

**Annual Report
of the Town of**

Brookfield



Ed Koren, a leading advocate for the preservation of the Old Town Hall.

VERMONT

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Fire.....	911
White River Valley Ambulance.....	911 (802-234-6800)
Sheriff-Orange County.....	802-685-4875
State Police.....	911 (802-234-9933)
Fire Warden... (Jeff Brassard).....	802-728-5739
Town Garage.....	802-276-3090
Town Clerk.....	802-276-3352

Town Clerk's Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Selectboard Meetings: Town Clerk's Office 2nd and 4th Monday of the Month at 6:30 P.M.

Brookfield Library Hours:

Winter 2022: Saturday 9 A.M. - Noon, Tuesday + Wednesday: 2:00-5:30 P.M

Summer 2022: (Memorial Day-Labor Day) Saturday: 9:00 A.M. – Noon; Tuesday + Wednesday: 2:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Library Phone: 802-276-3358 Email: brookfieldpublic@gmail.com

Library Trustees meet every other month, or as needed. Check the website for dates of upcoming meetings: www.brookfieldvt.org

Brookfield Elementary School.....802-276-3153

Randolph Union High School802-728-3397

Chartered: August 5, 1781

Please visit our website @ www.brookfieldvt.org and see us on Facebook

Town email address: townclerk@brookfieldvt.org

Landfill Hours:

Wednesday and Friday 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Saturday 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
(except holidays); Telephone number: 802-728-6737
(randolphvt.org/transferstation)

Household Hazardous Waste Days for Residents: One day each in Spring and Fall; Exact Times and Dates to be announced.

For acceptable materials: mtalliance.org "special events" or mtalliance.org/hazardous-waste/location-and-date-listing

Photo Source:

Cover photo: Announcement in 2005 by the Preservation Trust of Vermont of a \$75,000 grant for the restoration of the Old Town Hall.

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Dedication



The Selectboard dedicates this year's Town Report to Teresa Godfrey.

Teresa is a native Vermonter, one of 11 siblings, born in Barre, VT. She attended Northfield Jr. and Sr. High and graduated with an Associate's Degree in Accounting/Data Processing from Champlain College in 1984. Following college, she traveled to San Diego, CA to marry James Godfrey who was stationed there in active duty in the Navy. As a Navy wife, Teresa, over the next several years, got to call Charleston, SC, Jacksonville, FL and Virginia Beach, VA home before returning to Vermont in 2010 when James retired from the Navy after 30 years of service.

The Godfrey's have two children, Sara Godfrey Timberlake (sp. Christopher Timberlake) and Robert James Godfrey (sp. Allison Robinson Godfrey).

Upon returning to Vermont and settling in Brookfield, Teresa became a Town Lister in 2011. This was followed by her appointment to the positions of Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Town Treasurer in 2012. In 2014, Jane Woodruff retired from her positions as Town Clerk and Town Treasurer with Teresa being elected to fill these important Town positions. Currently Teresa holds the positions of Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Lister, Delinquent Tax Collector, and coordinates the production of the annual Town Report.

We will truly miss Teresa and her very friendly, efficient, helpful and knowledgeable running of the Town office. We thank her for her years of service to the Town of Brookfield and wish her and James the very best as they relocate to another state.

Thank you Teresa!

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD ANNUAL MEETING

WARNING

The legal voters of Brookfield are hereby warned to meet for the annual Town Meeting at the Brookfield Elementary School at 1725 Ridge Road, Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. to transact the following business:
Article:

1. To elect all officers as required by law for the ensuing year by Australian ballot. For this purpose, the polls will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
2. To hear and act on reports of the Town Officers.
3. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of revenues.
4. To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes paid into the Treasury as provided by law in two installments, and if so, to set the dates.
5. To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town General Fund and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.
6. To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town Highway Fund and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.
7. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to place an order for the cab/chasey for the replacement of a Town dump truck, for delivery by fall of 2024. The cost, \$166,994.00 plus financing, would be paid for over a three-year period starting in 2024.
8. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to expend \$245,000 of excess revenues from prior financial years as follows: \$85,000 for the replacement of the Town's 1-ton dump truck, \$60,000 for road improvements, \$50,000 to reduce taxes and \$50,000 for the replacement of the shed at the Town Garage.
9. To see if the Town will approve the revision of the five current Selectboard terms from all 3-year terms to three, 3-year terms and two, 2-years terms. If approved, one 3-year and one 2-year term will be up for election each year starting in 2024. The Selectboard will determine which two current members will agree to take a two-year term, one ending in 2024 and one ending in 2025.
10. To transact any other proper business.

Dated at Brookfield, Vermont, the 13th day of February 2023.

Attest: Teresa Godfrey, Town Clerk

There will be an informational meeting on the Town Budget on Monday evening, February 27, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. at the Town Office as part of the Selectboard Meeting.

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Brookfield met for the annual Town Meeting behind the Brookfield Elementary School at 1725 Ridge Road, Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business:

Call to Order at 10:05 a.m.

Moderator, Gregory Wight, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article 1: To elect all officers as required by law for the ensuing year by Australian ballot. For this purpose, the polls will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Article 2: To hear and act on reports of the Town Officers.

Lew Stowell, Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Chair, recognized the current members, Mike Stoddard, Dan Mason, Stuart Edson, and Mike Rutkovsky.

PSAC meets on issues concerning the Town and recommends to the Selectboard a course of action. They invite guests i.e. Law Enforcement. Recent issues included traffic through the Village, needles at Hippo Park, walking on roads.

Amy Borgman asked how concerning is the needle situation at Hippo Park. L. Stowell stated they are not sure when the needles appeared, whether it was during the winter or recently. Starr Strong attended the meeting as Health Officer and they are waiting to see if it continues.

John Benson, Selectboard Chair, spoke about having Town Meeting outside in May again. It has been a challenging year with COVID and with the increase to a 5 member board they welcomed Kate Threlkeld and Brenda Flint last July. With Brenda's life taken too early, Betty Lord stepped in. J. Benson recognized Kasey Peterson moving on and D. Vicki Blanchard stepping in. David Flint moved on after being on the road crew for around 20 years. The Selectboard hired a replacement for a short time but the road crew is back down to 2. Rob Wheatley has pitched in to help.

They have advertised but there have been no responses but it is the same in surrounding Towns. If anyone knows anyone that is interested, let us know. Kate Threlkeld has decided not to run again and we are going to miss her. Jeff Kimmel is also not running after 19+ years on the Board. S. Strong, Green-Up Day Coordinator, wasn't available to report so J. Benson reported that Green-Up Day was successful with 115 green-up bags turned in and 40 cars came through to deposit trash so there were about 100 people participating through-out the day. There were 620 cans recycled for \$31 that was contributed to the Conservation Commission. There were only 13 tires picked up.

Charlie Keeler asked what the timeline is for reappraisal completion.

Phyllis Humez, Lister, stated the Lister's have applied for a 60 day extension through the State because of everything like mud-season and COVID. The notices should go out by July and we just went through office computer issues.

Dennis Boggs asked if we expected taxes to go down and if there was any concern with taxes and the million found from the audit.

No other reports were presented.

Representative P. Jay Hooper spoke about this being his 3rd term and being on the House Education Committee. Rep. Hooper spoke about the Clean Heat Standard not passing with a veto override but feels that they can make a cleaner & stronger bill for the next session. The Education Committee had 3 strong victories with universal school meals for breakfast and lunch; there is a \$100 million surplus and they are updating the per pupil spending and considering income based education funding.

Kathleen Newbrough asked if there are still incentives for buying "green" cars and is there a replenishment of the funds. Rep. Hooper said yes. There will be gathering at the Old Town Hall on June 16th at 7:00 p.m. for a Legislative update for those who would like to attend. Rep. Larry Satcowitz introduced himself.

Article 3: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of revenues.

Motion by Linda Runnion, seconded by C. Keeler.

J. Benson stated that in the last 5-6 years we have not needed to borrow money since collecting taxes twice a year. This is put in as a precaution, in case it is needed.

Call to vote. Motion carried.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes paid into the Treasury as provided by law in two installments, and if so, to set the dates.

Motion by Ted Elzey, seconded by L. Runnion.

No discussion.

Call to vote. Motion carried.

On motion by Perry Kacik seconded by Kym Anderson, the Voters voted to have the first installment for 2022/2023 due Nov. 5, 2022 and second installment due May 6, 2023. Motion carried.

Article 5: To see if the Town will authorize the contribution of \$100.00 to support the Child Advocacy Center for Orange County.

Motion by K. Anderson, seconded by Betsy Hale.

L. Runnion asked if there was anyone from Child Advocacy Center in the audience to speak about what they do.

K. Anderson said she isn't from there but works with them and can comment. The Center works with and helps kids with issues such as trauma or abuse. There has been an escalation in the number of kids with trauma. It is based in Tunbridge and covers all of Orange County and she hoped the voters would support it for such a small amount.

Call to vote. Motion carried.

Article 6: To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town General Fund and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.

Motion by L. Runnion, seconded by B. Hale.

Call for discussion and there was none.

Call to vote. Motion carried.

Article 7: To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town Highway Fund and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.

Motion by A. Borgman, seconded by Joy Kacik.

Susan Shea asked about the budget for bridges, located on page 21 of the Town Report, if there was a plan for ones to be replaced.

J. Benson stated there wasn't a plan to replace bridges but inspections had been done by the State requested by Tim Higgins, Road Foreman. There are concerns with 4 smaller bridges; Parker Road, Lower Maloney, Witts Bridge, and Eagle Peak. S. Shea asked if West Brookfield residents could give input and be updated concerning the Eagle Peak Road Bridge. She would like to have it maintain the current character for the neighborhood.

Bonnie Fallon stated the road sign on Lamson Pond Road was stolen and needs to be replaced.

J. Benson replied that every year a number of signs are taken and the road crew has tried several different things to prevent this. PSAC did a complete inventory and listed missing yield, stop, and street signs. The State requirements include the size of the signs along with the sign post needs to break off if it is hit.

Beth Flint questioned why the increase in Highway wages went up only \$3,000 last year but increased \$25,000 this year.

J. Benson explained the wages are going up and several other Towns are also looking for road crews. We have to be competitive for hiring. The last 4 candidates they interviewed were asking for more than the current crew is making per hour.

After no more discussion, there was a call to vote. Motion carried.

Article 8: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to expend excess revenues from the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 financial year in the following manner:

Purchase and installation of radio repeaters for the Town Highway and Fire Department at the Brookfield Elementary School, approx. 10%; Fracking of the well at the Town Office and installation of a well at the Town Garage, approx. 16%;

Brookfield's portion of the upgrade to the Dispatch Center radio equipment, approx. 8%; cold Climate Heat Pump System for Town Office & Library, approx. 6%; Roadway improvements, approx. 20 %; First phase of Road Side Swale stabilization work as required under the State General Permit, approx. 20%; Reduction in revenues to be raised by taxes in 2022-2023 financial year, 20%; for a total of \$250,000.

Motion by L. Runnion, seconded by Marylou Maeder.

J. Kacik asked for an explanation of each of the above recommendations.

J. Benson said that when they were getting the budget together in December, the Auditor said there was \$250,000 unencumbered funds from the previous year. The Selectboard discussed how it would be best spent.

1. The radio repeaters help with truck to truck and fire truck to dispatch communications. Currently there are a number of dead spots and if the Town is plowing and a truck gets stuck, it might take a while to get help. The system picks up from 1 truck to the repeater to the 2nd truck. It magnifies the signal.
2. About 4-5 years ago the well at the office was not doing very well and because the office doesn't get used as a normal household, it was able to recover between the dry spells. It was recommended that we have hydrofracking done to "open" the veins of water. The Town Garage water is not potable so they use bottled water. We should have potable water at the garage.
3. The Dispatch Center radio equipment is jointly owned with Randolph. The equipment is getting old and has been repaired but replacement is needed. 1/4 of the cost would be covered by Brookfield.
4. The installation of a heat pump is due to the price of fuel going up and we want to do our part to reduce greenhouse gas. An option is heat pump split using oil during the middle of winter. We could also use AC if needed.
5. Additional money into highway improvements would be used on Eagle Peak for this year.

6. The State passed a law a number of years ago concerning run-off erosion on the side of roads. Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) identified roads needing swale and it will take a number of years to complete.

7. Put some towards the tax burden for this coming year.

The reason the numbers are in percent is because we couldn't get a firm cost until we are ready to sign.

J. Kacik asked, with the issue with the radios, is there a system that would address the dead spots.

J. Benson said an analysis of radio coverage would most likely be more than needed. They would have to approach land owners and install a tower with a small building to house equipment. Currently they send someone from the site to where they have signal to pass information to dispatch and back.

Aaron Adler, in the case of the cold climate heat pump, asked if we were looking at "Energy Star" heat pumps and if Efficiency VT or Green Mountain Power had incentives.

J. Benson said yes but we need approval first then we can have one installed. We would contact Efficiency VT to see if there was anything available.

Ginny Brees asked about the tax portion of the money being set aside.

Teresa Godfrey, Treasurer, answered that with the balance left from 2020-2021 was in excess of \$378,000 and we credited \$128,000 towards the 2021-2022 tax year but didn't want to apply it all unless the voters wanted us to. It affects escrow accounts. The 20% was not part of the \$128,000 already credited towards taxes.

D. Boggs asked if there was money set aside for working on the Town website.

J. Benson said the Board discussed at the last meeting to make it more user friendly and planned to talk to the provider so if anyone has input to let the Board know.

They would like to have folders for different parts of Town committees.

D. Boggs questioned if it is part of this funding.

J. Benson said it would be out of the ARPA funds.

D. Boggs stated it really needs to be a tool to outbound information to let everyone know what is going on similarly to Front Porch Forum. We could use 1% of the \$250,000.

A. Borgman agreed communication needs improvement and in using ARPA money. Chris White suggested using "Mailchimp" and that it is free to create an account and everyone could sign up for it.

G. Wight said we can't discuss more without an amendment.

L. Runnion called the question, 2nd by M. Maeder.

G. Wight re-read the article.

Call to vote. Motion carried.

Article 9: To transact any other proper business.

Dan Mason, State Environmental Officer, wanted to let the residents know that the State has ARPA money available for owner occupied homes that have a failed water/wastewater system. It is based on different income brackets. Most of the money this year has been allocated though. He gave his work email for anyone who might need assistance. Dan.mason@vermont.gov.

T. Elzey raised the concern that the "stump dump" is no longer available for residents to bring yard debris.

J. Benson said the road crew approached the Selectboard a while ago with concern of lack of space and recommended a gate be put up.

T. Elzey said the mowing at Hippo Park left tree brush that needs to be cleaned up and J. Benson said the Town will clean up that debris.

J. Benson discussed how ARPA funds are coming in and there were no rules on how to spend. The 1st allocation of \$200,000 has come in but they haven't been able to get on line to report how they intend to use it so they sent a letter to the Senators and Representatives that the portal will not accept their log-in.

