



Town of Brookfield Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 2

May, 2023

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." **Anne Bradstreet**

Introduction

It's been wonderful to see so many of you out and about at the various community events held since the first edition of this newsletter went out, back in November. As things have thawed and the flowers have pushed through frost heaved ground in search of the first warm rays of spring sunlight, things will be heating up in Town with a variety of activities. Keep an eye on the Newsletter page of the Town website for an up to date list.

In this edition you'll find information about Heritage and Conservation Commission happenings, things the Brookfield Women's Society is up to, and a whole lot more. More info about any of the articles can also be found on the Town website's Newsletter page www.brookfieldnh.org/town-newsletter, your place for the news and events of Brookfield.

Any comments or questions about this edition or in general can be sent to LeahGWrites@gmail.com. I hope you enjoy it and I welcome your input, because this newsletter is for you. ~Leah Gage, Writer and Editor

Don't forget, Brookfield has a Facebook page! Visit www.facebook.com/BrookfieldNHTown and add us as a friend.

Wakefield's Budget Woes

After cancelling the March 14 date due to snow, Wakefield held town elections on March 28. Voters turned down the Town's 2023 operating budget, causing them to fall back on the default budget for 2023. The default budget is 2022's operating budget with certain adjustments made to utilities and other fixed items. Because the default budget is substantially lower than the failed proposed budget, numerous programs and services have been cut, including several that directly affect residents of Brookfield. Some of those cuts include the following:

- The yearly Independence Day fireworks display is cancelled

- The Wakefield Town Offices are now closed Mondays for the rest of the year
- The Gafney Library's Adult Learning program is cut
- Improvements and repairs to Town roads have been cut
- Any department or committee meetings that were on Mondays have been moved to another day
- The Wakefield Food Pantry, Greater Wakefield Resource Center, Granite VNA, and many other human services programs contributed to by the Town have lost large portions of their budgets
- Both adult and children's concerts in Turntable Park to be held less frequently, or cut entirely
- Children's Summer Camper will see more visits to State Parks and other lower cost trips
- The car show may be cancelled
- The Gafney Library's hours have changed (see below) and they won't be able to purchase any new books this year

The above list is not complete and includes only some of the cuts necessary to adhere to the default budget. Check each entity's website for more details.

The Gafney's new hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 1:00pm to 6:00pm, and Friday 9:00am to 12:30pm. **The library will no longer be open Saturdays, and there is no longer a Wednesday drop in literacy program.** The Wakefield Public Library's hours were not affected by the cuts.

Internet Availability Update

Breezeline is currently running lines to connect those in town who continue to go without Broadband access. Unfortunately, there are 8 homes on Tumbledown Dick Road and 2 homes on Clark Road that will remain without service due to their remoteness, and to the territorial lines Spectrum and Breezeline have drawn through Town. For those who can no longer wait for, or who cannot be connected through Breezeline, other internet providers include: Blazinghog (www.blazinghog.com), Starlink (www.starlink.com), and T-Mobile (www.t-mobile.com). Please visit the

Town website for updates on Breezeline's progress.
www.BrookfieldNH.org

Heritage Commission

The Heritage Commission will hold events each month for the rest of the year to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the completed Brookfield Town House and the first town meeting held there. Upcoming events include:

- **June 3, 10 AM** – Judy Meakin talks about attending the one room Churchill Schoolhouse, and Dave Towle remembers moving the Schoolhouse to where it rests today
- **July 15, 2 PM** – Ice Cream Social and Old-Fashioned Games
- **August** – Church Service (Date forthcoming)
- **September 9, 5-7 PM** – Annual Town BBQ is back!!
- **October 7, 10 AM** – Brookfield Town Graveyards presentation by Robert Servacek
- **November 4, 10 AM** – Treasures from the Archives, a presentation by Town Archivist Craig Evans
- **December 9, 9-11 AM** – Town Christmas Breakfast

All events are free, and held at the Town House.

The first of Heritage Commission's events was held Saturday April 22, and featured Commission Chair Marilou MacLean presenting the history of the Town House, from its inception to today, to a crowd of about 25. After the presentation, people were free to chat with friends and neighbors over coffee and baked goods provided by Heritage Commission members. It was a wonderful way to kick off a year's worth of celebrations.

Heritage Commission's other 2023 plans include refurbishment of the Town House's original glass windows, some of which have a rare green tint, and painting the inside of the building. The Commission's tentative 5-year plan includes the extensive interior stencil work, possible restoration of the original wood floors, and hopefully refreshing the kitchen area.

A big thank you to all who have volunteered to clean in and around the Town House in the past few months; you've helped to keep it looking its best while assisting in the preservation of this vital piece of our Town's history for generations to come! Thank you!

For more information about the Heritage Commission in general and the specific events planned, visit the Commission's page on the Town website:
www.BrookfieldNH.org/Heritage-Commission

Heritage Commission meetings are open to the public and held at the Town Office the on 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 pm.

