



Town of Brookfield Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 3

August, 2023

"There are no ordinary seasons in New England, only years that are unusually rainy, or abnormally hot, or remarkably cold." **Diana Muir**

"Being a New Englander, it is natural that I should first speak about the weather. Only in the middle of June, the green fields, and blue sky, and bright sun, with a touch of northern mountain wind blowing straight towards the sea could make such a day, and that is all I can say about it." **Sarah Orne Jewett**

Introduction

As the joy and hope of Spring transitioned to the work and play of Summer, the people of Brookfield have gone to answer the immutable call of our nearby lakes, fields and mountains, (in spite of frequent rain), leaving many of our Town's social gatherings on hiatus until October. That doesn't mean things have been quiet, though. In fact, far from it!

In this edition we're covering talks at the Town House, an ice cream social, a scholarship winner, trail work at the Town Forest, upcoming events, and more. And don't forget, the Town website's Newsletter page. www.BrookfieldNH.org/Town-Newsletter, is 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 welcome and look forward to your input, because this newsletter is for you.

I'd also like to thank my newsletter team, Joanne Dolbear and Christine Gosselin, for their help putting this all together and keeping me organized. I couldn't do it without you! ~Leah Gage, Writer and Editor

2023 Brookfield Scholastic Achievement Award Winner

The Brookfield Scholastic Achievement award is given annually to the Brookfield student with the highest academic record attending Kingswood Regional High School. Started in 1996, the \$1500 award is funded by private donations, and awarded at the annual Scholarship Awards event at the school. The Brookfield Trustees of the Trust Funds work with guidance counselors at the school to award the scholarship.

This year's lucky recipient was Tristan Taatjas, the #2 Gold Scholar in his class. "It was a complete surprise! I didn't know I was going to get it," Tristan said of the award.

A young man on a mission, Tristan's future is bright. Winning a total of six scholarships, he will use them to attend North Carolina State University in the fall, and plans to study mechanical engineering, and possibly aerospace engineering.

Congratulations Tristan and good luck in all the future may bring you!



(Tristan Taatjas pictured outside his home. Photo courtesy of Tristan)

One Check System Now Available

When completing vehicle registrations and other transactions at the Town Clerk's office, there is no longer a need to make out more than one check, as the newly enacted system allows people to use a single check to pay for the transactions, thus streamlining the process. "We've been delighted to quickly realize benefits including increased accuracy and security, decreased town and customer costs, and also local customer support for issues that may occur with transactions," said Town Clerk Karen Servacek. More information on the new payment system can be found at <https://www.BrookfieldNH.org/Town-Clerk>.

Dog Licensing Reminder

For the safety of our community, New Hampshire law requires all dogs to be licensed annually. If you have never registered your dog in Brookfield or

have not renewed a previous license for 2023, you must contact the Town Clerk to obtain a license before September 18th to avoid a possible \$25.00 civil forfeiture fee, as well as other fees or penalties according to RSA 466:1. A current rabies certificate is required for licensing. Go to <https://www.BrookfieldNH.org/Town-Clerk> or call 603-522-3688 for more information.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is working hard to make our Town Forest a welcoming place for all, with a number of improvements coming soon. Trail clean up and the making of trail and historical site marker signs are underway. Kiosks featuring a map of the forest and trails, points of interest along the way, and poop-bag stations for those with dogs will be placed at each entrance (on Lyford and Cottle Hill roads, respectively).

Commission member Jeremy Marcotte has undertaken mapping the area, as well as spearheading the trail cleanup efforts. He hopes to have all trails and sights marked on GPS so that, similar to a self-guided tour at a museum, people can use their phones to learn more about the history of the land as they walk it, (and yes, there is cell service on the trails!). Jeremy is also looking for volunteers to help with trail clean up. Email him at JeremyMarcotte@ymail.com for more information.

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

Heritage Commission

The Heritage Commission has been busy this year, with special events held once a month to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the completion of our Town House.

The festivities kicked off in April, with Commission Chair Marilou MacLean presenting the history of the Town House, from conception to completion, and up to the present, to a group of about 25. One highlight of the talk was learning that from 1893 to 1941 the kitchen of the Town House was the Brookfield Library. Many of the books from that time are still kept in the Churchill School in back of the Town House. So much history in that one little building!