The Selectboard has discussed how to use the money: updating the town website, storm water management, and shore up the shed at the town garage. Until we can file the paperwork, we are stuck.

Jack Zebora asked about what happened to the plan that was discussed 2 years ago for presenting to the town options for a new garage. Now we are spending for a new shed. The road crew needs to put the grader in the garage to be able to start it in the winter. Where are we with the garage?

J. Benson said there was a committee set up and met on a regular basis and identified the needs. They went to work with options and had a meeting at the garage then COVID hit. When they met with the committee the price tag was over \$1.2 million and that was a year and half ago. Now it is over \$1.5 million. The Selectboard is trying to affect the immediate concerns with the shed.

J. Zebora asked if the Fire Department was part of the \$1.2 million.

J. Benson said not part of it but asked what could be done. They are not pursuing a garage at this time due to cost.

Amy Ingrassia recommended they re-measure for the equipment to be worked on vs the vehicles. The equipment is not going to fit in the shed.

Perry Kacik, Historical Society, wanted to recognize the contributions Bonnie Fallon has made to the Community. She has relocation plans and will be moving. He recognized her dedication to being a poll officer, working with the Historical Society, and Green-Up Day. She is always cheerful and a welcoming smile. She always has challenging questions. He wished her God-Speed with her next journey.

T. Godfrey announced that she and her husband will be moving after her terms are up next March 2023. S. Edson will be stepping down as a Lister when town-wide reappraisal is complete. So we would really like to get someone trained to take both Lister positions for an easier transition when we step down. If anyone is interested in the position, please let us know.

Motion by M. Stoddard, seconded by L. Runnion, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted: Teresa Godfrey, Town Clerk

Town of Brookfield Officers 2022

Position	Length of Term	Name	End of Term Date
Town Moderator	1 yr	Greg Wight	3/7/2023
Town Clerk	3 yr	Teresa Godfrey	3/7/2023
Treasurer	3 yr	Teresa Godfrey	3/7/2023
Asst. TC	appt.	Amy Ingrassia	Appt by TC
Asst. Treas.	appt.	Amy Ingrassia	Appt by Treas
Admin. Asst.	appt.	Vicki Blanchard	Appt by SB
Selectboard	3 yr	J. Keith Sprague III	3/7/2023
	3 yr	John Benson	3/7/2024
	3 yr	Stuart Edson	3/7/2025
	1 yr	C. Curtis Koren	3/7/2025
	2 yr	Betty Lord	3/7/2023
OSSD	3 yr	Scott Clouatre/Sam Hooper	3/7/2023
	3 yr	Chelsea Sprague	3/7/2024
Lister	3 yr	Teresa Godfrey	3/7/2023
	3 yr	Tom Garbitelli	3/7/2023
	3 yr	Phyllis Humez	3/7/2025
Auditor	3 yr	Vacant	3/7/2024
	3 yr	Vacant	3/7/2025
	3 yr	Vacant	3/7/2026
Del Tax Collector	1 yr	Teresa Godfrey	3/7/2023
1st Constable	1 yr	Dan Mason	3/7/2023
2nd Constable	1 yr	Ed Neas	3/7/2023
Fire Warden		Jeff Brassard	Appt by FD
911 Coordinator		G. "Jack" Zebora	Appt by SB
Memorial Day		Alice Kempe	Appt by SB
		Mary Doyle	Appt by SB
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Emily Noyes	3/7/2023
	3 yrs	Susan O'Brien	3/7/2023
	3 yrs	Amy Borgman	3/7/2025
	3 yrs	Dan Childs	3/7/2024
	3 yrs	Starr Strong	3/7/2024
Justice of Peace	2 yrs	Perry Kacik	2/1/2023
	2 yrs	Kym Anderson	2/1/2023
	2 yrs	Bonnie Fallon	2/1/2023
	2 yrs	C. Curtis Koren	2/1/2023
	2 yrs	Elizabeth Deforge	2/1/2023
	2 yrs	Linda Runnion	2/1/2023
	2 yrs	Larry Brassard	2/1/2023
Town Forester	1 yr	Jon Jickling	3/7/2023
Health Officer	3 yr	Starr Strong	11/1/2024
Admin Officer	3 yr	Mike Fiorillo	7/22/2022
Admin Officer Asst	3 yr	Vacant	7/22/2022
Civil Defense		John Benson	
Agent to Deed			
Agent to Defend			
Planning		H. Gwynn Zakov	Appt by SB
Commission		Keven Ring	Appt by SB
		Martha Judy	Appt by SB
		William White	Appt by SB
		Tim Gershon	Appt by SB

		Christina Harlow	Appt by SB
		Vacant	Appt by SB
Board of		Tom Allen	
Adjustment		Theresa White	
		Vacant	
		Vacant	
		Vacant	
TRORC Rep		H. Gwynn Zakov	Appt by SB
TRORC Rep Alter-		Jon Binhammer	Appt by SB
Conservation	Chair	Jon Binhammer	Appt by SB
Commission	Vice-	Susan Shea	Appt by SB
	Sec	Jon Jickling	Appt by SB
	Treas	Starr Strong	Appt by SB
		Vacant	Appt by SB
Public Safety	Chair	Lewis Stowell	
Advisory		Stuart Edson	
Committee		Dan Mason	
		Michael Rutkovsky	
		Michael Stoddard	

REPORT OF THE BROOKFIELD SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard offers the following report for 2022

Like the previous year, 2022 has been impacted by COVID and change. For the second time in our memory, Town Meeting was postponed till the spring and held outdoors with social distancing. We are pleased that this year we can once again return to an indoor meeting on Town Meeting Day.

Election brought two new members to the Selectboard, Curtis Koren and Stuart Edson. This was followed later in the year by the resignation of Dennis LaRocque. Dennis was a valued member of the Board for several years but due to family obligations felt he needed to step down. We will miss Dennis's contributions. The Board then appointed Keith Sprague, a lifetime member of our community, to serve the remainder of Dennis's term.

Highway – At last year's report, we indicated we had filled the vacant position on the Road Crew. Unfortunately, this was short lived. We found ourselves, once again in February, one man down. We should all thank Tim Higgins, Rich Hamblin and Rob Wheatley for the long hours and efforts they have made to keep our roads plowed and fulfill the road maintenance being down one man. We are happy to report that we have been able to hire a young man, Sean DesRoberts of Williamstown, this past November, as a full-time member of the Road Crew.

Activity this past year include improvements to Eagle Peak Road, Old Post Road, the Town Office parking area, an adjacent part of Ralph Road, and the redecking of the Parker Road bridge.

The Town applied for and received a grant from FEMA to study and design a replacement bridge at the Halfway Brook Road crossing. The Town had also received a grant from VTrans for the design and replacement of Bear Hill Bridge. The design is now complete and construction of this bridge should get underway

this summer. The Town also submitted and received a grant from VTrans to assist us in meeting our obligations for roadside swale stabilization under our State Stormwater Permit and to complete a Hydraulic/Hydrology study on the Parker Road Bridge. We have submitted the roadway segments for improvement to VTrans with the intent of making these improvements this summer along with other areas.

As noted last year, the Town had an evaluation done on five short span bridges which fall outside the review by VTrans. The report recommended abutment improvements to three of these structures which were all completed this past summer.

Town Office well – The well at the Town office was a troublemaker for us last year. First the well pump died. After replacing this, it was noted that our monthly electric consumption was higher than normal. The electrician pinpointed the problem as the well pump continually running. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the pitless adapter on the well was leaking, causing the well pump to run excessively. The pitless was replaced and things seemed to be okay for a period. Then, once again, the power usage spiked and once again was attributed to the water supply. This time it was discovered that a fitting in the water-line behind the Town office had failed. The line and fitting were replaced. In hindsight, it is not surprising that we had multiple failures as no one knew how long ago the system was installed. At this point all seems to be working fine.

Website - Selectboard member Stuart Edson has been working with Thor Hansen from Thorworx updating the Town's website in order to make it more user friendly and include much more information. Do look it over and if you have any questions or comments, please submit them via the email link at the bottom of the home page at brookfieldvt.org.

Excess Revenues – At last year's Town Meeting, the Town approved the use of excess revenues for several projects. At this point, these projects have either been completed or are underway as follows: radio repeaters are awaiting delivery and the FCC license is in place for the additional frequencies; the well at the Town office has been fracked, increasing its yield; a new well has been installed and is in full operation at the Town Garage providing potable water; upgrading of the Dispatch Center radio equipment is on hold as it is unclear, at this point, if the Orange County Sheriff's office will continue to offer this service with the change in sheriff; The Heat Pump system has been installed in the Town Office and Library; some road improvements have been undertaken, but with one man down, the crew was limited; and \$50K was used to offset last year's tax burden.

Thank you – The Selectboard once again wants to recognize all those who serve or volunteer, past and present, to make our small Town the great place it is. To the people of Brookfield, we thank you for your continued trust and support.

In addition, we want to give a special thank you to Teresa Godfrey for her years of service to our community. Teresa began her tenure as the Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer under Jane Woodruff. When Jane retired, Teresa was elected to the positions of Town Clerk and Treasurer, but she quickly expanded her roll to include Delinquent Tax Collector and Lister. With still time on her

hands, Teresa took on the responsibility of pulling the Town Report together recently.

Teresa has run a very efficient and people-oriented operation. She will be truly missed, and we wish her and her husband, James, all the best as they establish a new life out of state. Thank you, Teresa.

Brookfield Board of Listers - 2022 Report

This year brought a few major changes. We had a Lister step down, Stuart Edson, who decided to run for the Selectboard, so we needed to appoint a person to complete his term. Then we were informed by Teresa Godfrey that she will be leaving after Town Meeting 2023, so we needed to appoint a second person to train in. Another issue was once reappraisal was completed, we needed to correct reappraisal errors and transfer all the notes from our old CAMA to the new one.

Please bear with us as we need to do new and some repeat site visits!

For the Grand List year April 2021 – March 2022, the Brookfield Board of Listers processed 98 property transfer forms (changes in ownership and/or land divisions), and continued with our management of 164 Brookfield properties enrolled in Vermont's Current Use program.

On an on-going basis, we field calls, emails and walk-in requests from Brookfield property owners, and from outside professionals needing information. Lister tasks generally include researching the Land Records (original deeds), going on site visits, making changes to our electronic data files for the Grand List, conferring with the State, updating our physical file folders for each change in property status, referring to the survey maps we have digitally or in the vault, and updating our parcel maps for any subdivisions or newly combined properties. Additionally, maintenance of our Current Use properties requires on-going communication and file exchanges with the Vermont Division of Property Valuation and Review.

It is the goal of the Listers to keep the Brookfield Grand List and records of the 965 property parcels in Brookfield up to date. **Please contact us at the town office if you have any questions or changes to your property (i.e. removing a structure).** The Listers can be reached at the Town Clerk's Office number (802) 276-3352 or by email at listers@brookfieldvt.org. We will call (or email) you to arrange a time to meet.

Please remember that **NEW or ADDED CONSTRUCTION may require that you first obtain a development permit from the Brookfield Zoning Administrative Officer and/or the State of Vermont.** The Zoning Officer can be reached at zoning@brookfieldvt.org. The permitting process applies to all construction and subdivisions: residential, commercial, and agricultural.

YOU WILL BE CHARGED DOUBLE THE FEE if you haven't been permitted. (No permit is required to remove a structure, but please be sure to tell the Listers so that your property value can be adjusted.)

Reminder to Veterans: Any **disabled veteran**, who is planning to apply for the Veterans Tax Exemption, is required to submit a Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans and Their Survivors form (Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs

form 3802) and letter of eligibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs **before May 1st** of each year. A Veteran exemption **cannot** be applied until the Listers receive notification from the State that the exemption form has been approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Brookfield Listers: Teresa Godfrey, Phyllis Humez, Tom Garbitelli

Note from Teresa Godfrey, Town Clerk

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the Town of Brookfield and all the residents I have gotten to know. This is a special Town and I will miss everyone. I have enjoyed living here and working for the Town for the last 12 years. It is a lifetime of memories that I will cherish and bring with me to our new life in West Virginia. Thank you for opening your hearts to me and allowing me to help keep the Town running. I never expected to have a job with this much responsibility and growth. It has been an amazing experience. As my Town Meeting pens say, "I did it my way".

Wishing all the best,

Teresa

VITAL STATISTICS 2022

Marriages:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name #1</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Name #2</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Place of Marriage</u>
6/25/22	Rebekah A. Roy	W. Brookfield	Rafe A. Sauer	W. Brookfield	Montgomery, VT
7/23/22	Jenna M. Sprague	Brookfield	Gregory E. Johnson	Stockbridge	Randolph, VT
7/30/22	Morgan R. Pettingell	Brookfield	Erika A.J. Rojas	Brookfield	Moretown, VT
8/21/22	Johanna R. Garner	Beacon, NY	John M. Wilamowski	Beacon, NY	Brookfield, VT
10/8/22	Daniel M. Windholz	Brookfield	Hunter L. Shaw	Brookfield	Stowe, VT
10/8/22	David J. Fishkind	Brookfield	Lily F. Bartel	Brookfield	Brookfield, VT

Births:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Mother's Name</u>
Penelope J. Frazier	Nicholas J. Frazier	Cheryl A. Frazier
Crosby R. Edlund	Josiah D. Edlund	Michelle M. Edlund
Leo C. Chouinard	Tory C. Chouinard	Christine B. Chouinard
Owen C. F. Steel	Jonathan M. Steel	Naomi A. Steel

Deaths:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>	<u>Place of Burial</u>
Charles F. Emmons	77	January 28, 2022	Brookfield, VT	Valley Crematory, WRJ, VT
Debra B. Marckres	68	March 10, 2022	Randolph, VT	Ker Phaneuf Crematory, Brattleboro, VT
Ellan I. Cole	87	April 5, 2022	Brookfield, VT	Valley Crematory, WRJ, VT
Pauline A. Richards	99	April 29, 2022	Brookfield, VT	Pleasant View Cemetery, Randolph, VT
Phyllis J. Small	87	May 20, 2022	W. Brookfield, VT	Green Mtn. Crematory, Northfield, VT
Russell R. Pettingell	70	November 12, 2022	Brookfield, VT	Valley Crematory, WRJ, VT

Burials:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>	<u>Place of Burial</u>
Nicholas W. Blodgett	31	March 24, 2022	Dartmouth, NH	Center Cemetery
Eleanor M. Beaulieu	92	April 1, 2022	Sacramento, CA	W. Brookfield
Charles W. Gaudette Sr.	77	May 22, 2022	Randolph, VT	Center Cemetery
Janet E. Thomson	91	November 12, 2021	Lebanon, NH	Center Cemetery
Elizabeth P. Edson	91	February 1, 2022	Randolph Ctr., VT	Center Cemetery
Nathaniel W. Beaulieu	63	September 10, 2022	Sacramento, CA	W. Brookfield

