, Rob Collins and Drew Collins. Next year I will arrange for more vote counters, hopefully it won't be like 2 years ago when I really had too many counters. Fortunately Town Meeting ran very smoothly once again, and no one had to stay too late.

We have a very professional crew of election workers and I hope the whole town joins me in appreciating them. Bob Russo continues to be my Asst. Moderator. Frank Frazier and Rose Zacher serve as Inspectors for their parties, and also as Ballot Clerks. Doug Vanderpool continues as our most experienced Ballot Clerk. And of course I appreciate our Town Clerk Virginia McGinley, and our Supervisors of the Checklist, Adeline Russo, Carol Leary and Cheryl Perry.

Looking forward, the next regular election will be in March 2014.

Board, Committee and Commission News:

Conservation Commission: Have you ever wondered what a **Conservation Easement** means? Here's a description by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests: "A conservation easement deed is a permanent, legally binding agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or

public agency that restricts use of the land to protect its significant natural features. In New Hampshire this is authorized by RSA 477:45-47." You still own the property and continue to use it for activities such as recreation and even timber harvesting. But, the land is protected from further development. The IRS allows you to deduct on your federal taxes the value of your easement which is determined by appraisal. In addition, the Brookfield Conservation Commission maintains a Conservation Fund which might help to pay fees, such as surveying, required by an easement. Contact us for more information.

In other news, we had enough volunteers on Town Cleanup Day (April 27th) to clean all the town roads. The breakfast prepared by the Selectmen was wonderful. Join us next year...it's a great way to welcome spring!

Heritage Commission: will be holding our 5th Annual Old Home Day on Saturday, August 10, 2013. This year we hope to have a Farmer's Market at the Town House for the day provided by local farmers and sponsored by the Agricultural Commission. The Conservation Commission will be leading a hike to Copple Crown and during the day the Heritage Commission is planning a class on Genealogy. Come and find out how to track the interesting people on your family tree. We will have access to some of the Town Records in case your family lived in Brookfield, and we will also hear about some of the early families that lived in Brookfield. That night we will be serving a Memphis Style Bar-B-Q which will be cooked by Rick Surette of Seabrisquet fame and ending with music from Clearly Related String Band, led by Larry Warren.

Supervisors of the Checklist: There are no more elections this year. The Supervisors of the Checklist have no meetings scheduled at this time. We will be doing housekeeping on our files and will attend any training that the State conducts. In the event business needs to be conducted, meetings will be posted on the Bulletin Boards.

Trustees of the Trust Funds: As discussed in the 2012 Town Report, the Trustees have selected the Charter Trust Company of Concord, NH as the new Investment Manager of the Brookfield town trust funds. Relocating our funds to Charter should increase the net return we receive on our investments to help to offset the effects of inflation on the funds' purchasing power.

Brookfield/Wakefield Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open every Wednesday 10-1 and 5-7 PM. Drop Off located at the back entrance, the BRIGHT YELLOW container is convenient, accessible and checked daily. Feel free to drop off current dated canned goods, dry packaged foods and new toiletries anytime.

The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to go pick and bring produce back from Sherman Farms in

Conway on any Wednesday morning this summer. (You can sign up for just one Wednesday) The commitment is to be in Conway for 9:45, pick produce with the master gardeners and bring it back to our food pantry. Usually you are home by 12:30. This program runs from the end of June until mid September. You can do this with a friend and children. This gets fresh produce to our recipients! Please email Martina Cyr to sign up: martinadesigns@yahoo.com

Emergency Management: Brad Williamson has been busy working with MAPS, a private contractor, rewriting the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Brookfield. Public input has been gathered from numerous public meetings. The completed plan will be available in late fall. The project is being paid for with FEMA grants so the only cost to the town is payment in kind with time invested by local volunteers.

Emergency Services: House and Property Numbering – Help Emergency Services find you by being sure your house number is easily seen from the road. Numbers should be a minimum of three inches tall and set on a very contrasting color background. Reflective numbers have the best visibility. The best location for the number is at the end of your driveway on your mail box or a post near the road. Place numbers on both sides so they can readily be seen from both directions.

Fire Warden: We have been fortunate so far this year with only one brush fire that occurred in mid April. The area burned was about ¼ acre and was caused by improper burning of a permitted fire. This fire was quickly extinguished but could have easily blown up to a major event. Please use common sense and good practices when burning outdoors. Remember, any outside burning of wood requires a **burn permit**. This includes camp fires, brush burns and above ground "fire dishes".

Road Committee: Road Name Signs: About ten years ago the town invested in name signs for all the roads in town, both public and private. The town does maintain the signs on public roads but it is the responsibility of the private road residents to maintain their signs in good condition and to replace them when missing. All road signs need to meet the state standards of 3" white reflective letters on a green reflective sign. The standard will be changing to 4" in the near future.

Clear the Road – we're on our way! It is important that all roads, public and private, maintain sufficient clearance both in width and height to allow the ambulance and the newer, larger fire trucks to travel safely. Ideally roads would be trimmed to 12' wide and 14' high. These safety vehicles are very expensive and although Wakefield owns them, we help pay for them, so let's help keep them safe.