May's Heritage event featured Martha Pike and daughter, Kate Niewenhous discussing their extensive flower gardens. Martha, who is known around town as "the Daylily Lady," has a collection of over 1000 different varieties of daylily in the gardens surrounding her Governors Rd home.

During her part of the presentation, Kate explained how her beautiful new Solstice Garden along

Kingswood Lake came to be, and gave a slide show of the progress. Green thumbs must run in their family!

In June, life-long resident Judy Meakin joined Marilou to give a history of Brookfield schools, including a first-hand account of what attending the one-room Churchill School was like. "Attending the Churchill School was a wonderful experience, and helped me be the person I am today," Judy said during the talk. Nostalgia served with coffee and baked treats made for a delightful atmosphere.

July was the Commission's biggest event to date, with the Town-wide Ice Cream Social held on the 15th. Over 80 people attended, forcing Jan Leadbetter to make a run for more ice cream in the middle of things to make sure all who wanted some, got it. "It's not a bad problem to have!" she said afterwards.

While dozens ate ice cream and socialized inside the Town House that day, outside roughly 20 children participated in the First Annual Brookfield Summer Games. Congratulations to all medal and award winners, and to all who participated. You helped make it a success, and we're already looking forward to next year! A hearty helping of gratitude to Christine Gosselin, John Gage and Jan Ledbetter for helping set up and run things, Abby Root for her spectacular face-painting skills, and Ed Gauthier and Bob and Karen Servacek for volunteering for the pie contest. It was a blast!



(A round of the Donut on a String contest and the results of the Pie Contest are shown here. Photos by Leah and John Gage)

August's special event, held on Sunday, the 20th at 2 pm, was a nondenominational service lead by Town Archivist Craig Evans. After the service, a rededication of the plaque marking that the Town House is on the National Registry of Historic Places was held. It was recently discovered that the original plaque contained an error, and so the original plaque was replaced with a corrected one.

Just because we're heading into autumn doesn't mean the 200th celebration is over; there are still four more terrific events to check out, including:

- **September 9, 4-6 PM – Annual Town BBQ** is back!! Pulled pork and chicken

barbequed by former Selectman Rick Surette will be served with all your favorite homemade sides, made by members of the Commission. Adults \$15, Children 10yrs and up \$5, Children under 10 are free.

- **October 7, 10 AM** – *Brookfield Town Graveyards* presentation by Bob Servacek. Bob and Craig Evans have spent the past several years searching out and cataloging every grave in Town, marked or not. Come learn about this fascinating project and terrific resource.
- **November 4, 10 AM** – *Treasures from the Archives*, a presentation by Town Archivist Craig Evans. Craig will present historic photos, records, and artifacts from Brookfield's archives in a presentation that's not to be missed.
- **December 9, 9-11 AM** – *Town Christmas Breakfast*. Though the menu isn't yet nailed down for this, it's safe to expect several breakfast favorites to choose from. Kid's activities will also be available.

All events are held at the Town House. After the BBQ all events are free to attend. More information can be found at the Heritage Commission website, listed below.

In addition to holding monthly Town events, the Commission has been busy ensuring the continued use, preservation and restoration of our Town House. This spring the windows of the building were temporarily removed for refinishing, including the several stained glass windows. Completed earlier this summer, all Town House windows are now refurbished, re-glazed, and re-hung.

The interior of the Town House will be repainted in September, after the Town BBQ. The colors chosen are historically accurate to the building. Painting will be the final improvement this year, while replicating the extensive original stencil work and updating the kitchen will happen in the future.

The Commission would like to welcome Jan Ledbetter as an alternate member for a three year term. Congratulations Jan!

For more information about the Heritage Commission in general or the specific events planned, visit the Commission's 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 Brookfield historical/antique items for display in the Town Office. Contact Heritage.Commission@BrookfieldNH.org if you have anything you'd like to have displayed.

Little Free Library Open for Business!

