



# *Town of Brookfield, NH*

## *Newsletter*

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Volume 1, Number 33

November 2014

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### **Selectmen Notes**

As we look towards next year's goals, it is nice to find the time to reflect on this year's accomplishments. The Lyford Road repaving is complete. The work on the school house is now complete and it is available as meeting space. You will find the room warm, well lit and very comfortable.

It has been many years since three of our buildings have had outside maintenance performed. The town office trim, the maintenance building and our sand storage shed were all scraped and repainted this year.

We are now making available to town residents small quantities of sand for use in winter months. It will be stored behind the maintenance building at the town office complex. Please limit yourself to 2 or 3 pails of sand per trip. As a safety precaution, the town's major sand shed will be closed to public.

And finally, we thank Jessica Robischeau for her service as our assessor clerk and code enforcement officer assistant. She has been a great asset to the town and we wish her all the success in her new position. While we are actively searching for a replacement for Jessica, the town office will be open from 10:00 AM to noon on Wednesday and Thursday.

### **Tax Rate Discussion**

As we do every year about this time, the State sets the new town tax rate for the coming year. The tax rate is determined by three primary factors:

- "State & Local School Efforts", this account for approximately 62% of our tax rate and annually costs the Town \$1,150,000.
- Carroll County which is about 6% of the tax rate and costs the Town approximately \$109,000.
- Finally the Town budget is the remainder of the tax rate or about 32%. The Town's typical budget is approximately \$880,000

and is approved by the residents at our annual Town meeting in March.

As you may be aware the Town underwent our property revaluation by Avitar. This revaluation resulted in the total valuation of all properties in town being adjusted from last year's valuation of \$103 million to a new valuation of \$93 million. This revaluation corrected market variations that have resulted in the past years. The revaluation of all properties corrected over/understated values for the properties here in Brookfield. The impact of this decreased valuation of the properties in Brookfield resulted in a higher tax rate, since the overall tax base has shrunk in comparison to prior years.

The manner that the State calculates a town's tax rate is a simple formula. The State considers the amount of the authorized expenditures (the budget), then they subtract any income the town makes (car registrations, permits, etc.) and then they divide the amount to be raised by the town's valuation. Example: the amount of taxes to be raised for a given year is \$1,500,000 and the town's property valuation is \$80,000,000.

***{ \$1,500,000 / \$80,000,000 = \$18.75 per thousand tax rate. }***

An individual's tax bill is calculated by multiplying the property's assessed value (this value is found on your property card) times the total tax rate. Example: A property is valued at \$200,000 and the tax rate is \$18.75 per thousand.

***{ \$200,000 / 1000 x \$18.75 = \$3,750 tax bill per year. }***

As explained above, our overall tax base has shrunk due to the Town's property revaluation. This in turn creates a higher tax rate for all residents. For those whose property values have been reduced, this reduction in overall value will offset the higher tax rate. For those whose property valuation had no change or increased value, the higher tax rate will result in a higher annual tax bill. Furthermore, the amounts owed for the school and county have increased this year and resulted in a higher demand for tax revenue.

## **Tax Collector**

The leaves are off the trees and on the ground or have been picked up, and we had a little snow last night. November is dull enough, we shouldn't have to deal with property taxes too!

The new tax rate has not been set by DRA yet but I expect it will be soon. The past year has been quite uneventful, there were no deedings and at present there is a total of 22 lien properties. The total amount unpaid is \$127,127.73 plus interest this includes the first issue 2014 taxes. Many people have chosen to make monthly payments which help both the town and themselves stay ahead of the bill collectors.

Some good news, the town is going on line with a Tax Collect kiosk which will allow you to look up your tax information by going to the town web site. I have been told it will be very "user friendly". This should be in place early next year.

I will be in the office every Friday through December and as always will receive calls and make appointments to meet with you if you call my home number 522.6551. My job is to serve you the tax payer. Have a wonderful holiday season and a good winter.

## **Moderators Report**

We just completed a state primary and a midterm election, and as usual Brookfield had an excellent turnout – 67 percent for the general election. I am proud of our town. Both elections ran uneventfully, which is after all the objective.