ABBREVIATED BROOKFIELD CALENDAR JUNE – NOV. 2013

All meetings and office hours will be held at the Town Office Building unless otherwise noted.
Check notice boards to verify. Changes will always be posted.

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

Selectmen Hours: 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Administrative Assistant: 1st, 3rd and 5th Fri 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

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

Town Clerk: Mondays 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM; Tuesdays 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

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

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

Agricultural Commission: 1st Tuesdays 7:30 PM

Conservation Commission: 1st Wednesdays 6:00 PM

Heritage Commission: 2nd Wednesdays 7:00 PM

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

Planning Board: 2nd Mondays 6:30 PM

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

Brookfield Bloomers: 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30 PM

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

Brookfield/Wakefield Food Pantry: 1500 Wakefield Road (Route 153) Sanbornville. Open every Wednesday year round from 10-1 and 5-7 PM

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

Last day of school 2013: June 18th

Kingswood HS Graduation: June 15th, 2013

First day of school 2013- 2014: September 3rd, 2013

No school 2013: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Nov. 25-29, Dec. 23-Jan 1, 2014

Town of Brookfield Boards, Commissions and Committees

Agricultural Commission

Rick Surette, Chair
Michael Tsaltis, Vice-Chair
Janet Murfey
Art Wheeler
Geary Ciccarone
Rich Zacher, Selectmen's Rep

Auditors

Marilyn Bushman
John Nelson

Board of Selectmen

William Nelson, Chair
Rich Zacher, Vice-Chair
Brian Robischeau

Conservation Commission

Tom Giguere, Chair
Tom Hill, Vice-Chair
John Nelson
Richard Peckham
Jean Jones
Terry Jones, Alternate
George Yeager, Alternate
Bill Nelson, Selectmen's Rep

Cemetery Trustees

Marilyn Bushman
John Nelson
Craig Evans

Heritage Commission

Marilou MacLean, Chair
Harriet Wilson
Dave Proctor
Patricia Golden
Susan Raban, Alternate
Brian Robischeau, Select. Rep

Planning Board

Geary Ciccarone, Chair
Rick Surette, Vice-Chair
Steve Michalsky
Rob Collins
Jim Freeman
Ed Comeau
George Nick, Admin. Assistant
Richard Peckham, Alternate
Rich Zacher, Selectmen's Rep

Road Committee

Brad Williamson, Chair
William Nelson
Geary Ciccarone
Tom Hill
Ed Nason, Road Agent
Brian Robischeau, Select. Rep

Supervisors of the Checklist

Adeline Russo, Chair
Carol Leary
Cheryl Perry

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Richard Nordin, Chair
Tom Giguere, Vice-Chair
Tom Lavender

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Paul Tremblay, Chair
Ernie Brown
David Dansereau
Janet Murfey
Richard Mauser
Bill Nelson, Selectman's Rep

BROOKFIELD DIRECTORY

Town Offices: 522.3688

Town Fax: 522.6245

EMERGENCIES: Call 911 for Fire, Police, and Ambulance

Website: www.brookfieldnh.org

Selectmen: William Nelson, **Chair** 522.5279 email: nelsnfam@myfairpoint.net

Rich Zacher, Vice-Chair 522.6651 email: rpzacher@gmail.com

Brian Robischeau, 522.5122, brian4selectman@hotmail.com

Assessor Clerk, Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen: Jessica Robischeau 522-5122
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 522.3231 email: brookfieldnhc@hotmail.com

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

Agricultural Commission: Rick Surette, **Chair** 918.6962 email: rick@seabrisket.com

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

Conservation Commission: Tom Giguere, **Chair** 522.9245 email: conservation.commission@brookfieldnh.org

Heritage Commission: Marilou MacLean, **Chair** 522.5338 email: uwmilou@hotmail.com

Planning Board: Geary Ciccarone, **Chair** 522.8835 email: sunydogg@yahoo.com

Supervisor of Checklist: Adeline Russo, **Chair** 522.3458 email: supervisor.checklist@brookfieldnh.org

Trustee of the Trust Funds: Richard Nordin, **Chair** 522.0010 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

Brookfield Bloomers: Ann Prunier 539.5117 email: aprunier@aol.com

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

Food Pantry: Martina Cyr 522.9250 email: martina@designs@yahoo.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

Road Agent: Ed Nason 520.3686 email: code.enforcement@brookfieldnh.org

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

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, 8:00AM - 3:00PM

Welfare Officer: Lynn Watts 473.8939 email: watts.lynn@yahoo.com

Fall Hunting Season:

Black Bear: Starts Sept.1

Turkey and Deer/Archery: Sept.15 – Dec.15

Pheasant: Oct. 1- Dec. 31

Moose (by permit only): Oct. 19 - Oct. 27

Youth Deer Hunting Weekend: Oct. 26 - Oct. 27

Deer/Muzzleloader: Nov. 2 - Nov.12

Deer/Firearms: Nov.13 – Dec. 8

Wear blaze orange for visibility in the woods. For updates on hunting season dates, check the website at www.wildlife.state.nh.us