Newly installed beside the Town House, the Little Free Library is now open for lending and donations. Anyone may take a book – be they neighbors, friends, passersby, or otherwise – the books are always free.

The concept is a generous one. Anyone may take one or more books out of the Library at any time with no membership cards, money, or any other requirements. With no due dates, you may keep the book as long as you like, even if it's forever. On the flip side, anyone at any time may return or deposit a book or books in the Library, again without leaving your name, or money, or anything. Just don't cram the books in if the Library is full – In that case it's best to wait until there is more room available.

In short, it's both a book sharing and book swapping Library put into place at no cost to the Town, and generously donated by Carroll County Construction owner and Brookfield resident, Nick Laganas. Jan Ledbetter spearheaded the creation and planning of the Library. She and Karen Servacek will serve as volunteer book stewards for the next year, ensuring a good balance of adult, kids, and young adult books, as well as moderating the selection to keep it "clean."

The mission of the Little Free Library network is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all. There are currently 150,000+ Little Free Libraries in all 50 states and over 120 countries around the world, and now Brookfield has one of its own.

Brookfield Resource Guide Now Available

The newly created Brookfield Resource Guide is now available via the Town's website. The tab for it is on the bottom left of the "Citizen Action Center" on the homepage, next to the "Town Newsletter" tab.

The extensive 46 page guide is the brain child of Jan Ledbetter, who, with the help of the Brookfield Women's Society and others, has been compiling information and working on it for nearly a year. The guide is meant to be a go-to resource for new and seasoned residents, as well as visitors. Included within it is information about medical and emergency services, local museums, historical societies, cultural events, education, legal aid, human services, and so, so much

more. So head on over to the Town's website and check it out. You'll be happy you did!

Parks and Recreation

There's a lot going on in Wakefield this fall, including trips to the Fryeburg Fair, Pickleball, Yoga, a golf tournament, the Afterschool program, and more. Visit WakefieldNH.MyRec.com for more information or to sign up for any of the activities.

Wolfeboro's fall offerings include the Wolfeboro Fall Festival on September 23 at Foss Field, the Turkey Trot 5K, the 46th Annual Great Smith River Canoe Race, and seasonal sports sign ups. The full list of Wolfeboro Parks and Rec's offerings, as well as registration info can be found at: www.WolfeboroNH.US/Parks-Recreation

It's That Time of Year Again

The 2023-24 school year is set to begin September 5, so keep an eye out for kids waiting for or running to the bus. And remember to stop for school busses when the lights are flashing as they're letting kids on or off, no matter what side of the road they're on. Let's work together to keep kids safe.

Road Agent

Though surprising, given the damage our neighboring towns received, Brookfield sustained only a few minor drainage issues and no major road damage during the storms that washed out so many roads nearby. We definitely got lucky there!

The scheduled paving of Garney, Clark, Roberts and Moose Mt roads is complete, with only Pleasant Valley Road remaining. Side of the road mowing will be done in late September.

If you see a problem with any Brookfield road, contact Road Agent Christopher Kinville at (603) 534-7017

Brookfield Spooktacular is Back!

After a well attended and successful Spooktacular last year, Kaitlin and the residents of Curries Way and Drew Farm Rd are bringing the event back!

The 2023 Spooktacular will be Saturday, October 28 from 4-8pm in the Curries Way/Drew Farm neighborhood, with a rain date of Sunday October 29. Activities will include Trunk or Treating, Halloween music, games, hayrides, and possibly a pumpkin shaped bouncy house, with a Haunted Trail open after sunset, for those who dare. Well behaved dogs are welcome on-leash. Wakefield police will block the Drew Farm and Curries Way roads from vehicles to ensure everyone's safety.

For more information, or to request a spot to set up your vehicle for Trunk or Treating call Kaitlin at 603-581-9792.

Timely Tidbits

Got ants? It seems ants know no true off-season, leaving plenty of time for any number of our local varieties to find a way into your cozy, dry, warm house in search of both food and safety. And no matter how well you seal things up, they always find a way in. It's maddening, but no more! Keep reading for my surefire way to end the ants for cheap.