Respectfully submitted, Teresa Godfrey, Town Clerk

Town Income	Budget 7/1/21-6/30/22	Actual 7/1/21-6/30/22	Budget 7/1/22-6/30/23	Actual As of 12/31/2022	Budget 7/1/23-6/30/24
10-4-1-10-00 Property Taxes Received	\$223,899.02	\$200,372.42	** \$321,246.00	\$215,631.65	\$417,236.00
10-4-1-10-01 Del Tax Principal	\$77,193.00	\$36,089.54	\$0.00	\$23,152.36	\$0.00
10-4-1-30-00 PILOT	\$8,274.60	\$8,451.60	\$6,940.00	\$8,550.12	\$8,500.00
10-4-1-40-00 Current Use-Hold Harmless	\$8.00	\$91,949.00	\$90,000.00	\$87,011.00	\$87,000.00
10-4-1-60-00 Judicial-Local Fines	\$500.00	\$593.50	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-4-2-02-00 Town Clerk's Fees	\$9,000.00	\$15,145.00	\$12,000.00	\$7,063.50	\$12,000.00
10-4-2-03-00 Book Restoration Fund	\$2,000.00	\$5,468.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,512.00	\$2,500.00
10-4-2-04-00 Copier Reimbursement	\$1,200.00	\$2,086.85	\$1,200.00	\$962.60	\$1,000.00
10-4-2-05-00 Dog Licenses	\$600.00	\$634.00	\$150.00	\$32.00	\$150.00
10-4-2-07-00 Marriage Licenses	\$250.00	\$80.00	\$250.00	\$40.00	\$150.00
10-4-2-08-00 Permits	\$1,500.00	\$1,170.00	\$1,500.00	\$980.00	\$1,600.00
10-4-2-10-00 Posting Fees	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$80.00	\$45.00	\$80.00
10-4-2-30-00 Miscellaneous Income	\$50.00	\$10,262.00	\$100.00	\$566.50	\$100.00
10-4-3-10-00 Int. Bank Accounts	\$1,000.00	\$1,293.01	\$1,500.00	\$1,437.68	\$1,500.00
10-4-3-40-00 Delinquent Tax Penalties	\$6,000.00	\$2,927.15	\$6,000.00	\$2,734.30	\$3,000.00
10-4-3-50-00 Int. Delinquent Taxes	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$12,480.80</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$8,056.08</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
Total Town Income	\$341,549.62	\$389,005.38	\$463,766.00	\$358,774.79	\$550,316.00
10-4-9-00-00 Highway Income - Other		\$82,510.26		\$14,800.00	\$0.00
10-4-9-01-01 Paving Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-4-9-10-00 Property Taxes Raised	\$581,410.00	\$515,243.36	** \$655,655.00	\$437,797.58	\$745,955.00
10-4-9-20-00 St. of VT-Highway Aid	\$145,000.00	\$148,492.61	\$148,500.00	\$76,257.86	\$148,000.00
10-4-9-30-00 RT 65 Maintenance Contract	\$12,000.00	\$11,710.31	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
10-4-9-35-00 Highway Permits	\$100.00	\$450.00	\$250.00	\$200.00	\$250.00
10-4-9-87-01 NSB 2021 truck loan		\$130,045.64			\$0.00
Total Highway Income	\$738,510.00	\$888,452.18	\$817,405.00	\$529,055.44	\$907,205.00
Total Income	\$1,080,059.62	\$1,277,457.56	\$1,281,171.00	\$887,830.23	\$1,457,521.00
General Fund					
10-5-1-10-00 Town Clerk's Salary	\$20,460.00	\$20,853.38	\$21,075.00	\$10,537.54	\$21,075.00
10-5-1-11-00 Asst. Town Clerk's Salary	\$500.00	\$1,554.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,526.85	\$7,500.00
10-5-1-15-00 Treasurer's Salary	\$16,370.00	\$16,684.93	\$16,860.00	\$8,429.98	\$16,860.00
10-5-1-16-00 Assist. Treasurer's Salary	\$500.00	\$12,207.00	\$15,000.00	\$10,584.00	\$15,000.00
10-5-1-17-00 Del Tax Collector Fees	\$6,000.00	\$3,366.58	\$6,000.00	\$2,741.60	\$3,000.00

10-5-1-20-00 Selectmen's Salaries	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
10-5-1-25-00 Admin. Assistant Salary	\$17,300.00	\$13,029.17	\$11,500.00	\$5,775.00	\$14,200.00
10-5-1-26-00 Admin. Asst. Asst. Salary	\$1,425.00	\$942.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-5-1-50-00 Lister's Salaries	\$20,160.00	\$15,332.00	\$20,160.00	\$15,670.00	\$27,720.00
10-5-1-52-00 Constable's Salary	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,050.00	\$2,000.00
10-5-1-54-00 2nd Constable Salary	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$500.00
10-5-1-55-00 Admin Officer Salary	\$3,200.00	\$2,400.00	\$3,200.00	\$2,400.00	\$3,200.00
10-5-1-56-00 Librarian Salary	\$12,800.00	\$10,666.60	\$12,900.00	\$8,583.32	\$12,900.00
10-5-1-57-00 Assistant Librarian	\$1,400.00	\$474.48	\$1,400.00	\$822.03	\$1,400.00
10-5-1-58-00 Auditor's Salaries	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
10-5-1-65-00 Health Officer's Salary	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-5-1-68-00 BCA/ Elections	\$2,000.00	\$749.43	\$2,500.00	\$913.58	\$2,000.00
Total Town Services	\$108,865.00	\$103,709.57	\$125,395.00	\$73,283.90	\$132,155.00
10-5-2 Payroll Expenses					
10-5-2-40-00 Social Security	\$14,800.00	\$16,147.11	\$18,000.00	\$9,071.27	\$19,000.00
10-5-2-45-00 Medicare	\$4,000.00	\$3,776.37	\$4,200.00	\$2,121.50	\$4,500.00
10-5-2-50-00 Workman's Comp	\$535.00	\$656.06	\$550.00	\$1,658.77	\$775.00
10-5-2-50-01 FD Workman's Comp	\$1,025.00	\$858.20	\$1,200.00	\$595.90	\$1,490.00
10-5-2-55-00 Town Health Insurance					\$30,680.00
10-5-2-56-00 Town Dental Insurance					\$1,380.00
10-5-2-60-00 VT Employees Retirement	\$2,000.00	\$1,880.80	\$2,500.00	(\$68.46)	\$2,500.00
10-5-2-80-00 Mileage	\$600.00	\$650.77	\$600.00	\$244.79	\$650.00
10-5-2-81-00 Constable Mileage	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
10-5-2-82-00 Lister Mileage	\$500.00	\$283.59	\$500.00	\$167.37	\$300.00
10-5-2-9 Professional Services					
10-5-2-94-00 Training	\$500.00	\$313.75	\$1,800.00	\$392.81	\$1,800.00
10-5-2-94-01 Constable Training	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-5-2-94-02 Lister Training	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$160.00	\$500.00
10-5-2-95-00 Professional./Legal Services	\$7,000.00	\$3,336.61	\$7,000.00	\$363.10	\$7,000.00
10-5-2-96-00 Audit	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Total Payroll Expenses & Professional Services	\$50,110.00	\$45,903.26	\$57,350.00	\$14,707.05	\$90,875.00
10-5-3-04-00 Police Services	\$15,000.00	\$9,876.00	\$16,250.00	\$7,020.00	\$16,500.00
10-5-3-10-00 Fire Department Budget	\$26,585.00	\$36,955.87	\$39,300.00	\$18,889.28	\$47,050.00

10-5-3-25-00 Library Budget	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00
10-5-3-30-00 Cemetery Budget	\$30,000.00	\$43,528.56	\$32,000.00	\$9,879.18	\$35,000.00
10-5-3-60-00 Ambulance Service	\$78,000.00	\$79,186.76	\$83,000.00	\$56,375.01	\$89,000.00
10-5-3-70-00 Emergency Management	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-5-3-80-00 Street Lights	\$3,800.00	\$3,513.95	\$3,600.00	\$1,800.18	\$3,800.00
Total Town Services	\$159,685.00	\$177,861.14	\$180,450.00	\$93,963.65	\$196,650.00
10-5-4-12-00 Advertising & Notices	\$1,200.00	\$747.23	\$1,000.00	\$1,959.47	\$1,200.00
10-5-4-16-00 Town Report	\$4,500.00	\$3,149.67	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
10-5-4-18-00 Book Restoration	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
10-5-4-20-00 Office Supplies	\$3,500.00	\$3,569.31	\$3,500.00	\$3,045.10	\$3,800.00
10-5-4-22-00 Dog Licenses	\$150.00	\$119.94	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
10-5-4-24-00 Dog and Animal Control	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
10-5-4-28-00 Postage	\$2,800.00	\$2,438.94	\$3,000.00	\$1,430.64	\$3,000.00
10-5-4-30-00 Administrative Other	\$100.00	\$509.45	\$150.00	\$255.00	\$150.00
10-5-4-40-00 Lister's Supplies	\$500.00	\$216.82	\$500.00	\$74.97	\$875.00
10-5-4-41-00 Lister Computer Support	\$0.00	\$215.00	\$250.00	\$705.00	\$250.00
10-5-4-44-00 Tax Maps	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
10-5-4-45-00 M&S Cost Tables	\$250.00	\$272.22	\$250.00	\$286.59	\$300.00
10-5-4-46-00 VALA Membership	\$60.00	(\$10.00)	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
10-5-4-47-00 Blueprints/Reproductions	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
10-5-4-50-00 Computer Hardware	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
10-5-4-51-00 Computer Software	\$250.00	\$77.97	\$300.00	\$74.95	\$1,500.00
10-5-4-52-00 Computer Support	\$2,500.00	\$8,782.22	\$7,500.00	\$7,119.62	\$8,000.00
Total Administrative Expenses	\$20,560.00	\$22,588.77	\$24,410.00	\$14,951.34	\$31,525.00
10-5-6-10-00 Buildings and Grounds	\$8,000.00	\$7,658.17	** \$27,365.00	\$26,298.91	\$10,000.00
10-5-6-10-01 Electricity	\$1,200.00	\$1,880.47	\$1,200.00	\$1,054.87	\$1,500.00
10-5-6-10-02 Heat	\$2,300.00	\$1,400.02	\$2,500.00	\$2,411.81	\$2,500.00
10-5-6-10-03 Telephone	\$1,200.00	\$1,211.03	\$1,400.00	\$970.02	\$1,400.00
10-5-6-10-04 ISP	\$1,000.00	\$1,049.35	\$1,000.00	\$432.00	\$1,100.00
10-5-6-20-00 Copier Expense	\$750.00	\$622.20	\$750.00	\$127.64	\$750.00
10-5-6-55-00 Office Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$210.77	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Total Building Expenses	\$15,450.00	\$14,032.01	\$35,415.00	\$31,295.25	\$18,450.00
10-5-7-10-00 Property/Liability Insurance	\$6,980.00	\$10,068.32	\$7,200.00	\$6,536.29	\$10,120.00
10-5-7-20-00 Officers/Employees Bond	\$1,460.00	\$364.61	\$1,500.00	\$464.34	\$2,120.00

10-5-7-30-00 VLCT	\$2,775.00	\$5,325.00	\$2,700.00	\$0.00	\$2,800.00
10-5-7-40-00 Two Rivers Plan Comm.	\$2,000.00	\$10,907.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,966.00	\$2,300.00
10-5-7-50-00 Orange County	\$40,800.00	\$39,310.37	\$41,000.00	\$0.00	\$42,000.00
10-5-7-60-00 Brookfield Plan Comm.	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$50.00	\$500.00
10-5-7-60-01 Conservation Comm.	\$200.00	\$20.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
10-5-7-70-00 Interest Expense	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
10-5-7-80-00 Bank Charges	\$250.00	\$233.23	\$250.00	\$25.00	\$250.00
10-5-7-85-00 Errors and Omissions	\$833.00	\$218.63	\$860.00	\$278.60	\$1,170.00
10-5-7-90-00 Solid Waste Trans Fac.	\$3,000.00	\$382.79	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
10-5-7-91-00 Road Survey					\$2,500.00
Total Other Expenses	\$58,898.00	\$66,829.95	\$57,110.00	\$9,320.23	\$65,160.00
10-5-8-10-00 Capstone Comm. Action	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-5-8-11-00 Arts Bus	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
10-5-8-12-00 VT Rural Fire Task Force	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
10-5-8-13-00 Randolph Area Mentoring	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-5-8-15-00 Tri Valley Transportation	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
10-5-8-17-00 Red Cross	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
10-5-8-18-00 Green Up VT	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
10-5-8-20-00 Memorial Day	\$150.00	\$525.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
10-5-8-30-00 VT Visiting Nurses	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
10-5-8-40-00 Randolph Senior Citizens	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
10-5-8-60-00 Clara Martin Center	\$1,905.00	\$1,905.00	\$1,905.00	\$1,905.00	\$1,905.00
10-5-8-70-00 Ctr. for Independ. Living	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00
10-5-8-71-00 Rand Area Food Shelf	250.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
10-5-8-71-01 Rand. Area Community Development	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
10-5-8-85-00 Orange Co. Parent Child	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
10-5-8-90-00 Safe Line	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
10-5-8-96-00 CV Council on Aging	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
10-5-8-97-00 Orange Co. Restorative Justice	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00
10-5-8-98-00 Gr. Mt. Econ Dev. Corp	\$663.00	\$663.00	\$671.00	\$671.00	\$671.00
10-5-8-99-00 Central VT Adult Edu.	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Town Contributions	\$15,693.00	\$16,068.00	\$17,801.00	\$17,201.00	\$15,501.00
Total General Town Expenses	\$429,711.00	\$446,992.70	\$498,131.00	\$254,722.42	\$550,316.00

