



Town of Brookfield, NH

Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 31

November 2013

Selectmen's News

The new tax rates are as follows:

Town of Brookfield	\$4.65	Last year:	\$4.42
Carroll County	0.99	Last year	1.04
School District-local	8.03	Last year	9.30
School District-state	<u>2.46</u>	Last year	<u>2.38</u>
Total rate:	16.13	Last year	17.14

It has been a busy 6 months for the Board. After numerous joint meetings with the Heritage Commission and Planning Board, a questionnaire was developed regarding the future of the Schoolhouse. Over 130 surveys were returned with over 80% supporting the renovation of the building. The Selectmen are in the process of developing a time line for work to be done.

The survey of Brice was completed and it indicated that road layout shown on the development plans do not match up with the ROW (Right of Way) indicated by the survey results. We want to be sure any work done on the road will be within the town ROW. We have been working with the residents to see if this could be resolved in a way that would have the least impact. We appreciate their patience as all this gets sorted out.

We are pleased that the tax rate was lowered from \$17.14 to \$16.13. While doing this, we also were able to increase the amount we have in reserve. We are required to have 5% in reserve and strive to have 10%. We are now back to 10% which will help to lower the tax rate in future.

Tax Collector: As you all will have noticed our tax rate has gone down! Kind of unheard of in this day and age. Although I would like to take credit for this I must give full kudos to the Selectmen who work very hard to save every penny they can.

Rose and I spent one evening with the Carroll County Tax Collectors at their new facility in Ossipee. It is always enlightening to give and receive ideas and information with other collectors especially those from small towns with similar problems as ours. We also spent one day at the

Tax Collectors Convention in Conway, always an interesting experience.

We are having some difficulty collecting back taxes, with twelve unpaid for the 2011 levy year, twenty for the 2012 levy year and forty one for the 1st issue 2013. THIS IS A GRAND TOTAL OF \$150,782.01 to date. I will remind you that I will accept payments for any amount and send you a receipt so you can keep track how much is unpaid. This will also reduce the amount of interest you pay as the interest is figured on the unpaid balance on a per diem basis. The interest is 12% prior the Lien and 18% after Lien. Again I will stress that the Town must pay its bills in a timely manner and needs everyone's help to do this. We are all in this together.

I wish every one of you HAPPY HOLIDAYS. And for myself I will say THINK SNOW!!!!

Assessor Clerk: I am so excited to announce that all the tax maps are now available on the Town's website! Look under Departments and click on Assessing. There will be a choice to select the Town of Brookfield Tax Maps. As always, you are welcome to come in and get a larger copy of the map for a \$3.00 charge for all non-residents.

Please stop by the office to acquire and review your most recent property assessment card. It is important to make sure all the correct property information is reflected on this card as this is where your taxes are derived from. The public computer is setup in the town hall to access your assessment card. A copy of your tax card is free for all residents and \$1 for all non-residents.

Heritage Commission: would like to thank all the people that attended the 5th Annual Veteran's Day Pot Luck Dinner on Nov. 9th. It was a nice evening to enjoy great food, visit with our neighbors and friends and have a nice tribute played by local musicians to our veterans. If you weren't there this year, we hope you will attend next year. Our Town has a long heritage of Veterans that have served our country from Brookfield. Our town history "Our Yesterdays" lists 21 Veterans of the Revolutionary War buried in Brookfield

graveyards. In the Brookfield Town House there is a list of the Veterans from the wars since World War I. We would like to thank all our Town residents that have served in the Armed Services to make sure that our country remains "the land of the free and the home of the brave".

Conservation Commission: Although Brookfield is considerably smaller than our larger, more affluent neighbors, we still have many of the same "conservation" concerns. Open space makes our town a desirable place to live and contributes to our home values. While we do not enjoy a mechanism other than a town annual contribution from the general budget for our Conservation Fund to apply towards securing conservation land for protection against development, there are other ways we can assure that our naturally sensitive land is protected. Did you know that 15.5% of Brookfield is already classified as conservation area and that 61% of the total area is held in the "current use" assessment category? Both these classifications act as barriers to land development and promote "green space", but only the "conservation" designation is permanent, while the "current use" land may be developed by payment of a "Land Use Change Tax".

