



Town of Brookfield Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 1

November, 2022

"Small towns make up for their lack of people by having everyone be more interesting."

- Doris "Granny D" Haddock

Introduction

"Twenty years ago, four ladies in town felt it was important to establish communication within the community. Carolyn Chase, Elizabeth Heinlein, Martha Pike, and Ann Pinkham formed the first "Community Affairs Committee". Their mission was to promote cohesiveness in Brookfield through communication and a calendar of special events. The first editor of the newsletter was Martha Pike, who lives on Governors Road. She is known for her beautiful daylilies. She took the job of gathering the information and setting up the format, which is still used today. She wrote the newsletters... while a group of volunteers helped fold them. Martha... was succeeded by Zina Cerrone, and then Susan Jalbert; Richard Peckham [did] the folding. We thank them very much for their time and dedication"
This history of the newsletter was taken from the June 2017, Volume 1, Number 36 edition.

Welcome to the first edition of the new Brookfield Newsletter! Brookfield is truly a hidden gem among the foothills and lakes; a village so small, most native New Hampshireites don't know it is here, and that is part of its idyllic charm. I've met more people in the few weeks it took to put this newsletter together, than I had since moving here in December, 2019. Prior to moving, the few people I knew from town told me stories of how kind the people here are, and how lucky they are to live in such a beautiful, unique place. They made it sound so quaint, it was hard to believe. How could such a place still exist, amongst the hustle and bustle of modern life? This town, with its friendly people, pride of place, and deeply rooted senses of heritage and community, continues to thrive, despite modern life's attempts at intrusion. I'm not sure if the rest of the state would agree, but I firmly believe Brookfield is New Hampshire's best kept secret.

I'm honored and grateful to be writing this newsletter for you. It is my goal to bring you news of upcoming events, updates on what the Selectmen and Committees are up to, some historical tidbits, and other

relevant information, at least twice a year, sent in the tax bills. Joanne Dolbear and Karen Servacek have been invaluable in helping gather information and blurbs for this first edition, and I thank them for their help. Thank you also to Cassandra Rodil for providing the Town Seal and a stack of previous newsletters, and to everyone who helped make this possible on relatively short notice.

The newsletter is produced through the Selectman's Office, and we're looking for volunteers. If you're interested in helping gather info and tidbits, or if you have any questions or comments, drop us a line. Putting out a shorter, monthly newsletter is a hope, so if that's something you'd like to see, please let us know!
Contact Leah Gage: Leah@LeahsMovieLowdown.com or Joanne Dolbear: treasurer@brookfieldnh.org

~Leah Gage, Writer and Editor

Town Offices

Over the past two years the Town has been granted Federal Covid relief funding, also known as CARES Act funds. Recently, the State approved such funds going to infrastructure improvements. The Selectmen opted to use much of the remaining relief funds to update our aged computer systems. With the new equipment now up and running, those in the town offices are focused on automating records and reports, and hope to move to one-check registrations in the near future. The dog licensing data base is also being upgraded, and will provide renewal reminders to dog owners in 2023. Remaining funds have been deferred for use in 2023.

Many services, including vehicle registrations; dog licensing; requests for vital records; transfer station stickers; town news; committee, and Selectman's meeting agendas; as well as meeting minutes and a calendar of events are available on the Brookfield website, www.BrookfieldNH.org.

You are also welcome to stop by the town office, reach out by phone or email with questions, or to share your ideas to improve services. Town Clerk, Karen Servacek, is grateful for the support and welcoming spirit of our townspeople, and says, *"It is a joy to serve our town."*

Town Clerk Contact Info:

Town.Clerk@BrookfieldNH.org (603) 522-3688

Town Office Hours are:

- Monday 9:00am – 5:00pm
- Tuesday 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- Wednesday 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- Last Saturday of each month: 9:00am – Noon

Brookfield has a Facebook page! Visit www.facebook.com/BrookfieldNHTown and add us as a friend.

Heritage Commission

The Heritage Commission is planning to hold a town wide holiday breakfast at the Town House, Saturday December 10, from 9-11 am. Selectman Rick Surette will man an omelet bar, and Selectman Brian Robischeau will make pancakes. Special holiday activities are planned for the children, and we hope you and your family will attend. Check the Heritage Commission website for dates and times.

If you have any vintage holiday decorations you'd be willing to lend for display, please contact the Town Clerk (info above). All pieces will be displayed with care, and returned after the holidays.

Agnes McDonald will be the next recipient of the Brookfield Town Cane, being the oldest resident in town and having lived here for over 20 years. A ceremony to present her with the cane will be held during the town holiday breakfast, with the ceremony taking place at 10 am. Commission member Harriet Wilson has written a lovely article about Agnes, which will appear with pictures in the Annual Town Report in March. Make sure to get a copy!