Highway Fund					
10-6-1-00-00 Highway Salaries	\$175,200.00	\$157,046.96	\$200,000.00	\$72,690.65	\$238,300.00
10-6-2-30-00 Vt. Employ. Ret. Fund	\$7,000.00	\$8,465.99	\$9,000.00	\$2,817.34	\$10,525.00
10-6-2-40-00 Unemployment	\$2,100.00	\$888.00	\$2,385.00	\$456.00	\$2,860.00
10-6-2-50-00 Health Insurance	\$58,600.00	\$44,464.48	\$58,600.00	\$23,276.52	\$63,315.00
10-6-2-60-00 Dental Insurance	\$2,685.00	\$2,002.41	\$2,700.00	\$1,211.49	\$2,685.00
10-6-2-70-00 Life Insurance	\$800.00	\$341.40	\$800.00	\$47.60	\$800.00
10-6-2-80-00 Workman's Comp	\$9,065.00	\$8,176.63	\$9,800.00	\$6,566.38	\$12,000.00
10-6-2-95-00 Mileage Expense	\$800.00	\$455.70	\$500.00	\$1,191.75	\$750.00
10-6-2-96-00 Training	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,900.00	\$750.00
Total Payroll Expenses	\$256,750.00	\$221,841.77	\$284,785.00	\$112,157.73	\$331,985.00
10-6-3-10-00 Salt	\$15,500.00	\$13,450.43	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
10-6-3-15-00 Chloride	\$12,500.00	\$16,314.26	\$15,000.00	\$9,125.80	\$16,000.00
10-6-3-20-00 Gravel	\$50,000.00	\$83,913.50	\$50,000.00	\$67,549.00	\$60,000.00
10-6-3-25-00 Sand	\$72,000.00	\$162,862.00	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00
10-6-3-40-00 Roadside Mowing	\$9,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$11,000.00	\$9,500.00	\$11,000.00
10-6-3-45-00 Tree Removal	\$500.00	\$1,069.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
10-6-3-50-00 Fuel	\$46,000.00	\$55,409.37	\$55,000.00	\$33,356.14	\$72,000.00
10-6-3-60-00 Contract Hwy Services	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-6-3-70-00 State Fees	\$2,000.00	\$1,350.00	\$2,000.00	\$640.00	\$2,000.00
10-6-3-80-00 Green Up Vermont	\$1,500.00	\$270.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Total Highway Maintenance	\$211,500.00	\$343,138.56	\$233,000.00	\$120,170.94	\$270,000.00
10-6-4-10-00 Equipment Maint./Repair	\$60,000.00	\$59,992.65	\$60,000.00	\$35,518.86	\$60,000.00
10-6-4-10-01 Uniforms & Safety Equip.	\$5,200.00	\$5,903.51	\$6,000.00	\$1,978.50	\$6,200.00
10-6-4-20-00 Hwy Building and Grounds	\$15,000.00	\$9,997.82	** \$42,300.00	\$31,545.97	\$10,000.00
10-6-4-30-00 Electricity	\$2,000.00	\$1,955.51	\$2,150.00	\$688.99	\$2,200.00
10-6-4-40-00 Telephone	\$1,600.00	\$1,693.36	\$1,600.00	\$893.26	\$1,600.00
10-6-4-50-00 Radios	\$15,000.00	\$12,544.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,904.00	\$2,500.00
10-6-4-60-00 Vehicle Insurance	\$3,100.00	\$775.78	\$3,250.00	\$975.10	\$4,500.00
Total Equipment & Building	\$101,900.00	\$92,862.63	\$117,800.00	\$73,504.68	\$87,000.00
10-6-5-10-00 Culverts	\$10,000.00	\$16,076.40	\$12,000.00	\$184.52	\$12,000.00
10-6-5-15-00 Bridges	\$1,500.00	\$7.14	\$20,000.00	\$7,547.60	\$1,500.00

10-6-5-30-00 Erosion Control	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	** <u>\$55,000.00</u>	(\$10,542.08)	\$5,000.00
10-6-5-50-00 New Equipment	\$6,000.00	\$20,413.84	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
10-6-5-60-00 Road Signs	\$8,500.00	\$8,396.54	\$8,500.00	\$6,481.12	\$8,500.00
10-6-5-85-00 Loader Lease	\$19,856.00	\$19,817.12	\$19,820.00	\$19,817.12	\$19,820.00
10-6-5-87-01 New Truck	\$70,500.00	\$68,000.00	\$66,800.00	\$198,702.95	\$65,400.00
10-6-5-90-00 Paving	\$5,000.00	\$4,350.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
10-6-5-95-00 Road Reconstruction	\$50,000.00	\$5,840.00	** <u>\$100,000.00</u>	\$1,725.00	\$50,000.00
10-6-5-95-03 Grant Expenditures	\$25,000.00	\$24,766.45	\$25,000.00	\$7,125.00	\$25,000.00
Total Capital Expenses	\$201,356.00	\$167,667.49	\$321,120.00	\$231,041.23	\$198,220.00
10-6-7-00-00 Highway Equip Fund	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
10-6-8-01-00 Town Garage Research					
10-6-9-99-00 Uncategorized Expense			\$1,500.00	\$1,319.48	
Total Highway Other	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$21,500.00	\$21,319.48	\$20,000.00
Total Highway Expenses	\$791,506.00	\$845,510.45	\$978,205.00	\$558,194.06	\$907,205.00
Total Expenses	\$1,221,217.00	\$1,287,703.15	** \$1,476,336.00	\$812,916.48	\$1,457,521.00

***** Amounts with ** are the result of Article 8 from Town Meeting 2022 *****

Town of Brookfield General Ledger Combining Balance Sheet for 7/1/2021-6/30/2022

Account	General Fund	Fire Department	Cemetery	Library	Highway Equipment	Reappraisal	Recreation Conservation	ARPA Fund	Garage Research	Total
ASSET										
Bar Harbor GF Checking	\$ 458,384.34	\$ (0.03)	\$ -	\$ 2,859.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 461,243.33
Bar Harbor MM	\$ -	\$ 2,731.96	\$ 5,249.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,981.39
NSB GF Checking	\$ 940,100.27	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 940,100.27
Bar Harbor Restoration Sa	\$ 15,027.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,027.46
Bar Harbor Tax Sale Savings	\$ 200.15	\$ 134,985.89	\$ 20,809.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,995.34
Due To/From Other Funds	\$ (396,641.56)	\$ 3909.14	\$ 10,844.12	\$ -	\$ 143,195.00	\$ -	\$ 21,814.25	\$ 200,429.90	\$ 17,827.24	\$ 1,378.09
NSB GF Cert of Deposit	\$ 106,270.44	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 106,270.44
NSB CD Truck Purchase	\$130,045.64	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 130,045.64
CD 15837	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,683.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,683.35
Bar Harbor Highway Sav-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,318.53	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,318.53
Vanguard Investments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,748.07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,748.07
Fidelity Investments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,690.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,587.40
Equipment Fund CD	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,632.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,632.30
Reappraisal 2020-2022	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,871.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,871.09
Total Asset	\$1,253,386.74	\$ 21,626.96	\$ 98,586.20	\$ 70,297.10	\$ 167,827.3	\$122,189.62	\$ 21,814.25	\$ 200,429.90	\$ 17,827.24	\$ 1,973,985.31

LIABILITY										
Account	General Fund	Fire Department	Cemetery	Library	Highway Equipment	Reappraisal	Recreation Conservation	ARPA Fund	Garage Research	Total
Due To/From Other Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,378.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,378.09
Accounts Payable	\$ 204.80	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 204.80
Perpetual Care Restricted	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,877.42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,877.42
Overpaid Taxes	\$ 1,727.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,727.02
State Tax Deposit	\$ 630.47	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 630.47
Federal Deposit	\$ 348.51	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 348.51
VMERS-DB	\$ 1,228.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,228.09
Total Liability	\$ 4,138.89	\$ -	\$ 81,877.42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,378.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 87,394.40
FUND BALANCE										
Fund Balance	\$1,259,493.44	\$ 22,486.95	\$ 15,547.65	\$ 81,736.75	\$ 83,632.30	\$112,334.87	\$ 21,814.25	\$ -	\$ 17,827.24	\$ 1,614,873.45
Town Garage Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,195.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,195.00
Total Prior Years Fund Bal	\$ 1,259,493.44	\$ 22,486.95	\$ 15,547.65	\$ 81,736.75	\$ 147,827.30	\$112,334.87	\$ 21,814.25	\$ -	\$ 17,827.24	\$ 1,679,068.45
Fund Balance Current Year	\$ (10,245.59)	\$ (859.99)	\$ (11,439.65)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 8,476.66	\$ -	\$ 200,429.90	\$ -	\$ 207,522.46
Total Fund Balance	\$1,249,247.85	\$ 21,626.96	\$ 16,708.78	\$ 70,297.10	\$ 167,827.30	\$120,811.53	\$ 21,814.25	\$ 200,429.90	\$ 17,827.24	\$ 1,886,590.91
Total Liab Fund Bal	\$ 1,253,386.74	\$ 21,626.96	\$ 98,586.20	\$ 70,297.10	\$ 167,827.30	\$ 122,189.6	\$ 21,814.25	\$ 200,429.90	\$ 17,827.24	\$ 1,973,985.31

BROOKFIELD TAX RATE — 2022-2023

MUNICIPAL TAX RATE

Description	Credits	Debits
General Town Expenses		480,266.00
Town Highway Budget		<u>850,905.00</u>
		1,331,171.00
Town Highway State Aid	152,515.68	
State Snowplow Funding	13,000.00	
Town Clerk's Fees	12,000.00	
Interest	21,500.00	
Hold Harmless	87,011.00	
PILOT Program	6,940.00	
Delinquent Tax Penalty	6,000.00	
Miscellaneous Revenues	6,080.00	
Fiscal Year Adjustment	50,000.00	<u>355,046.68</u>
To Be Raised By Taxes		976,124.32
Municipal Grand List (1%)		2,035,771.05
Local Agreement Rate		.0038
Municipal Tax Rate		.4798
Total Municipal Tax Rate		.4836
EDUCATION TAX RATES		
Homestead Rate		1.2131
Non-Homestead Rate		1.2134
TOTAL HOMESTEAD TAX RATE		1.6967
TOTAL NON-HOMESTEAD TAX RATE		1.6970

Approved by the Selectboard: September 12, 2022

Brookfield Delinquent Tax Report
December 31, 2022
Teresa Godfrey, Delinquent Tax Collector

Delinquent taxes continue to be paid but most delinquent property owners are not making any payments. As indicated by an *, payments are being made. After Town Meeting I will no longer be DTC. As you can see, the delinquencies are creeping up with little progress on the older taxes. I have notified the names listed below in hopes they will make payments to catch up. I do not know what the new DTC will do as far as tax sales.

Principals Owed:

<u>Year</u>	<u>2020 report</u>	<u>2022 report</u>
2003	\$ 1,430.10	\$ 1,430.10
2006	3,602.15	3,602.15
2008	3,287.57	3,287.57
2009	4,399.76	4,399.76
2012	0	0
2013-6	662.14	662.14
2013-2014	2,451.30	2,451.30
2014-2015	3,654.71	2,530.70
2015-2016	2,636.66	2,542.32
2016-2017	8,520.91	4,583.60
2017-2018	7,887.39	7,432.88
2018-2019	19,221.93	14,138.62
2019-2020	23,162.63	20,996.15
2020-2021	43,594.61	37,610.11
2021-2022		52,285.30
Totals	\$124,511.86	\$157,952.70

DELINQUENCIES

2003-2013-6

MOORCROFT, JAMES

2013-2014

FOOTE, PHILIP

KING, KARL

MOORCROFT, JAMES

2014-2015

FOOTE, PHILIP

KARALEKAS, GEORGE*

MOORCROFT, JAMES

TOULIS, STEVEN

2015-2016

SEVERANCE, JOHN

SEVERANCE, STEVE

SNOW, LEON

2016-2017

MOORCROFT, JAMES

SEVERANCE, STEVE

SNOW, LEON

2017-2018

CAMP, BETH

COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE

FOOTE, PHILIP

KING, KARL

MOORCROFT, JAMES

SEVERANCE, STEVE

2018-2019

COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
 FOOTE, PHILIP
 HORD, JENNYLOU
 KING, KARL
 MOORCROFT, JAMES
 SEVERANCE, JOHN
 SEVERANCE, STEVE
 SLAYTON, ELGIN
 SNOW, LEON

2019-2020

COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
 CUSHING, SIDNEY E SR
 FOOTE, PHILIP
 HORD, ERIC
 JOHN, ESTHER ESTATE *
 KIDDER, RICKY
 KING, KARL
 MANNING, PATRICIA
 MOORCROFT, JAMES
 RANDALL, CHARLES
 SEVERANCE, STEVE
 SHEDD, WARNER
 SLAYTON, ELGIN

2020-2021

BELAND, STEVEN
 CAMP, BETH
 COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
 CUSHING, SIDNEY E. SR
 DE MARTINI, PAUL
 FOOTE, PHILIP
 GOLDEN, PATRICK
 HORD, ERIC
 HORD, JENNYLOU
 JOHN, ESTHER ESTATE *
 KAJA HOLDINGS 2
 KIDDER, RICKY
 KING, KARL
 MANNING, PATRICIA
 MOORCROFT, JAMES
 NEWMAN, LAWRENCE
 PEMBERTON, PATRICK
 PENNEY, JOSEPH *pd in Jan*
 RANDALL, CHARLES
 SEVERANCE, JOHN
 SEVERANCE, STEVE
 SHEDD, WARNER

2021-2022

BELAND, STEVEN
 BLACKBURNE, CASSIE
 CAMP, BETH S.
 COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
 CUSHING, SIDNEY E. SR
 DE MARTINI, PAUL I
 ELLIOTT, MICHAEL E.
 FOOTE, PHILIP
 FREEMAN, JAMES C
 GOLDEN, PATRICK
 HAGGETT, ADAM
 HOGG, ROBERT B.
 HORD, ERIC R.
 HORD, JENNYLOU
 KAJA HOLDINGS 2 LLC
 KIDDER, RICKY A.
 KING, KARL
 KIRKPATRICK, BRENDAN
 KLAR, JOHN *pd in Jan*
 LAGERSTEDT, TIMOTHY
 MANNING, PATRICIA
 MCDERMONT, JOHN
 MILLER, LUCAS
 MOORCROFT, JAMES
 NEWMAN, LAWRENCE
 PEMBERTON, PATRICK *
 PENNEY, JOSEPH *
 RANDALL, CHARLES
 ROGERS, MICHEAL
 SEVERANCE, JOHN
 SEVERANCE, STEVE
 SHEDD, WARNER

Brookfield Town Auditors Report

The Town of Brookfield has had the FY22 accounts audited by Fothergill, Segale, & Valley. A copy of the audit report will be available in the vault in the Town Office. There are currently no Town Auditors. If you are interested in becoming an auditor, please contact the Town Office.

Brookfield Planning Commission

The Brookfield Planning Commission is responsible for writing the Town Plan and land use bylaws for the Town, as well as reviewing applications that require site plan or subdivision approvals. The Planning Commission is in year three of a review and re-write of the Development Bylaws. The most recent update of the bylaws date back to 2010 and since then Brookfield updated our Town Plan and numerous laws have changed. In order to comply with current laws and to implement our Town Plan, updating our Development Bylaws is necessary. The Planning Commission is working on amending our land use bylaws with the intent of consolidating other existing bylaws related to land development including our Shoreland Bylaws, Flood Hazard Bylaws and Subdivision Bylaws into one set of bylaws.