Our citizens have done good work protecting our fragile environment. For example, at last year's Town Meeting, voters overwhelmingly rejected a change in zoning that would have allowed over 200 acres of land with frontage on Kingswood Lake to be rezoned as "Recreational" and allow for development as a campground. This development would have potentially put at risk the water quality of Kingswood Lake and Churchill Brook, impacted negatively the wetlands in the parcel, and may have produced added costs to the Town in regards to road maintenance as well as police and fire protection.

The Conservation Commission thanks the people of Brookfield for their commitment to assuring continuation of a healthy rural environment for all our citizens.

Trustees of the Cemeteries: Brookfield has more than seventy cemeteries. Members of the committee visited 42 of these gravesites during the 2013 season. Nineteen cemeteries were serviced for a total of 36 times. In addition, 2 cemeteries were resurrected from years of neglect during 6 days of work. Seventeen of these are trusted, meaning that monies have been designated by family or friends in order that we are able to reimburse a worker for their time. Many residents of Brookfield are kind enough to maintain gravesites on their property and many residents volunteer their

time to take care of other cemeteries. We are always in need of more volunteers to help cover the 70 plots. We still have approximately 30 sites to locate and evaluate. If you would like to help out, kindly contact one of the trustees. We have also had numerous inquiries and visits from family members related to gravesites in our town. These calls and visitors have come from out of town, state and country.

Special thanks to Tom Hill for his devoted time and effort, working through the spring and summer, maintaining so many of our scenic gravesites.

Cotton Valley Rail Trail: Phase one is now open from Turntable Park to Route 16. Enjoy walking, running, biking, wildlife viewing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and XC skiing. Round trip is 1.55 miles. Your generous contributions have helped make this happen! For additional information or contributions contact Ernie Brown, Project Coordinator, Wakefield/Brookfield Trails Rail Committee, 522-8338.

Brookfield/Wakefield Food Pantry: The Food Pantry at 1500 Wakefield Rd. is open every Wednesday 10-1 and 5-7 PM. Delivery is available for those who need it. The Pantry needs your support to keep the shelves stocked. Donations of current canned and unopened dry goods are gratefully accepted and can be brought to the Pantry on Tuesdays from 8:30-10:30 AM. and Wednesdays 9:30-1:00 and 4:30-7:00 PM.

We are looking for volunteers. If you have a few hours you could volunteer, each week or once a month, please call Janet Miller 522-5058. We need volunteers for Tuesdays 8:30-10:30 AM. and Wednesdays 9:30-1:00 and 4:30-7:00 PM. We also need drivers with pickup trucks to help us pick up food at various distribution points and people who are willing to help unload the case goods at the pantry.

Coast Bus: The North Bus is a transportation service for residents in the Brookfield area to destinations in the Rochester area. Service to Brookfield is available on Wednesdays and Fridays. Residents should make reservations two days in advance. The fare is \$5.00 round-trip or \$2.50 each way. Please call 1-855-736-4287 to sign up or visit www.coastbus.org/northbus.html for details and a complete list of destinations. For other transportation options, visit the Alliance for Community Transportation's website at www.communityrides.org.

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 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.

"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.

ABBREVIATED BROOKFIELD CALENDAR NOV. 2013 – MAY 2014

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

Selectmen Hours: 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays 8:00 AM – 12:30 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 11:00 PM – 6:00 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 Mondays 6:30 PM

Conservation Commission: 1st Wednesdays 6:00 PM

Heritage Commission: 2nd Wednesdays 7:00 PM

Planning Board: 2nd Mondays 6:30 PM

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

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

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 2014: June 18th

Kingswood HS Graduation: June 14th, 2014

No school: Nov. 25-29, Dec. 23-Jan 1, 2014, Jan. 20, Feb. 24-28, Apr. 28-May 2, May 26

ABBREVIATED 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: brookfieldnhtc@hotmail.com

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

Agricultural Commission: Ed Nason, **Chair** 520-3686 email: ednasonbrookfieldnh.org

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

Road Committee: Brad Williamson, **Chair** 520.3686 email: code.enforcement@brookfieldnh.org

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: martinadesigns@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

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

Spring Hunting Season Dates 2014:

There is no closed season for coyote or woodchuck.

Fisher: Ends January 31

Red and Gray Fox, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel, Raccoon and Snowshoe Hare: Ends March 31

Youth Turkey Hunt: April 26 - 27

Wild Turkey: May 3 - May 31

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