The Commission is looking for old, family recipes to include in a town cookbook. Send recipes to:
Heritage.Commission@BrookfieldNH.org.

Heritage Commission member Bob Servacek provided the following article, dated June 22, 1883, from an edition of The Carroll County Pioneer from that time. There are copies of many such old newspapers, and other resources at *The Wakefield Public Library, 2699 Wakefield Road, Sanbornville, 522-3032. The library's current hours are Wed 9-Noon and 1-4 pm and Sat 9am-Noon and 1-2 pm.* (NOTE: *This is not the Gafney Library, but the one in old Wakefield Village*)

BROOKFIELD,

Next Sunday will be observed as Childrens Day, at the "Hackett" school house. It is needless for us to say the exercises will be most interesting, when we remember the former decoration which showed fine artistic skill. A number of mottoes will be placed on the wall, and the floral display is expected to be the best they have ever made. At 11 o'clock Mr. Allen will talk to the children, from 1st Chron. 28:9. At one, the S. S. will give a concert. The Singing will be under the direction of Mr. Lang, assisted by Mrs. Robinson, Soprano, and Miss Libby contralto. This is a sufficient guarantee that this interesting part of the service will be well executed.

Presiding Elder Judkins, says he has not met with a more enterprising society in the conferance than this. The fact is apparent when it is knowu that the Ladies' Aid Society have worked and earned money enough to purchase some very comfortable chairs for the old people to sit in, and a handsome bible for the desk, and have money yet in the treasury; and have what is better still, a disposition to earn more. If we could have the privilege of naming this district we should call it Enterprise.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission held Town Clean Up the week of Earth Day, April 22, through April 29.

On Earth Day, Commission Chair Frank Frasier and Vice Chair Faith Buell set up a table in front of the Town House to hand out trash bags and orange bandanas, and to greet and thank those dropping off trash for disposal. A display of maps highlighting Brookfield's conservation lands, watersheds, and more accentuated the importance of picking up trash to keep our Town's lands and waters healthy and clean. Roughly 25 people picked up trash, with over 50 bags brought to the dump. Collectively, we make a difference, and we all benefit!

Conservation Commission meetings are open to the public and held at the Town Office the on first Wednesday of the month at 6 pm.

www.BrookfieldNH.org/Conservation-Commission

The Brookfield Women's Society

The Brookfield Women's Society met twice since the last edition of this Newsletter, and with new faces and activities each time, the Society is already thriving!

Prior to the February meeting, the Society's Coordination Team worked to create clubs and groups such as a book club, a craft group, bird watching, Yoga and health classes, mahjong, and community service. Other activities in the works include a hiking group, a movie club, and possible day trips. There's truly something for everyone, but if you have an idea for a club or group you'd like to see created reach out to Karen Servacek or Leah Gage (info below). All clubs and groups are open to everyone and anyone, despite being hosted by the Women's Society.

The weather may have been bitterly cold, but the Town House was warm and welcoming for the Women's Society's February meeting. A book and puzzle swap ensured folks had plenty to keep them busy until the spring thaw. And a presentation by Faith Buell of the Conservation Commission highlighted Brookfield's many waterways and marshes, as well as our vast tracks of conservation land. Hot coffee and a buffet of pot-luck treats provided a cozy atmosphere for conversation.

Those who attended the Society's April gathering were greeted with Easter-themed delicacies and coffee served on Town House china, with a seed swap to get people thinking about spring. Beryl Donovan, Director of the Gafney Library in Wakefield addressed the women about Wakefield's budget crises and what it means for the Gafney.

The next meeting of the Brookfield Women's Society will be June 10 from 10 am – Noon at the Town House. More information about the Brookfield Women's Society and the groups and clubs can be found on the Newsletter page of the Town website, or by contacting Karen Servacek: raservacek@twc.com.

Brookfield Resource Guide

The Brookfield Women's Society's community services group is creating a Resource Guide that will ultimately reside on the town website, with hard copies available upon request. Beneficial for residents and newcomers alike, the guide will expand the "Shared Resources" page currently available on the Town website. A plethora of information has been gathered from numerous subject matter experts and many of the people who call Brookfield home. Each resource contains an overview and live links to sites for your reference and convenience. Areas of interest include local medical help, resources for those in need of financial assistance, veterinarians, libraries, museums, and much, much more. A big thank you to all who contributed! The guide will be updated periodically once it is released to ensure its information is up to date. The tentative release of the guide will be in the end of May, so keep an eye on the Town website and the Town Office.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's office will soon offer a one check system for all in-person transactions, as well as a credit card option for online services. We are working to integrate all transactions into a single system to provide efficiency, improved record maintenance, and ultimately better serve our citizens. The goal is to go live before the end of June, so stay tuned! Call or email for more information: Town.Clerk@BrookfieldNH.org (603) 522-3688

Parks and Recreation

Wakefield's new dog park will soon be open to the public. Located at the ballfield complex at 1488 Wakefield Road, it includes a poop bag station and a large fenced in area to let your four legged friends off leash. It will be open from dawn to dusk and is free to use, so grab your fuzzy buddy and go check it out!