2023 will be a busy year for the Commission, as they plan and hold events to mark the 200th year of the completed Brookfield Town House, and the first town meeting held there. Other plans include refurbishment of the building's original glass windows, some of which have a rare green tint, painting inside, and more. For more information about the Commission in general, and the specific events planned, visit the Commission's page on the Town website:

<https://www.BrookfieldNH.org/Heritage-Commission>

The Heritage Commission would like to welcome Sandy Pace as an alternate member. The Commission is also looking for old, family recipes for publishing in a town cookbook. Send recipes to: Heritage.Commission@BrookfieldNH.org. Heritage Commission meetings are open to the public, and held at the Town Office the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm.

Commission member Bob Servacek found the following article, dated August 2, 1895, in 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 1-3pm and Sat 10am-Noon. (NOTE: *This is not the Gafney Library, but the one in old Wakefield Village*)

BROOKFIELD. Aug. 2, 1895

Mr. Henry Johnson and wife with their daughter, Mrs. Fred M. Varney, and Miss Cora L. Burleigh, all of Dover, also Mrs. John H. Brown of Exeter and Mrs. Eugenia F. Butler of Boston, are the guests of Mrs. Almira Cate.

Mrs. Eugenia F. Butler of Boston and Mrs. Fred M. Varney of Dover, while driving through the mountains narrowly escaped a very serious accident. Mrs. Butler attempted to alight from the carriage, when an insect stung their horse, causing it to spring to one side, cramping the wheels and throwing Mrs. Butler under them, her limbs dragging back and forth at each spring of the horse, but she held fast to the dasher. Mrs. Varney being unable to render her any assistance, managed the horse with great presence of mind, and Mrs. Butler was released from her perilous position, escaping with a sprained shoulder and bruises. Mrs. Butler on regaining her feet started off to gather the golden rod, which was her object when she alighted from the carriage, showing that her nerves were well under control.

Internet Availability Update

The Town entered into an agreement with Atlantic Broadband, (now Breezeline), in May 2021, to provide service to the unserved section of Route 109 and connecting streets, (from roughly 336 Wentworth Rd, to the town line with Wolfeboro). The wires on some of the utility poles had to be moved to make room for additional cabling, and some poles needed replacing because there wasn't enough room to add the new cable to them, a process called "making ready". Breezeline funds all work. Due to a ruling from the Public Utilities Commission, Breezeline's 2021 request asking Eversource and Consolidated Communications about "making ready" was delayed until earlier this year. Eversource and Consolidated completed their portion of the work in September, and Breezeline is now scheduling the cable backbone, projected to take six weeks. The Town is waiting for their work schedule. Check the town website for updates. For those who can no longer wait for Breezeline, here are some other internet providers: Blazinghog (blazinghog.com) and Starlink (www.starlink.com)

Cemetery Trustees

Along with rolling hills, stone walls, and friendly people, Brookfield is known for its 72 cemeteries, both public and private. While families are proud of their heritage and private cemeteries, there are

very specific State regulations governing burials on private property. These regulations govern the placement of cemeteries, as well as the specific records to be maintained. It is important to note, the owner of a private burial site must provide the same information as is required for public cemeteries. This is necessary for record keeping, particularly when a property is sold, but also for future generations to find their ancestors.

The Cemetery Trustees and the Town Clerk would appreciate information on newly created, or recently found cemeteries on private property, particularly the location of the cemetery, and names and dates of the deceased, to keep our town's records up to date and accurate for generations to come.

The new Brookfield Town Cemetery on Lyford Road has 72 marked and numbered plots, many of which are still available. Rights to inter can be purchased for \$500 each by Brookfield residents and taxpayers.

Please email any questions, or for more information: Cemetery.Trustees@BrookfieldNH.org

Reminder: Injury to or destruction of any cemetery or burial ground property, including fencing, headstones, markers, monuments, tombs, or other structures is a felony, per **NH RSA 635.6**

The Brookfield Ladies

There's a new social group in town, and they're looking for people to join! The Brookfield Ladies held their first meeting at the Town House on the morning of September 17. Women of all ages gathered to mingle, snack, and get to know each other. The main focus of the group will be socialization, but ideas for other activities have been put forth, including community service projects, "crafter-noons", bird watching or hiking, movie or game nights, and other such pastimes. The group is the brainchild of members Karen Servacek, Susan Raban, Jenn McKown, Harriet Wilson, Joanne Dolbear, Rose Zacher, Maryanne Lynch, and Cheryl Perry. For more information about the Ladies and their next meeting, contact Karen Servacek: TownClerk@BrookfieldNH.org (603) 522-3688

Parks and Recreation

Did you know Brookfield has two sister cities, Wakefield and Wolfeboro? Brookfield pays Wolfeboro and Wakefield to share services our town can't provide itself, such as emergency services and schools. Because of this arrangement, residents of Brookfield are welcome to join any programs these other town's Parks and Recreation Departments have, including sports, day trips, craft fairs, seniors' Bingo, and much more. Sign-ups are currently open for skiing, skating, and other winter activities. Visit the following websites for information, or to sign up:

Wakefield: wakefieldnh.myrec.com

Wolfeboro: www.wolfeboronh.us/parks-recreation

Tax Collector

Our town is growing and changing, both with new residents, and new homes, yet some things, such as the tax collection process, remain the same. Bills are sent in June and November, with amounts due by December 1 and July 1, respectively. Tax bills not paid by April will be subject to a tax lien, which the owner must pay within two years and one day. If payment is not made in this time, the town seizes the property. This decision is not made lightly, and must follow state laws governing such procedures. Currently, Brookfield holds no tax-seized properties, which is happy news for both residents and town alike.