When possible the Planning Commission prefers to collaborate with the Brookfield Conservation Commission on land use regulations. The Planning Commission uses the services of the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission for technical assistance as-needed. The Planning Commission is particularly interested in modernizing our land use regulations to comply with current state laws, to implement our Town Plan and to encourage housing that respects and preserves our natural resources and working lands.

If any Brookfield resident has any thoughts, ideas or proposals relating to any of our development bylaws, please reach out to gwynnzakov@gmail.com or join us for one of our meetings!

The Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm and for the foreseeable future meeting both via ZOOM and in the Town Offices in a hybrid format.

Our Commission is comprised of the following members:

Gwynn Zakov, Chair
William White, Vice-Chair
Timothy Gershon, Member
Christina Harlow, Member
Martha Judy, Member
Patricia Kennedy, Member
Keven Ring, Member

Brookfield Conservation Commission Annual Report - 2022

This year, the Conservation Commission, together with the Planning Commission, hosted an event sponsored in part by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife entitled Community Values Mapping. This on-line event was held on March 23rd, and 31 Brookfield citizens were in attendance. The goal of the

event was to obtain input from Brookfield residents to answer the following two simple questions:

What places in Brookfield do you love?

What do you value about these places?

The information gathered was to help support town planning and conservation actions by the town. The on-line event introduced people to a mapping technology that could be used simultaneously by all participants to outline those areas in town where they recreate or enjoy in one way or another, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, birding, horseback riding, etc. The categories were: Working Lands, Scenic Areas, Recreation, Hunting & Fishing, Historic Sites, Community Places, and Natural Areas. Participants were divided into groups that worked together on their maps and answered the second question, and then the groups came back together to discuss what they had selected and why.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife staff then compiled all the data and created a map showing all the places that Brookfield residents value. Over 50 unique sites in Brookfield were identified as important by participants! The maps and a copy of the final report are available in the town office. Thanks to all the participants; and special thanks to Kathy Kinter, former Conservation Commissioner, who worked very hard to make the event a success.

This year the Conservation Commission has been working with County Forester Allen "AJ" Follansbee to update the forest management plan for the Brookfield Town Forest, 166 acres located on Halfway Brook Road. The last timber harvest was in 2014, so it is time to update the plan and consider opportunities for future timber harvests, protection of important habitat areas, and responding to the impacts of climate change on the forest. A draft plan will be shared with the Selectboard for their review and approval. Thanks to Commissioner and Town Forester Jon Jickling for his work on this project.

This is the second year Green-Up Day has been sponsored by the Commission's Starr Strong. It was a success with almost 40 participants who collected over 100 bags of trash, 13 tires, and miscellaneous large items. Starr cleaned several bags full of returnable bottles, which netted \$31 for the Conservation Commission. We hope you will join us again next year – Green-Up Day is May 6th!

Respectfully submitted, Jon Binhammer, Chair

Brookfield Town Forester Report

Forests remain a beautiful and important part of Brookfield's landscape and economy. As noted under the Conservation Commission report, a long overdue update of the town forest's management plan began in 2022 by our county forester AJ Follansbee. The plan, which was reviewed by the Conservation Commission, provides new details and strategies for managing the 169-acre forest to enhance forest health, biodiversity and recreation opportunities. The plan will be submitted to the Brookfield Selectboard for approval. Priorities for 2023 will

be to improve the property's boundary marking and to explore possible hiking trail routes.

Unfortunately, in 2022 we also saw further spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive beetle deadly to ash trees. Traps were again hung across Brookfield to measure EAB's spread after it was found in Allis State Park in 2021. Review of the traps by the State entomologist in September found EAB again at Allis and in a second trap, a mile to the east on West Street and Rte. 65. We plan to continue to monitor the spread of the beetle and share information with landowners as we learn more.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Jickling, Brookfield Town Forester

Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department 2022

CALLS:

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT = 15	CHIMNEY FIRE = 2
CO2/ALARM = 5	MUTUAL AID = 9
STRUCTURE FIRE = 2	GRASS FIRE = 3
TREE DOWN / POWER LINE = 2	VEHICLE FIRE = 4

2022 was a struggle at times. We were low on members and our ability to respond with enough man power especially during the day has been rough. We managed through and relied upon our neighboring towns for mutual aid at times. We purchased 4 new sets of gear including pants and coats as most of our gear is nearing or past the 10 year expiring date. Our portable pump quit working so a new one was purchased. An issue with the transmission on our Engine 1 was found to be a computer problem so that was fixed at the dealership.

Our dispatch services are changing from Orange County Sheriffs to Barre City Fire as of Dec. 26th. As Orange County Sheriff's Dept. has discontinued services.

We would like to thank GLEN URIE for his 33 years of service. He retired this year. He was a great asset to our dept.as he had a lot of medical and rescue knowledge from being on ski patrols.

We held a parade for member of 35 years ED KOREN with our Dept., E Randolph, Randolph center, Randolph village, Williamstown, Northfield Fire, and Orange County Sheriffs. Ed has been a staple in our department and done so much for our whole community.

We have 2 non-active members with milestones this year.

BRICE MARTIN = 50 YEARS!! Our number 1 Pump operator and helped design and build 2 of our engines.

CHRIS WOODRUFF = 45 YEARS!! He was our Asst. Chief for many years always getting our trucks serviced properly and making sure we were ready to roll!

Mike Fiorillo 30 years our long time secretary.
Kevin Wheatley 30 years present chief
Robert Conniff 25 years

Austin Wheatley 5 years

I would like to welcome 2 new members Hawk Dobrich and Devon Cropley to our department.

Hope everyone has a safe year!

Chief Kevin Wheatley

Town of Brookfield Cemetery Report 2022

This past year there was 1 full burial internment and 5 ashes internments.

There were also 6 lots sold.

The back driveway in Center cemetery was widened to allow a vehicle to drive further away from the stones. We were having problems with stones being hit by cars because of the encroaching brush and trees.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Mangan

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This is for the Calendar year ending December 31, 2022.

The committee met once each month, in person from January until October at the Brookfield Congregational Church and November and December at the Town Office with exception of February 2022. The July 27 meeting did not have a quorum and no official action was taken.

The committee hosted several guest speakers plus town officers:

- April- Cpt. Scott Clouatre. Speed Cart plans and patrol recommendations.
- May- A panel discussion was held concerning the discovery of used needles in Hippo Park on two occasions; the threat that the needles might pose and how to deal with it. The guest participants were: Dennis LaRocque, Brookfield Select Board Member and Road Commissioner; Kevin Wheatley, Brookfield Fire Chief; LT Hugh O'Donnell, Vermont State Police, Royalton Station Commander; Sheriff William Bohnyak, Orange County Sheriff's Department; and Starr Strong, Brookfield Health Officer. After a thorough discussion by committee members and the panel members it was agreed to recommend to the Select Board that Hippo Park be observed by law enforcement officers and others to determine if the needle discoveries were isolated incidents or whether further action should be considered. No further needles have been found in Hippo Park. Additionally, LT O'Donnell made a presentation on SurvivorMONT which is a Vermont Department of Public Safety active shooter presentation to the public. LT O'Donnell was given contact information for the Old town Hall Committee to have a presentation there.
- June- Curtis Koren, new Select Board Member, attended to get a sense of what the Public Safety Committee was involved in.

- July- Jack Zebora, Brookfield E-911 Coordinator, presented issues that he was experiencing which related to the issuing of E-911 house number signs the committee has been providing residents and property owners. Further coordination was agreed to.
- December- Rich Doolan, Acting Brookfield Emergency Management Director made a presentation and distributed copies of the Brookfield Local Emergency Management Plan. Contact information of the committee members and the Acting Emergency Management Director were shared.

The Committee worked on some issues over the course of several meetings. They were:

- To assist the Select Board in approving the revised Town Traffic Ordinance. The Select Board approved the Traffic Ordinance on the 24th of October after a public hearing.
- To ensure that the Town Road crew had sufficient traffic control signs and that the missing and damaged signs were replaced. The road crew, despite being down 1 crew member was able to replace a number of signs before the ground froze.
- To work with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to site the OCSO speed cart on paved portions of roads in Brookfield. There were four deployments in 2022.
- The creation of relevant Public Safety Tips and their placement on the town website and on Front Porch Forum. The committee published 11 tips during the year.
- To monitor and encourage the Orange County Sheriff's Department in providing patrols of roads in Brookfield. The department has had vacancies of deputy positions but was able by the beginning of FY 2023 to provide a significant number of patrols to improve safety on our roads.
- Continuing to find ways to improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, horse riders and drivers on roads in Brookfield. Several members of the public attended committee meetings to complain of speeding and dangerous situations on roads in Brookfield.

The biggest ongoing effort this year was the focus on increasing pedestrian/bicycle/vehicle safety in Brookfield. Several meetings had concerned citizens attend meetings. The monthly Safety Tips now include at least one tip on improving pedestrian, bicyclist and motor vehicle safety in Brookfield.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stuart Edson

Michael Rutkovsky

Mike Stoddard

Dan Mason

Lew Stowell, Chair

Brookfield Town Constable Report

The Town of Brookfield requires dogs to be on a leash, under the immediate control of a competent and responsible attendant, or kept enclosed on your property, and it remains unlawful to disturb the quiet of any person by having a dog habitually barking for more than 30 minutes, day or night. As always, animals should not be used as a tool for neighbors who do not get along. All dogs need to be licensed and up to date on rabies shots. Dog licenses are due by April 1 each year. Please keep your eyes open for the Annual Rabies Shot Clinic where your dog can receive both a rabies shot and a license. As always, keep in mind that animals still don't take care of themselves.

Bicycle safety and pedestrian safety remain a serious concern within this town, and society as a whole. In general, it is best if cyclists are on the side of the road that corresponds to the flow of traffic, and pedestrians walk on the side of the road that has them facing traffic. Both cyclists and pedestrians should be aware that the use of bright clothing, reflective material, and conspicuity lighting are a huge benefit to being seen, and therefore hopefully being respected by the other road users. We ask all users of the roadway to be courteous. We ask all of you, as neighbors, to be civil to each other and refrain from escalating any situation.

In closing, people simply need to be reasonable neighbors and responsible pet owners, and we ask all of you to please be safe.

We thank you for another great year, and we look forward to serving you in 2023.

Be safe,

Dan Mason – Constable

Ed Neas – Assistant Constable

Brookfield Free Public Library Report 2022

The Staff and Board of Trustees of the Brookfield Free Public Library (the oldest continuously operating Public Library in the State of Vermont!) are pleased to offer our Annual Report to the Town of Brookfield. Once again we have been a busy place.

Happily, the number of visitors to the Library has increased as pandemic restrictions finally eased and as new residents joined.

Do you know about the services we offer to residents at no charge? Of course there are our regular print and audio books selection as well as DVDs and magazine selections for adults, Young Adults and children. Don't see it in-house? Laura can make Inter-Library Loan book requests. Your Library now has 2 audio/e-book lending services: LIBBY (replacing Listen-Up Vermont) and Palace. Want to learn a new language? Check out MANGO, an on-line language learning platform available through the Library.

Want to get more? Your Library provides passes to borrow for a number of places. Some get you in for free, some for a discount. We offer loans of passes

for Vermont State Parks and Historic Sites, VINS, ECHO Aquarium in Burlington, The Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, The Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier and The Shelburne Museum. Check in with Laura for more information.

Although Covid limited our ability to provide Library sponsored community programs, this past year ARPA relief funds allowed us to replace our geriatric computer and printer. New outdoor furniture was purchased as well.

Despite Covid, the BFPL was able to sponsor several children's programs this year. One was in coordination with the Brookfield Elementary School when VINS presented a nature program as a lead-in to the annual state-wide summer reading program. Another was a return of the block-buster Petting Zoo held at the Old Town Hall put on by Christina Swann. September had a frenzy of small people supervised by larger people joyfully taking apart tools, appliances and various devices to their smallest components in our now annual Deconstruction Event. Many thanks to all who participated and assisted, especially Bill Donnelly.

Approximately two years ago our Library was honored to be chosen as custodian of the Anna Clark Jones Scholarship Fund, with an annual award to go to a Brookfield High School graduate pursuing higher education. Our first award went to Chandler Anderson.

As Laura continues to update our collection, the BFPL continues to donate a selection of children and Young Adult books to DCF for foster families.

We continue to offer on-demand book delivery service to and from West Brookfield and our adorable Little Libraries, one across from the Old Town Hall and one in West Brookfield, provide a changing selection of community and Library offerings.

Library Address: 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield 05036

Library Phone #: (802)276-3358

Library e-mail: brookfieldpublic@gmail.com

Library web-site: brookfieldvt.org (then click on Library tab)

Library Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 2-5:30 and Saturday 9-12

See You at The Library!

Librarian: Laura Rochat

Board of Trustees:

Amy Borgman, Dan Childs, Emily Noyes, Susan O'Brien, Starr Strong

Brookfield Historical Society

The Brookfield Historical Society was honored to be the 2021 recipient of the Philip D. Levesque Memorial Community Award given annually to a local organization involved in the arts, health, community development, education, or the environment. The award was established by the Gifford Medical Center Board of Trustees in 1994 in memory of Levesque who had served as its president and chief executive officer for over two decades. The Historical Society was the first Brookfield organization to receive the award. The \$1,000 grant was used to support renovation projects at the historic Marvin Newton House.

The winner of the 19th annual Ice-Out Contest sponsored by the Society was Amy Kingsbury of South Royalton, Vermont. Ice-out occurred at 4:46 pm on April 12, 2022. Once again, Ted Elzey and Greg Wight were chiefly responsible for setting up, monitoring, and retrieving the ice-out apparatus.

The ambitious Newton House plaster restoration project launched in the fall of 2022 was completed by conservationist Sally Fishburn this past spring. Concurrently, a wallpaper research team led by the Society's curator, Rachel Andreyev, and assisted by Sarah Isham, located replacement wallpaper appropriate for the historic character of two of the front rooms of the house. Once the plaster work was finished, another volunteer team led by Dmitri Andreyev, including Greg Wight, Samantha Flint, and Rachel Andreyev, completed the daunting task of whitewashing ceilings using materials in keeping with 19th century whitewashing techniques. Yet another volunteer crew organized by Greg Wight, including Pat Mayer, Elaine Manghi-Buck, and Rachel Andreyev, repainted trim, doors, and selected floors of the house. Finally, volunteer Charlie Ballou took on the challenge of hanging replacement wallpaper in the dining room. All-in-all, it was an impressive volunteer effort and a credit to those who freely gave many hours of dedicated effort.

For the second consecutive summer the Society mounted an exhibit of oversized copies of historic photos on the fence located on the northern border of Hippo Park. Permission for use of the fence was once again readily granted by adjacent neighbors Patrick and Jessica Boyle. The theme of the exhibit, "Buildings No Longer Standing in Pond Village," attracted the attention of many visitors to the park and prompted much favorable comment.