In a small bowl, mix a ¼ cup of warm water, 2 tablespoons sugar, and 1 tsp borax powder until nearly all solids are incorporated. Once the mixture is ready, put a tsp of it onto a small plate, in a bottle cap, on a spoon, or any other small vessel you can find, as close as you can to where the ants are coming in. It's ok if the positioning isn't perfect, as long as you've seen more than 3 ants visiting an area.

Then, you wait.

Over the next few hours and days the bait will bring in far more ants at one time than you knew were there, in an effort to stock up on your delicious bait. They'll form an ant Conga line from their entry point to the bait, which is both gross and interesting to watch. Refrain from killing them or wiping the area, no matter how many there are. The ants will load up on the bait and bring it back to the nest to feed the larva and the queen. Once they ingest it, the borax will dehydrate the ants from the inside out. Some will drown in the bait, but that's ok; the majority will make it back to the nest.

After a few days the number of ants should start to dwindle, until there are none. If there are so many ants that you run out of bait, refill the small vessel and continue to let them gorge themselves. Some nests are so big that it'll take 2-3 refills of bait before they're fully wiped out. Once the number of ants has dropped to a few drunk-looking stragglers, you've won! Wipe up the area with hot water to release any sticky bait dribbles, and clean or sanitize as usual. After the nest is wiped out you shouldn't see any new ants in the area until next season, when the whole battle begins anew with the next nest of ants.

A Note About the Bait *Borax is not safe to eat, so make sure any traps you set are well out of reach of children, pets, or any other animals. Do not use this method to kill ants outside of your home; this method is for in-the-house only.*

Do you have 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.

The Great Outdoors

The State of NH will log 39 acres of the Ellis R. Hatch wildlife reserve on Moose Mountain this fall. Their plans also include improvement of the parking area at the trail head. So if you plan to hike up Moose Mountain or Coppolecrown, keep an eye out and an ear open for logging trucks.

Also be aware, as you're hiking, or even just hanging out in your yard, that all of the logging currently happening displaces wildlife. With the loss of their woodland homes, many animals search for food and new dens in less disturbed areas, which often brings them closer to houses and people than usual. Some of the animals displaced include predators such as bears, coyotes, fox, and bobcats, which are showing up in people's backyards at all times of day and night, regardless of their usual habits. Be sure to look around for wildlife before letting pets or children play outside, which helps keep everyone, including wildlife, safe.

As summer gives way to fall, the various hunting seasons will soon be in full swing. Consider this your reminder to wear blaze orange, or other bright colors if you head into the woods. Wearing a small bell on your coat or bag will also help alert wildlife and hunters to your presence, thus avoiding unwanted encounters.

Punchbowl Missing

The Town's punchbowl has gone missing from the Town House. If you have seen it, or know where it is, please contact Town Clerk Karen Servacek: [603-522-3688](tel:603-522-3688)

Timber Monitor

We'd like to welcome Nate Whitworth as the new Brookfield Timber Monitor. If you're planning to do some logging, or have other tree-related concerns, he can be reached at TimberGravel@BrookfieldNH.org.

"If a community has good walking paths through fields and forest, people will use them. The right environment is a far better teacher than a heap of manifestos."

Howard Mansfield

Echoes of the Past

The article below was published in the Carroll County Pioneer April 6, 1883, and was provided by Bob Servacek.

BROOKFIELD.

Not seeing any news in the PIONEER from this town of late I thought I would give you a few.

Town meeting was poorly attended this year, and the old board of officers was elected with the exception of the third selectman. The town debt is \$2,400.

School district No. 3, held their meeting the 24th inst and elected Wm. A. Lang, clerk and Harry L. Lang, prudential com.

Mr. Thomas Goodhue is quite sick; also Mr. J. C. Clark.

Mr. E. M. Cate has been in town a few days.

H. W. Deland, F. L. Cook and Ed. E. Brown are attending high school at Wakefield.

The Cook confession is the subject of conversation of late. It is believed by most of people, but some doubt it.

There is some talk of annexing the larger part of Brookfield to Wakefield, and the rest to Wolfboro'.

Mr. Frank Hutchins shot 68 crows last year.

Mr. Walter Deland is at home for a few days. He has been at work at Manchester.