Anyone with questions regarding property taxes may contact Tax Collector, Diana Peckham:

Tax.Collector@BrookfieldNH.org (603)522-6551

Road Agent

Several repairs and updates to town roads took place this year, including the filling of potholes, grading the dirt portion, and patching the pavement of certain sections of Lyford Road. Speed limit signs are being added to Lyford Road and Cedar Park, as there weren't any on those roads previously. The washouts on Stoneham Road are also being repaired. In the spring, the lines on paved roads will be repainted, and the embankment on the sharp corner on Clark Road will be pushed back to improve intersection visibility. If there is an issue on a road in need of repair, please contact the Road Agent: Christopher Kinville
Road.Agent@BrookfieldNH.org

Agricultural Committee

If you have a farm that sells produce, or other products raised/made in Brookfield, the Agricultural Committee wants to hear from you! They are also looking for new members to join, to help promote all things Brookfield made/raised. For more information, or to add your farm to the list, contact Committee Chair Ed Nason: Agricultural.Committee@BrookfieldNH.org

Planning Board

The Planning board is looking for alternate members. The Board meets the second Monday of the month, at 7 pm at the Town Offices. If you're interested in joining, or you have questions or comments, email: PBChair@BrookfieldNH.org

Conservation Commission

The biggest accomplishment of the Conservation Commission this year was to rebuild itself and to start meeting again. There are now 5 full members, and they're looking for 2 alternates to join. The Forester the Town uses for logging in the Town Preserve has been contacted to do the next cut according to the Preserve's

Forest Management Plan. Unfortunately, due to current economic conditions, the cut will need to be postponed until at least next year. The Con Com also began researching how to better protect the abundant water resources in Town, both from pollution, and over extraction by large companies. Over the winter, the Commission plans to hold guest speakers on a variety of conservation topics. Check the Commission's site for details:

www.BrookfieldNH.org/Conservation-Commission

Reminders and Other Helpful Info

Salted Sand

Residents of Brookfield are welcome to up to three 5 gallon buckets of salted sand at a time, which is kept in the Salt Shed behind the Town House. If you need help getting sand this winter, please call the Town Clerk: Karen Servacek:

Town.Clerk@BrookfieldNH.org (603) 522-3688

Emergency Care Files

If you or someone in your household has any special circumstances first responders should be aware of when responding to a call, please contact the Wakefield Fire Department's non-emergency number, which is listed below. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, mental illnesses, Autism Spectrum Disorders, use of ventilators or oxygen, any life support system that uses electricity, bed ridden who may need to be moved in the event of a power failure, or if you live alone, so that you are checked on in case of emergency. Wakefield Fire Department Non-Emergency Line: 522-3232

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

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

Road.Agent@BrookfieldNH.org

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

Town Contacts List

The list of town contacts, which includes the contact information of all town departments, offices and committees, as well as other pertinent contacts outside Brookfield, is being updated. Once complete, (hopefully by December), the list will be available for pick up at the Town Office, and for download off of the town website: www.BrookfieldNH.org

Town Archives

Town Archivist Craig Evans has been hard at work getting our town's old ledgers digitized and restored. Of the ledgers and records, there are four books left to do. Craig is working with Administrative Assistant Cassandra Rodil to get all public records accessible via the town website, with the full archives being complete by 2024. Craig and Cassandra are also working on streamlining property records for each address in town; no easy task, since there are records in at least 5 different files for each address. Contact Craig Evans for more information on these projects:

Town.Archives@BrookfieldNH.org

New Faces, and Fond Goodbyes

As you've probably noticed, several town office positions have changed hands since the last issue of the newsletter. Let's give the new faces a warm welcome, and a hearty thanks to those who have moved on to other things!

Town Clerk: Thank you, Ginny McGinley. Welcome Karen Servacek

Treasurer: Thank you, Marylou MacLean. Welcome Joanne Dolbear

Road Agent: Thank you, Ed Nason. Welcome Chris Kinville

Moderator: Thank you, Dr. Bill Marsh. Welcome Jim Cowles

In closing, I'll leave you with this bit of old Yankee Wisdom (from a book of the same name, by Wolfgang Mieder):

"In New England we have nine months of winter, and three months of darned poor sledding"

Have a cozy winter, everyone!