Sunday, August 7th, was hot and humid---a perfect summer day for staging the annual Helen Daly/Margaret Stone Ice Cream Social. The event was skillfully organized and conducted by Pat Mayer. Musical entertainment was offered by Jennings and McComber (Andy & Kara Lake) whose well received offerings included the premier public presentation of the song titled "Bridge Across the Water," recently composed by Andy. It is about the history of the eight versions of the Floating Bridge in a nutshell, and evokes how haunting, peaceful, and lonesome the bridge is when it is closed in the winter. The Lakes are in the process of recording the song as part of a new album.

The Newton House gardens were in showcase condition for the event and well interpreted thanks to the ongoing efforts of Master Gardener Sid McClam, Project Coordinator for the Marvin Newton House Demonstration Garden, and his platoon of volunteers, including: Bea Cole, Holly Dustin, Sterling Giles, Linnea LaPerle, Bob Little Tree, Elaine Manghi-Buck, and Liz Parker. Their work is essential for the maintenance and improvement of the gardens and grounds. Samantha Flint, a senior at Randolph Union High School, completed her second year as a summer intern with the Society. Her diligence, enthusiasm, and attention to detail are greatly appreciated. Samantha's internship stipend was funded by anonymous donors.

Regrettably, Bonnie Fallon's relocation to Massachusetts has led to her resignation from the Board of Trustees of the Society. During her sixteen-year tenure as a trustee Bonnie contributed to the progress of the Society in many ways. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Society Bonnie was

designated as a Trustee Emerita by the Board of Trustees. Bonnie's understanding of the importance of public service in community building extended well beyond the historical society. Her commitment to Brookfield is exemplified by her role as Brookfield coordinator of Greenup Day, as a vigilant poll officer for local elections, her service as a cemetery trustee, and her tenure as justice of the peace. Bonnie's fervor and good humor will be missed.

Current Trustees:

Gary Lord, President
Pat Mayer, Secretary
Greg Wight, Treasurer
Rachel Andreyev, Curator
Elinor Gray, Historian & Genealogist
Greg Sauer, Blog Editor
Perry Kacik, Membership Director
Elaine Manghi-Buck, Program Chair
Barbara Daly
Sarah Isham
Alexis McLean

Submitted by Gary Lord

Green-Up Day Report

Green-Up Day on May 7, 2022 was a wonderful success thanks to 19,141 volunteers statewide who participated on Green-Up Day. The infographic shows that all your hard work to beautify Vermont is crucial and that it makes where we get to live, work, and play, a truly special place. As one of Vermont's favorite unofficial holidays, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green-Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding again for Green-Up Day 2023.

Green-Up Vermont initiatives are year-round for further our impact with waste reduction initiatives, additional clean-up efforts, and educational programs.

Green-Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your town's support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. **Thank you for your support of this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.**

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow us on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org 802-522-7245

2023 Green-Up Day is May 6th

Brookfield Community Partnership

Greetings from Brookfield's Old Town Hall and the 10 other members of the Board of Directors of the Brookfield Community Partnership, Inc. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit and all-volunteer organization we are dedicated to maintaining and supporting the Old Town Hall and its community-wide activities.

I'm so pleased to report that we were able to have another successful year in 2022 at the Old Town Hall, despite the challenges and adjustments needed due to the lingering pandemic. And again, the members of our hard-working and creative Events Committee delivered another full season of entertaining and enriching events to the community and greater region: Community Pot Luck, Summer Weekly Yoga Sessions, Legislators' Update, Children's Petting Zoo (with Brookfield Library), Movie Night - Princess Bride, Community Planning for Climate Resiliency with TRORC, Vermont Pollinators, Kindermusik Show, Movie Night - Gather, Barr Hill Spirits and Cheese Tasting, Cookies and Candidates with the Herald, Market Day, Herbs for Winter Wellness, and Family's Halloween Trick or Treats.

A very special community event was the highly successful 5K Run and Oktoberfest celebration for a third year, with special thanks to Pete Mancauskas for once again promoting and leading the event's activities since its inception. Make sure to keep abreast of OTH activity and photos at our new website at www.brookfieldoth.org.

Many thanks to the community members, sponsors, and, generous donors who contribute to the OTH's support which keeps the building maintained, the lights on, and the taxes paid each year. Without all of us pulling together and supporting these works with time, elbow grease, and financial generosity it could not have been accomplished.

Please invite your friends to return for the 2023 season for OTH events and to consider the OTH for gatherings, family celebrations, beautiful weddings, and reasonably priced OTH rentals overlooking Sunset Lake and the Floating Bridge.

- Perry Kacik, BCP Interim Board Chair.

Dog Licenses Sold 2022

The registration of dogs has dramatically declined over the last several years. Only 156 dogs were registered for 2022. Only 162 were sold in 2021. For every license sold, \$5.00 is paid to the State of Vermont for rabies control and spay/neuter programs. Some of the money goes towards the purchase of tags and registration forms.

It is extremely important that all dogs are registered (and it's a State law). If you follow Front Porch Forum or Facebook, you frequently see missing or found dogs listed and if they have current tags, they can find their way back to their families. **PLEASE** register your dogs!

A second reason to register is that we keep a copy of current rabies certificates at the office. If a dog bites anyone, we have proof that the dog has had its rabies shot. There is usually at least one dog bite a year that has to be reported.

Registration Fees: spayed/neutered dog \$9.00 intact dog \$13.00

The Rabies Clinic for 2023 will be held Saturday, March 25th, 9-11 a.m. at the Brookfield Elementary School.

ECFiber and the Town of Brookfield

Brookfield is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide world-class fiber-optic based internet service to homes and businesses in its area. The District consists of 31 member towns, and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber. The business added over 1,000 new customers in 2022 and now serves over 7,700 premises in 28 towns via 1,700 miles of network.

The District contracts with ValleyNet, Inc., and Great Works Internet (GWI) to operate the business. The addition of GWI to the operations team should enable ECFiber to expand its customer service hours and start the work of bringing its network up to carrier-grade status, which will enable us to offer service level agreements to larger business clients.

Unlike the new CUDs, we have built our network almost entirely by issuing revenue bonds. By law, the obligations of these bonds cannot be borne by the constituent member towns.

In Brookfield, ECFiber has completed construction of its network. As of November, 2022, there were 358 customers along 76 miles of network. Vermont is a national leader in deploying ARPA and BEAD funding to support its CUDs and their mission to solve the state's rural broadband crisis. ECFiber established the model the state is following, and the biggest roadblock we face now is not funding, but rather finding enough folks to construct the networks - people who know how to operate bucket trucks, splice fiber while 40 feet above the ground, and be willing to work outside in difficult weather. ECFiber is actively participating in state and regional workforce development efforts. If you are or know of someone who may be interested in these well-paid jobs, please let us know!

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber, and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged anything until we start service.

Dan O'Brien, Brookfield's delegate to the ECFiber Governing Board
Brookfield@ECFiber.net

Brookfield Zoning Administrator Report 2022

Brookfield Town Bylaw Purpose:

The Brookfield Developmental Bylaw was enacted to implement the Brookfield Town Plan by providing for the appropriate use of all lands in the town. The Bylaw's purpose is to protect the public health, safety, prosperity, comfort, convenience, efficiency, and general welfare of the town.

As a result, high elevations, steep slopes, soils, forests, shore lands, wetlands and other natural resources are protected. Additionally, the bylaws attempt to retain the rural and residential character and environment of Brookfield by controlling the density and distribution in the town.

Development in 2022:

A total of twenty-seven building and subdivision permits were issued to town residents this past year. Below is a listing of the numbers and types of permits that were issued.

Permits Issued in 2022			
Category	Number	Category	Number
Residential Structures	5	Additions	5
Outbuildings	12	Miscellaneous	2
Subdivisions	3		

The Permitting Process:

All new residential and commercial structures, outbuildings, additions to existing structures and subdivisions with certain exceptions must comply with the bylaw and require a permit. Variances and conditional uses can be requested but must be approved by the Board of Adjustment. Residents can access the bylaw, subdivision and building permit applications, and the permit fee schedule via The Town of Brookfield's website (www.brookfieldvt.org). Applications can be submitted at the Town Clerk's office or to the Zoning Administrator directly via email at zoning@brookfieldvt.org. Upon approval of the application and a completion of a site visit the permit is issued. Any questions can be directed to the Zoning Administrator via email or by phone at 276-3382.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Fiorillo, Brookfield Zoning Administrator

Safeline, Inc.
P.O. Box 368, Chelsea, VT 05038
safelineinfo@safelinevt.org
(802) 685-7900 office
(800) 639-7933 24/7 hotline

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit charitable organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

In 2022, Safeline provided 2,305 services for 337 victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking. 26 services were provided for 5 victims who identified themselves as residents of Brookfield. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety. 5 females received services. These services included 4 domestic violence situations and 1 stalking.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone

who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking.

We thank the voters for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Brookfield.

Central Vermont Council on Aging

59 N. Main St., Suite 200, Barre, VT 05641-4121

Phone: 802-479-0531 Fax: 802-479-4235

info@cvcoa.org www.cvcoa.org

The Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. CVCOA services are available to those age 60 and up, or to adults with disabilities. For more than 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters to remain independent for as long as possible. CVCOA serves 54 towns throughout the Central Vermont region.

CVCOA makes a difference in the lives of older Vermonters by connecting them to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive, free of charge. CVCOA utilizes town funding to provide individualized support to Brookfield residents through our care coordination team, which includes case management, information and assistance, options counseling, resource and benefit enrollment (nutrition, transportation, mental health counseling, legal services, health insurance counseling, etc.), care coordination planning, family caregiver support, and more.

CVCOA provided individualized support to 43 residents of Brookfield. CVCOA Case Manager Brenda Traegde was designated to serve older adults in Brookfield.

CVCOA served 2,974 unduplicated clients in FY21, plus 2,597 additional interactions with community members for outreach and support. CVCOA mobilized 238 volunteers to provide direct service, deliver meals on wheels, support nutrition sites, provide wellness classes, provide companionship and creative encouragement, and more.

All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of Brookfield for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters in the Brookfield Community.

Greater Randolph Senior Center

6 Hale Street, Randolph, VT 05060

(802) 728-9324 randolphsc@gmail.com

The senior center has been offering congregate dining since April 6 and activities are ongoing. We continue to deliver hot meals at home to our service area, approximately 50 meals Monday-Thursday, plus 65 frozen weekend meals for people who request them.

During the fiscal year 2022 (Oct 1, 2021-Sept 30, 2022), the Center provided approximately 17,860 meals (partially funded through Central VT Council on Aging and the VT Center for Independent Living); 14,610 meals were delivered

to people through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program, which helps older adults and the disabled to live independently in their own homes and continue to participate in their communities. The Center prepared 765 Grab & Go meals as well as served 2,484 meals to the lunch crowd.

We are aware that Brookfield residents are able to go to other senior centers, however, it is our center that is tasked with providing the MOW program to Brookfield residents who wish to sign up for it. The eligibility guidelines are as follows: "Any person who is age 60 or over, who is unable to obtain or prepare meals on a temporary or permanent basis due to: a physical or mental condition; lack of or inadequacy of facilities; inability to shop, cook or prepare meals safely. Also eligible are the spouse, regardless of age, of eligible individuals; and individuals under 60 years of age with a disability, who reside with an eligible individual."

We do also deliver MOW to people who are disabled, living on their own and under 60 years old, if application is made and approved, through the VT Center for Independent Living (Montpelier office, 802-229-0501) or online at www.vcil.org

For people who have had surgery, such as a knee or hip replacement, they are eligible to receive MOW on a temporary basis, to help during their recuperation period (if 60 years or older). Please spread the word that the Randolph Senior Center provides the MOW program and we are able to confirm eligibility and sign people up by telephone. Over the past year, we delivered meals to ten Brookfield residents.

The Vice President of our Board of Directors is from Brookfield and he also is a volunteer driver for the MOW program. The Center is available for use by Brookfield residents for family parties/dinners/memorial services or meetings.

We receive donations from participants in our meals programs (MOW and Congregate/Grab & Go); from community members of Braintree, Brookfield and Randolph; from municipal contributions through special appropriations, fundraising activities, Bequests, and gifts made "In Memory of." In fulfillment of the contracts we have with Central VT Council on Aging and VT Center for Independent Living, we receive partial reimbursement for eligible meals delivered or served.

We provide rewarding opportunities for volunteers. Volunteers help in the kitchen, serve meals and set and bus lunch tables, deliver MOW, lead exercise classes, bake goods for fundraisers, fold and label the monthly newsletters, provide computer and AARP tax assistance, host educational programs, and, in general, make the Center a welcoming place to visit. Our nine-member Board of Directors is composed of volunteers and each serves a three-year term. The continued support of the Brookfield community helps to ensure that we keep our doors open and are able to provide Meals on Wheels and Grab & Go to those who request them. We have a lively group that plays cribbage on Mondays and Mahjongg the other mornings, as well as exercise classes such as Lift for Life and Tai Chi. A congregate lunch is served at Noon. It is very important that we receive the financial support of the Brookfield community.

care, housing, vocational services, alcohol and other drug treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services.

With 56 years of experience and leadership under our belt, Clara Martin Center remains positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve. As we continue to experience the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Clara Martin Center remains committed to meeting both the short and long-term mental health and substance use care needs that the pandemic has impacted.

Clara Martin Center is proud to be the first Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in the State of Vermont, a federal model of care designed to ensure access to a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services regardless of ability to pay, including crisis mental health services, screening, assessment and diagnosis, patient-centered treatment planning, outpatient mental health and substance use services, primary care screening and monitoring, targeted case management, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and family support services, and services for members of the armed services and veterans.

FY22 TOTAL SERVED		TOTAL SERVED	
Children & Family Ser-	505	Children & Family Ser-	7
School Services	116	School Services	0
JOBS	67	JOBS	0
Adult Services	686	Adult Services	3
CSP Services	147	CSP Services	0
Supportive & Transitional	27	Supportive & Transitional	0
Substance Abuse Ser-	317	Substance Abuse Ser-	2
Corrections Services	98	Corrections Services	1
Emergency Con-	236	Emergency Con-	2
Access	845	Access	5
CCBHC Services	1,087	CCBHC Services	10
Total Served-undupli-	2,078	Total Seen:	19
CVSAS	447	CVSAS	1

Vermont Center for Independent Living

For over 43 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'22 (10/2021-9/2022) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **158** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **6** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **172**

households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **80** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **91** individuals with information on assistive technology; **39** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **454** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **29** people and provided **16** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. Due to the pandemic VCIL was able to start a new (temporary) program, Resilience and Independence in a State of Emergency (RISE) which served over 600 people in the 2 years it was funded. The Rise Program helped provide an array of items or services if the needs were directly related to the Covid-19 epidemic.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'22, 1 resident of Brookfield received services from the following programs:

- Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VT AND NH

Home Health, Hospice and Pediatric Services

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is one of the oldest and largest non-profit providers of in-home healthcare services in the region. VNH is committed to providing the highest quality care throughout all stages of life, from maternal child care to end of life hospice care, and everything in between. Providing individuals and families with the care they need within the comfort of their own home allows them to maintain comfort and dignity throughout their time of care.

