

Brookfield Remembers Town House Past

Brookfield – On Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 2 pm the Brookfield Heritage Commission will hold a “gathering service” to reflect one of the original uses for our Town House, a place of worship.

Craig Evans will lead a non-denominational service and reflection time helping to remind all those in attendance of our past, our present and our future. We will also re-dedicate the Town House and a plaque indicating that the building is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Brookfield Town House was approved by the voters in 1822 and after a committee including Thomas Burley, Thomas Chamberlin and Samuel Lang visited almost every voter in town with subscription papers to see how much money they could raise with pledges for work and materials. They received a total of \$167.61. With \$45 they had raised previously, they were still short of funds to finish the building, however the committee still proposed to begin work “soon after haying”.

The Town House must have been erected in late 1822 because the first Town Meeting was held in the new building in March 1823. All town meetings since that date have been held in the Town House, with one exception recently due to COVID.

In 1826, the town “voted that there may be a pulpit and singing seats built by subscription in the Town House”. Nothing was done for many years, primarily because times were economically difficult for the community, and completion of the town building was not a priority. Finally, in 1835 the town voted to build pews with doors, a decent pulpit, and singers’ seats and to lath and plaster the building. Religious services were held here into the 20th century.

This year we are holding examples of all that our beautiful Town House stands for in our community. We have remembered this wonderful building’s history, as well as the Churchill Schoolhouse which sits

behind the Town House. We have had a couple of special coffee hours with special programs on local gardens and an ice cream social for the community. Please join us on August 20th for a brief service remembering the religious services of our past. For a schedule of the rest of our events for the year, please go to the Town web-site: www.brookfieldnh.org.