Wakefield's Pickleball League starts May 2 and runs to November on Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday mornings from 8:30 am-Noon. Beginner play starts at 10:30 am. The cost is \$20 per person for the season and pre-registration is required. Once registered you can drop in anytime. Please make sure you pay the fee and fill out the waiver prior to attending. The Town's two courts are at the Forest Hills Tennis Court, 56 Great East Lane in Wakefield. Visit wakefieldnh.myrec.com for more info or to sign up.

Wakefield and Wolfeboro are teaming up to bring back Teen Adventure Trips. The trips include tubing down the Saco River, a day at Funtown, and

more. Visit wakefieldnh.myrec.com for all the details and to register your teen.

Wolfeboro's Parks and Rec Department has a wide variety of activities for young, old, and everyone in between, and residents of Brookfield are welcome to participate for "in-town" rates. Sign-ups for sailing, swimming, pickleball, tennis, Lego club and camp, cornhole league, summer camp and more are going on now, so register soon!

The full list of Wolfeboro Parks and Rec's offerings, as well as registration info can be found at: www.wolfeboronh.us/parks-recreation

Selectmen's Public Hours

Due to a lack of interest, the Selectmen will no longer hold public hours on the last Saturday of the month. If there is an issue or question you would like to discuss with the Selectmen, you can make an appointment by emailing Selectmen@BrookfieldNH.org or Admin.Asst@BrookfieldNH.org, or calling Admin Assistant Cassadra Rodil (603) 522-3688

Road Agent

Every road in town will have some sort of work done this year, from the minor, such as clearing brush, and filling potholes, to the major, such as repaving. Though the schedule is not yet set, the major work roads include Moose Mountain Rd, most of Garney Rd, part of Clark Rd from, the end of Roberts Rd, and Pleasant Valley Rd will all have

If you have questions about the upcoming 2023 road improvements or you notice a road in need of repair, please contact the Road Agent: Christopher Kinville (603) 534-7017

Official Town "Stuff"

Did you know that the official flower of Brookfield is the Purple Cone flower, aka Echinacea? Plant these lovely perennials in your flower beds to brighten your summers and display your Town pride.

The Newsletter group would like to propose three other official Town "things" for your consideration: **Town tree:** *Sugar Maple*, **Town product:** *Maple Syrup*, and **Town bird:** *The Barred owl*. Each is common and plentiful in Brookfield, and each is a part of our Town's backbone. Brookfield wouldn't be Brookfield without the old, stately Sugar Maples lining our scenic roads, its countless sugar houses boiling sap into syrup each March, or its majestic Barred owls singing "who cooks for you" long into the night.

To vote on these three icons becoming part of Brookfield's official identity email your yay, nay, or other suggestions to LeahGWrites@Gmail.com.

Voting will close June 1, with the results to be presented to the Board of Selectmen during their June 6 meeting.

Announcements and Timely Tidbits

If you know of anyone with ties to Brookfield who has recently given birth, been married, or passed on, and you'd like to share that info, please submit to LeahGWrites@Gmail.com. Announcements and/or obituaries will be summarized in subsequent editions of this newsletter, and will be posted on a dedicated page the Newsletter website.

Got any helpful or interesting gardening, household, or other little tidbits to share? Please send them to LeahGWrites@Gmail.com for featuring in subsequent newsletters and on the Newsletter's site.

Permits

Logging and Excavation

Intent to log/cut and Intent to Excavate forms must be signed by the Town Selectmen and filed with the Timber Monitor before any such project begins. Timber Monitor: Rich Zacher 522-6651

Driveways

Driveway permits are mandatory when installing a driveway that accesses a Town road. Apply for a permit with the Road Agent before work begins. State permits are also required if accessing State owned roads. Road Agent: Christopher Kinville (603) 534-7017

Fire Permits

Fire permits are required prior to any outdoor fire, whether in a fire pit or not. Permits can be obtained by contacting one of the Fire Wardens: Bradford or Janet Williamson: JanBrad@roadrunner.com (603) 651-3258

Severe Emergency Shelter

In the case of extended power outages, or other such emergency events, the Town House will be open to provide shelter, water, cooking facilities, and bathroom and shower facilities to residents in need. Please visit the town website for emergency alerts:

www.BrookfieldNH.org

To Report an Electrical Outage Call:

Eversource: 1-800-662-7764

NH Electric Co-Op: 1-800-343-6432

"Here we have found the simple, the good, the satisfying life – Not for everyone, perhaps, but certainly for us. No other time, no other place would suit us better." **Edwin Way Teale**