VNH services reduce cost associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips and with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, VNH made 900 in-home visits to 22 residents. This included approximately \$5,302 in unreimbursed care to residents.

- **Home Health Care:** 112 home visits to 14 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Hospice Services:** 748 home visits to 6 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.
- **Long-Term Care:** 40 home visits to 2 residents with chronic medical problems who need extended care in home to avoid admission to a nursing home.

VNH serves many of Brookfield's most vulnerable citizens- the frail elderly and disabled, at-risk families, people with terminal illnesses, children with chronic medical needs and the uninsured and underinsured. We are dedicated to delivering outstanding home health and hospice services that enrich the lives of the people we serve.

It is with your help we are able to provide services like this to those in need. Brookfield's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely, Anthony Knox, Community Relations Manager

TRORC 2022 YEAR-END REPORT

The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for tomorrow that has a thriving regional economy and keeps the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2022.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues

Our staff support your local officials by being a wealth of information on many subjects, enabling them to serve you better. We provide advice on zoning, capital budgeting, and preventing flood damage; review solar and cell tower projects; stay abreast of state and federal initiatives so that local government can take advantage of these; and have worked hard to address the region's housing crisis. TRORC staff have also assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies.

Economy and Public Health

This year, TRORC obtained Federal grant funding to support the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC worked on public health projects with local hospitals, helped towns grapple with new cannabis legislation, and incorporated health-related goals and policies into town plans.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping to reduce future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they do happen. When disasters happen, we actively become part of the state and local long-term recovery process.

Energy/Climate Change

TRORC assisted six towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support town Energy Committees on energy efficiency outreach and education with

funding from Efficiency Vermont. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation

TRORC managed the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid program in our Region getting funding for towns to implement projects including grass and stone-lined ditches, upsizing and replacement of culverts, and stabilizing catch basin outlets. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Brookfield this past year, TRORC assisted the town with updating its Local Emergency Management Plan and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Staff also assisted the town in developing a scoping study for upsizing culvert #14 on Halfway Brook Road. Staff also worked with the town on a Municipal Planning Grant application to update its zoning bylaws, and supported the town in navigating how to use ARPA funding.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
Jerry Fredrickson, Chairperson, Barnard

GREEN MOUNTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation (GMEDC) is one of twelve statewide Regional Development Corporations (RDCs), serving a 30-town region in Orange and northern Windsor counties. Our primary function is to develop economic vitality and prosperity consistent with the goals of the communities we serve.

In 2022, dues from member towns contributed \$19,592 of our annual budget of \$264,183. Town dues are assessed at \$0.50/resident, as determined by population data from the VT Department of Health and the U.S. Census Bureau. Remaining revenue comes from business memberships and federal, state, and other funding sources. Your support helps provide client specific economic development services free of charge and available to new entrepreneurs, established and expanding businesses. Services include business development guidance, relocation support, and project development; for requests that are beyond our level of expertise, GMEDC has a ready referral network to meet client needs. Additionally, the RDCs work collectively throughout the legislative session to promote the needs and interests of the business community. GMEDC and our local partners have assisted over 80 businesses and municipalities seeking additional information on economic development activities, local business projects, funding opportunities, legislative action and more. 2022 activities include:

- Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Working Communities Challenge White River Valley Consortium project, working to improve housing opportunities for entry level employees and new entrepreneurs in 14 towns in the White River Valley.
- Bringing state officials and private developers to the table to better understand regional housing challenges and opportunities.

- Partnering with Orange County Parent and Child Center to develop a flagship childcare facility offering 88 new childcare spots in the Randolph region.
- Collaborating with Black River Innovation Campus in Springfield on a \$1.5 million award from the Economic Development Administration to create the Randolph Innovation Hub in partnership with the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative at Vermont Technical College and Norwich University.
- Securing funding to implement a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment at the former Upper Valley Regional Landfill in Thetford.
- Supporting numerous funding applications for capital investment, brownfield assessment and redevelopment, project planning and pre-development.

On behalf of the GMEDC Board of Directors and all of our members, I would like to thank the Town of Brookfield for your continued support and partnership. For further information about GMEDC, call us at (802) 295-3710 or visit our new website at www.gmedc.com

Erika C. Hoffman-Kiess, Executive Director

RANDOLPH AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (RACDC)

Delivering our Mission of “Cultivating Community” through our Strategic Goals:

Healthy Communities: We were excited to host Governor Scott, legislators and advocates at a signing event for Vermont’s two big 2022 housing bills in a May celebration at RACDC’s Salisbury Square site. Yearly, RACDC provides safe and affordable homes for about 250 people of all ages and we are working to improve and create more with the help of these additional funds and programs.

- Our \$6 million project to update and add community space at Randolph House senior apartments is nearly completed. Look for information about a spring ribbon-cutting.
- New rental units at Salisbury Square are scheduled to begin construction in 2023, with single family homes soon after. These will be solar-powered, Zero Energy modular units, connected together in a neighborhood DC microgrid, to enable storage of solar energy to have as backup power in grid outages.
- We’ve also begun conceptual planning for 24-30 new apartments near downtown Randolph, and other potential community projects.

Economic Opportunity:

- RACDC provided a \$40,000 start-up loan to Wee Bird Bagel Café, in collaboration with the White River Investment Club.
- At our September annual meeting, the membership honored the creators of the Gear House (Robin Crandall & Robbie Leeson Mace) and The Underground (Vincent Freeman) with “Energy Rising” awards, and

Sharon Rives & Paul Kendall with the Hutchinson Award for selfless service.

- Properties owned and developed by RACDC paid over \$225,000 in property taxes this past year alone.

Community Connections: In addition to hosting our regular events, RACDC worked with local businesses and organizations to sponsor “First Friday” events in downtown Randolph on the first Friday evenings of every month from May through October. Hundreds of people of all ages enjoyed the events.

Collaboration: RACDC is a founding participant of the White River Valley Consortium, a group representing 14 communities surrounding Randolph and Royalton, including Braintree and Brookfield, working together to find ways to spur diverse workforce housing options and to strengthen regional ties and collaboration. In 2022, the Consortium received a 3-year Working Communities Challenge Grant to support its work.

Capacity-Building: We are so grateful for the dedicated members and volunteers who contribute to fundraising and community-building activities. Our board includes members from Randolph, Braintree and Brookfield, and we welcome more participation! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at 802-728-4305, or through our website at www.racdc.com. Our annual report can be viewed on the website, or contact us if you'd like a printed copy.

Thank you for your support! Julie Iffland, Executive Director

Orange County Parent Child Center Inc.

One of 15 parent child centers in Vermont, the Orange County Parent Child Center strengthens families with young children and connects them to their communities. We accomplish this through home visiting, supervised visitation, weekly playgroups, case management, onsite programming, and community outreach events. Some of our programs serve all families while others require income eligibility or place an emphasis on pregnant and parenting teens and families lacking support due to social isolation, poverty, insecure housing, or lack of other vital community resources.

OCPCC's programs include: Children's Integrated Services Family Support and Family Support Nursing, Welcome Baby visits, free community playgroups, Kids Place supervised visitation and exchanges, Families Learning Together program, Early Care & Education, parent education, kinship care support groups, and resource & referral services. We are a public pre-k partner under Act 166.

You can learn more at www.orangecountypcc.org. (Please excuse our website appearance as we are currently making updates.)

Last year, with the continued support of your community, we were able to serve 13 families from Brookfield including 16 adults and 14 children.

Lindsey Trombley
Executive Director

Orange County Restorative Justice Center

Orange County Restorative Justice Center (OCRJC) is a community-based restorative justice agency, offering cost-effective alternatives to the Family, Criminal, Civil Courts and the State corrections system. We remain committed to our mission and vision—building and advocating for just communities by providing restorative programs to address legal issues, wrongdoing, conflict and the needs of harmed parties; and connecting participants to services that improve the health, well-being and positive behavior of individuals and the community. We want the everyday life in Orange County communities to be safe, just and provide opportunities for all people to thrive.

We offer 10 programs to Orange County residents: Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA), Court Diversion, Driver's License Reinstatement, Pre-Trial Services, Reparative Panels, Restorative Re-entry after Incarceration, Safe Driver Education, Transitional Housing, Victim Assistance and the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, 311 people were referred to us for services. Local volunteers provided 1,170 hours of their time to support 275 Restorative Meetings. We served 60 harmed parties (victims) and distributed \$3,729 in restitution to those who experienced losses due to crime. OCRJC helped: 90 people connect with counseling services (including 26 youth), 9 people secure housing, 8 people find legal support and 13 people reinstate their driver's license. We held CoSAs for 6 individuals, secured 3 apartments for transitional housing and had 58 people in our Safe Driver program.

In FY22, OCRJC worked with 4 people who live in or whose incidents took place in Brookfield. For each incident referred to OCRJC, the person responsible and the individuals impacted by the crime are offered services.

OCRJC's FY22 operating budget was \$386,937. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. The Town of Brookfield appropriated \$350 for FY22 to support our work. OCRJC requests \$350 in 2023 to support ongoing programs.

Thank you for your support! For additional information, find our website at <https://ocrjvt.org> or contact Jessica Schmidt, Executive Director, at 802-685-3172 or info@ocrjvt.org.

The Arts Bus

Now in its 2nd decade of service, The Arts Bus continues to travel over hills and through valleys to empowering children to find joy & authentic self-expression through the arts. In 2022, the big green bus achieved its biggest impact ever, making 156 stops in 17 towns from Rutland City to Montpelier, teaching 297 classes with 7 art educators while adding 39 new mediums, and directly connecting art education & supplies to a child over 4,200 times. The Arts Bus continued to serve communities in many ways – whether on the bus, in classrooms, on farms, in & after school, at summer camps, public libraries, facilities, town events. We continued with our award-winning Ever After Kids Program plus introduced Art from the Start (for pre-K children) and New RouTEEN (for 12-16 year olds), while providing free take-home art supplies like paints, brushes, markers, crayons, paper, glue, and 3D building pieces through our Go Big & Go Home initiative funded by Vermont Children's Trust Foundation.

In 2022, The Arts Bus took children on artistic adventures through space by making alien Muppets, galaxies in a jar and UFO light catchers; we discovered our talents in puppet & stage performances; personalized fabrics with markers, stencils and tie-dye; made sharks tooth necklaces; sculpted in snow; explored STEAM with soap-making, Rube Goldberg machines, 3D building & coloring; painted birdhouses; played with clay in miniatures; and created sock-puppet, elf, fairy and comic characters.

In Brookfield, The Arts Bus made 23 stops and taught 44 classes, primarily exploring the world of art in the afterschool program at Brookfield Elementary School, plus co-sponsoring Art on the Farm at Sprague Ranch, which attracted nearly 500 visitors to experience the beauty & culture of the area. One of our biggest achievements was producing & recording *"Vermont, Our Home"* with Ida Mae Specker and over 70 children in summer camps, using our rolling recording studio & traveling sound technician from The Underground Studio, which we hope everyone hears, learns & shares for years to come. (YouTube singalong music video: https://youtu.be/dGelTI6VO_k)

As ever, there is no charge to climb aboard The Arts Bus and we are driven to provide a creative resource right where our communities need it. As we have for several years, we are requesting \$1,200.00 in town appropriations from Brookfield for the 2023 fiscal year to support The Arts Bus, though we continually increase our program and quality. We remain committed to finding ways to safely bridge the gap between the future artists, inventors & creators and the cost of guides & tools they need to realize their dreams. To learn more and see pictures of the young artists' creations you make happen, we invite you to our Facebook page @artsbusvt or to visit our website www.artsbusvt.org.

Randolph Area Food Shelf:

The Randolph Area Food Shelf has been serving the local community since 1977. Our services are focused on Randolph, Braintree, Brookfield, and East Granville, though all are welcome.

In 2022 we provided food to 391 households in our service area, representing 1,026 individuals. Of these 391 households, 14 are in Brookfield, representing 37 individuals.

In addition to our regular food pantry, the Food Shelf administers two USDA federal nutrition programs: The Commodity Supplemental Food Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Also in 2022, the Food Shelf's School Kids' Program (SKiP) served thousands of meals to area children during its February, April, and summer school vacation periods. These nutritious meals are so important to students who normally receive free breakfasts and lunches at their schools. Finally, during the 2022 holiday season, we distributed 144 Thanksgiving turkeys, and we prepared and distributed 193 Holiday Meal Bags, which contained all the ingredients for a complete and healthy holiday meal.

The Randolph Area Food Shelf is overseen by a 9-member Board of Trustees and operates solely with the help of over 80 dedicated volunteers; there is no paid staff. Money appropriated from the Town of Brookfield by vote at town meeting will help us continue our mission as we strive to create a community in which every individual has access to sufficient food.

Many thanks to the Brookfield community for your support! For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please visit us on the web at www.randolphareafoodshelf.org or call us at 802-431-0144.

Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program:

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support for the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property, and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, designs installations, and finds financial resources to support the costs of construction. During the **25+ years** of the program, almost **1200 grants** totaling over **\$2.6 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for the installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

The Rural Fire Protection Program is managed by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservation Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

We have made several adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program in recent years, including changing the name from Dry Hydrant Grant Program to Rural Fire Protection Program to better reflect the diverse range of projects we support. We have increased the maximum grant award amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per project. New rural fire protection systems, along with repair, replacement, relocation, and upgrades of existing systems, and drafting site development, are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. And we now consider applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual expense of the Rural Fire Protection Program in FY 2022 was **\$285,901**, of which **\$165,422** was paid in grants to support the construction and repair of **27 rural fire protection projects** throughout Vermont. The remaining budget covered site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Division of Fire Safety of the Vermont Department of Public Safety, through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program receives support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. In FY 2022, we received over **\$9,000** in town appropriations from **over 90 towns**. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

216 Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities.

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education *Local Partnerships in Learning*

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc. (CVABE), a community-based non-profit organization has served the adult education and literacy needs of Brookfield residents for fifty-six years.

CVABE serves as central Vermont's resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for individuals (ages 16 - 90+) in:

- Basic skills programs: reading, writing, math, computer and financial literacy
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma and GED credential programs
- Academic skill readiness for work, career training and/or college

Brookfield is served by our learning centers in Randolph, Barre and Montpelier. The sites have welcoming learning rooms with computers, laptops and internet access to support instruction. CVABE staff and volunteers also teach students at the library or other local sites as needed.