I hope the town joins me in thanking everyone who helped with our elections. Craig Evans is our Asst. Moderator. Carol Leary, Cheryl Perry and Rose Zacher are the Supervisors of the Checklist. Frank Frazier and Susan (and Ernie) Brown are our Election Inspectors and Ballot Clerks. Doug Vanderpool is another Ballot Clerk. Thomas Hill, Alfred Cann, Rob Collins, Drew Collins, Gwen Collins, Emily Marsh and Sam Marsh have all assisted as Tally Clerks.

Looking forward, our next election is the Town Election on March 10, 2015. We hope this year has a good turnout – every vote counts!

## **Supervisors of the Checklist**

There will be one election in 2015: the town election on March 10. Town Meeting is also on March 10. The Supervisors meet on Jan. 20 from 7:00 PM to

7:30 PM, and on Feb. 28 from 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM, to process additions and changes to the checklist. You may also register to vote with the Town Clerk during her office hours. No voter registrations are allowed after Feb. 20 until Election Day. As always, you may register on Election Day; please bring proof of identity and domicile with you.

## **Planning Board**

The Brookfield Planning Board has been busy working on completing the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Input from all town departments has been collected and prepared for submission to the Selectmen. Other projects include clarification of some of our Zoning Ordinances. The Board is preparing to work on updating the Master Plan for the town. Please attend the Planning Board meetings on the third Thursday of every month at the Town Offices. We try to keep the meetings to the point and focused on town business. Consider filling an open Board Alternate position and get involved in planning the future of your Town.

## **Heritage Commission**

The Heritage Commission would like to thank all the people that attended the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran's Day Pot Luck Dinner on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. It was a nice evening to enjoy great food, visit with our neighbors and friends. The Town recognized Cecil Wentworth as the newest holder of the Town Cane. Lance MacLean led local musicians in a stirring tribute to our Veterans. The Town is looking to raise money for a Veteran's Memorial to honor all who have served in the Armed Services from Brookfield. The Heritage Commission will be taking part in the annual Craft Fair on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> to sell items that Ron Fountain, a local artisan has donated. Please stop by and check out what we have.

Have you taken photos of our beautiful Town you would be willing to share? We are looking for photos to put into this year's annual report. Please send any photos that you have to [selectmen@brookfieldnh.org](mailto:selectmen@brookfieldnh.org).

Unfortunately, the Brookfield Bloomers have recently disbanded. We would like to thank Judy Sjostrom, Judy Brenner and Lois Royle for their work over the years and making this hard decision. They have generously donated the funds they had left in their treasury to the Brookfield Heritage Commission to be used for the preservation of the Town House and gardens. We would like to thank them for this most generous donation and will keep you posted how these funds are used in the future.

## 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.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

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## ABBREVIATED BROOKFIELD CALENDAR JANUARY – JUNE 2015

**Selectmen Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 6:30 PM

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

**Assessor Clerk:** Wednesdays 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM (see temporary hours in Selectmen's report)

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

**Tax Collector:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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

**Conservation Commission:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays 6:00 PM

**Heritage Commission:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays 7:00 PM

**Planning Board:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 6:30 PM

**Trustees of Trust Funds:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.govwentworth.k12.nh.us)

**Last day of school 2015:** June 17, 2015

**Kingswood HS graduation:** June 13, 2015

**No school:** Dec 24, 2014 – Jan 2, 2015, Jan 19, Feb 23 – Feb 27, April 27 – May 1, May 25, 2015

**ABBREVIATED BROOKFIELD DIRECTORY**  
**Town Offices: 522.3688**  
**Town Fax: 522.6245**  
**EMERGENCIES: Call 911 for Fire, Police, and Ambulance**  
**Website: [www.brookfieldnh.org](http://www.brookfieldnh.org)**

**Selectmen:** Rich Zacher, **Chair** 522.6651 email: rpzacher@gmail.com  
Brian Robischeau, **Vice-Chair** 522.5122, email: brian4selectman@hotmail.com  
William Nelson 522.5279 email: nelsnfam@myfairpoint.net

**Assessor Clerk:** (open) email: assessor.clerk@brookfieldnh.org

**Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen:** Jessica Robischeau 522-3688

**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: brookfieldnhct@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 522.6551 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

**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

**Spring Hunting Season Dates 2015:**

There is no closed season for coyote or woodchuck.

**Fisher:** Ends January 31

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

**Snowshoe Hare:** Ends March 31

**Youth Turkey Hunt:** April 25 – 26

**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](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us)