On average, 3 Brookfield residents enroll with CVABE a year and we are prepared to provide services to more. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving a job, earning a high school credential, helping one's children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more.

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves, and 70% of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels.

By helping to end the cycle of poverty, your support changes the lives of Brookfield residents for generations to come.

CVABE provided free instruction to 380 people in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVABE \$4,435 per student to provide a full year of instruction. *Nearly all students are low income.* Over 70 community volunteers work with CVABE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We deeply appreciate Brookfield's voter-approved past support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVABE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVABE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we

serve, to ensure we can help the neighbors who need education for a better life.

For more information regarding CVABE's adult education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Randolph Learning Center	Barre Learning Center	Montpelier Learning Center
10 S. Main St. PO Box 84 Randolph VT 05060 (802) 728-4492	46 Washington Street Suite 100 Barre, VT 05641 (802) 476-4588	100 State Street, Suite 3 Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802) 223-3403
<u>www.cvabe.org</u>		

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. Your district office is at the address and phone number above. We provide essential services and resources to towns in Washington and Orange counties in order to protect and promote the health and well-being of people in Vermont. For example, in the past year and beyond, the Barre Local Health Office:

Protected communities from COVID-19: Since the pandemic began three years ago our doors have remained open, and we've been able to serve communities thanks to individuals, families, schools, businesses, first responders, and countless others that worked with us to meet the needs of local towns. We provided vaccine, testing, and information, along with other key public health services.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In collaboration with community partners, since response efforts began, we hosted over 100 COVID-19 vaccination clinics and provided over 7,900 COVID-19 doses. Since August 2021, all local health offices have also documented and helped manage 8,125 COVID-19-related situations, including 1,271 COVID-19 outbreaks.

Ensured local preparedness for future emergencies: We worked with partners like schools, skilled nursing facilities, shelters, and emergency personnel to ensure effective pandemic response and support preparedness to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during public health emergencies. This year, we responded to the emergence of human monkeypox virus by sharing information and providing vaccine to community members. As of November 15, 2022, 25 hMPXV vaccine doses have been administered locally.

Stayed attentive to people and communities most underserved: We provided services and resources to people who are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes due to health inequities. For example, we provided vaccine at schools, shelters, senior housing, farms, food distribution sites, and more.

Collaborated with Town Health Officers around environmental health: To help Vermonters better understand the relationship between their environment and their health, we collaborated with towns and other local partners. Find information about environmental health including lead, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), food safety, drinking water, climate change, healthy homes, healthy schools, and more at www.healthvermont.gov/environment.

Provided WIC services and resources to families and children: Provided WIC nutrition education and support to 1,337 individuals between July 1, 2021 and June 31, 2022, while enabling them to save on groceries so they can have more to spend on other things their family needs. WIC also empowers families with breastfeeding/chestfeeding support and provides referrals to other health and nutrition services. Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov/wic.

Supported student health and youth empowerment: According to the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, only 58% percent of students in Washington County, and only 54% in Orange County, agree or strongly agree that they “believe they matter to people in their community.” Regionally, efforts like mentoring and after-school enrichment programs help to ensure youth feel valued and included.

Promoted health in all policies: Health is not just individual behaviors and access to care, it’s also housing, transportation, food access, education, natural resources, and other social determinants of health. We worked with towns, schools, worksites, healthcare providers, and other community organizations to establish plans, policies, and programming that improve health and wellness. To achieve health, we must continue to work together to improve opportunities for health across all sectors and periods of our lives.

VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNI), under the VT Department of Children & Families, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. **Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law at six months of age.** By statute, unlicensed dogs can be confiscated. Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores hold monthly clinics. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

Licensing a dog:

- 1) Helps identify your dog if lost.
- 2) Provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but still needs immediate medical attention}.
- 3) Protects your animal if they bite another animal {or person – which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanized in order to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated}.
- 4) Pays for this necessary program addressing the population situation in VT.

For a VSNIIP Application and a List of Participating Offices, send a 10" SASE: Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope to: VSNIIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if your request is for a cat, dog or both. Once fully completed, please mail it back. If approved, you will receive a Voucher and instructions. The cost for the surgery to you is only \$27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pays the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog licensing. Please be SURE your cat or dog is completely flea and tick free **before** the visit, or you will be charged for treatment. Pain medication is highly recommended **after** the surgery, but would be your responsibility. It is also wise to buy an "E" collar to avoid having sutures pulled out. These are the right choices!

Animals left UN-neutered are more prone to forms of cancer.

Thank veterinarians for their participation in this important program. **These altruistic veterinarians are the backbone of the program!** If your veterinarian is not a participant, please encourage them to join. Several veterinarians have retired, leaving a reduced number of participating offices. VSNIIP offices are accepting less reimbursement than what they would usually charge for their services. We NEED them :) Let them know you appreciate the difference they have made in our state over the years when euthanasia was the routine means of animal over-population control. Those days are behind us ~ let's keep it that way!

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator 1-800-HI VSNIIP (1-844-448-7647)

TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT (TVT) SERVICES 2022 (Formerly Stagecoach)

Thank you for the Town of Brookfield's generous support last year. During the past four years, your support helped us provide an annual average of **135 free Dial-A-Ride trips** for Brookfield residents either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles. TVT's Dial-A-Ride and Shuttle Bus Systems provided a total of 158,302 rides for the year. All of TVT's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

Dial-A-Ride Programs – Focus on specialized populations including elders, persons with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who are unable to access the bus system. **In Brookfield, Dial-A-Ride offers direct access from home to: medical treatments, meal site/senior programs, adult day care services, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, radiation & dialysis and substance abuse treatment.**

Bus System – Promotes economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence and quality of life.

The state and local grants through which we provide these services require us to raise up to 20% "local match" dollars. TVT's requests from towns account for approximately 5% of the 20% requirement.

WHITE RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE

Thank you, neighbors, for your continued support of White River Valley Ambulance. We are a non-profit, professional emergency medical service and ambulance transport agency serving the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Randolph, Rochester and Stockbridge, an area of over 500 square miles. We are designated as a Vermont Critical Care Paramedic service, the highest licensed skill level that the state recognizes. With our 14 full-time staff and several part-time staff we maintain two Paramedic level staffed ambulances 24/7, 365 days a year. From January 1, 2022, through November 30, 2022, White River Valley Ambulance responded to 1,550 emergency calls and transfers. This includes Advanced Life Support transfer between hospitals.

Training in emergency medical response is also an important part of our mission. We are a regional American Heart Association Training Center, providing CPR and First Aid courses to community members across central Vermont. We also provide advanced practice training to emergency response professionals and volunteers from throughout the state.

Funding for WRVA comes from billed insurance and budget allocations from the towns we serve. Every town pays the same amount per capita. In 2022, the per capita amount will increase from \$65.00 to \$72.00. Town contributions pay for about 54% of the cost of ambulance activities.

Looking back on 2022 and ahead to 2023, we are ever grateful for the numerous first responders and fire departments with whom we work with and who volunteer their time to help a neighbor in need. Your dedication and commitment to serve makes a difference in the lives of those who call for help. For that, we can never thank you enough. 3190 Pleasant St., Bethel, VT 05032 802-234-6800 www.wvra.org Matthew Parrish, Executive Director

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Notice

Dear Veteran,

The White River Junction VA Medical Center is attempting to contact all Veterans in our catchment area of Vermont and New Hampshire who are not enrolled or are enrolled and no longer utilizing our services. If you currently receive our services, please pass this note on to a Veteran who may benefit.

We offer a wide variety of services including assistance to Veterans who are homeless or unemployed to providing primary and specialty care. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support, group sessions, and more. There is a designated treatment area for our women Veterans at the Women's Comprehensive Care Clinic; a safe space.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community-based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. We are here to serve all Veterans, please do not hesitate to contact us, if for no other reason than to register/enroll with us in case of future need.

Our eligibility office in White River Junction can be reached at 802-295-9363 extension 5118. A single form - VA form 10-10EZ – and a copy of the DD214 is all that is needed.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time service officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans including non-members in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
Disabled American Veterans	802-296-5167
Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168

Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

Respectfully: Becky Rhoads, Au. D., Associate Medical Center Director

WARNING
Orange Southwest Unified Union School District
(Orange Southwest School District)
For Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
Monday, March 6, 2023

TO THE LEGAL VOTERS OF RANDOLPH, BRAINTREE, and BROOKFIELD:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the voters of Randolph, Braintree & Brookfield will be held in the Auditorium at the Randolph Union High School in the Town of Randolph on Monday, March 6, 2023 commencing at 6:00 p.m. Following updated guidance from state agencies and in order to comply with those directives, this meeting will be also be available remotely. Members of the public wishing to join the meeting remotely, please use the following link:

meet.google.com/zjr-eukh-tus
Phone Numbers
(US)+1 720-545-0736
PIN: 990 273 983#

NOTICE TO VOTERS: ARTICLES I, II, III, IV, V, and VI will be voted on the Floor.

Polls for voting on Articles VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, & XIV will be open on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the following locations and at the following times in each town:

- Braintree:** Braintree Town Clerk’s Office from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Brookfield:** Brookfield Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Randolph:** Randolph Town Hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for a one year term beginning July 1, 2023.

ARTICLE II: To elect a Clerk for a one year term beginning July 1, 2023.

ARTICLE III: To elect a School District Treasurer for a one year term beginning July 1, 2023.

ARTICLE IV: To fill any vacancies existing or occurring on March 6, 2023.

ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon the reports of the officers of the school district.

ARTICLE VI: To see whether the school district will authorize the School Board to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the member towns, by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof.

ARTICLE VII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:

1. - One School Director from the residents of Randolph, VT for a term of three years.

ARTICLE VIII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:

1. - One School Director from the residents of Braintree, VT for a term of three years.

ARTICLE IX: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:

1. - One School Director from the residents of Brookfield, VT for a term of three years.

ARTICLE X: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the school board to expend **\$24,717,628**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of **\$21,523.53** per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **10.30%** higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE XI: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **\$760,439** in surplus funds from the 2021-2022 school year to the Operational Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE XII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **\$100,000** in surplus funds from the 2021-2022 school year to the Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE XIII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:
1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **\$50,000** in surplus funds from the 2021-2022 school year to the Legal Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE XIV: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:
1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **\$50,000** in surplus funds from the 2021-2022 school year to the Special Education Reserve Fund?

DATED at Randolph in the County of Orange and State of Vermont, this 11th day of January, 2023.

_____ Anne Kaplan, Chair	_____ Sarah Haupt
_____ Katja Evans Vice-Chair	_____ Rachel Gaidys
_____ Chelsea Sprague, Clerk	_____ Hannah Arias
_____ Megan Sault	_____ Sam Hooper

OSSD School Board Directors

Received and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Orange Southwest School District, in Randolph on January 26, 2023 before being posted.
ATTEST: Linda S. Lubold, Clerk

NOTICE TO VOTERS

Attached is some basic information about the Orange Southwest School District meeting warned. If you have any questions, please contact your Town Clerk.

Braintree Town Clerk - 728-9787
Brookfield Town Clerk - 276-3352
Randolph Town Clerk - 728-5682

MINUTES

**Orange Southwest Unified Union District
(Orange Southwest School District)
For Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
Monday, February 28, 2022
Randolph Union High School Auditorium @ 6 p.m. &
Remote access due to COVID**

Minutes to be approved at the OSSD Meeting on March 3, 2022

NOTICE TO VOTERS: ARTICLES I, II, III, IV, V and VI will be voted on the Floor.

Board Members present: Rachel Gaidys, Anne Kaplan, Chelsea Sprague, Megan Sault and Katja Evans

Administrators present: Layne Millington

Moderator: Peter Nowlan Treasurer: Teresa Godfrey Clerk: Linda Lubold

Guests: ORCA Media Video Taping, Mark MacDonald, Sherri Richardson, Wes Gibbs, Danny Bellavance, Marie Patton, Linda Boutwell, Kristin Chandler, Nick Exler, Jason Finley, & Thomas Javery

The meeting was called to order by Peter Nowlan at 6:02 p.m.

The meeting was held both in person and by remote access due to COVID.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board member introductions were made.

Peter Nowlan reminded everyone of the polls being open on the following day, March 1, in each of three towns voting on Articles VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII & XIV.

ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for a one year term beginning July 1, 2022, Layne Millington nominated Peter Nowlan for Moderator which was seconded by Katja Evans. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE II: To elect a Clerk for a one year term beginning July 1, 2022. Anne Kaplan nominated Linda Lubold for Clerk which was seconded by Layne Millington. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE III: To elect a School District Treasurer for a one year term beginning July 1, 2022. Linda Lubold nominated Teresa Godfrey for School District Treasurer which was seconded by Layne Millington. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE IV: To fill any vacancies existing or occurring on February 28, 2022. No vacancies were existing or occurring.

Layne Millington reviewed the proposed budget and referred Folks to look at pages 4 & 5 of the Annual Report for information regarding the budget, the proposed tax rates, and surplus & reserve funds. He thanked the communities for their support.

Sherri Richardson asked about the operational reserve fund, surplus funds, and what was in the current reserve accounts. Layne went over his previous budget presentation, explained the plan to use the operational reserve fund to offset taxes for the next 3 years, and explained the reason for each reserve fund.

ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon the reports of the officers of the school district. Sherri Richardson made a motion to accept the report of the Officers of the school district which was seconded by Linda Lubold. The motion passed by voice vote.

Anne Kaplan made the motion to accept the report of the Superintendent of the school district which was seconded by Sherri Richardson. The motion passed by voice vote.

Sherri Richardson made the motion to accept the report of the Elementary Principals of the school district which was seconded by Anne Kaplan. The motion passed by voice vote.

Sherri Richardson made the motion to accept the report of the Randolph Union High School Principals of the school district which was seconded by Anne Kaplan. The motion passed by voice vote.

Sherri Richardson made the motion to accept the report of the Randolph Technical Career Center Director of the school district which was seconded by Anne Kaplan. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI: To see whether the school district will authorize the School Board to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the member towns, by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof.

Layne Millington made the motion which was seconded by Linda Lubold to authorize the School Board to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the member towns, by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof. The motion passed by voice vote.

There was a brief discussion regarding tax rates. Layne referred folks to look at page 5 of the Annual Report. Mark MacDonald mentioned town reappraisals. Mark MacDonald also stated that the recent federal funds are intended for the schools to use for additional things that are needed.

Peter Nowlan reviewed the remaining articles that will be voted on tomorrow at the polls in each town and reminded of each polling place & time. Peter Nowlan asked if there was any other business to be discussed at this meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting 6:42 p.m. was made by Sherri Richardson seconded by Anne Kaplan.

Signed by Peter Nowlan, Moderator and Linda Lubold, Clerk

**ORANGE SOUTHWEST UNIFIED UNION DISTRICT
(ORANGE SOUTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT)
RESULTS OF
BUDGET VOTE - TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022**

ARTICLE VII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:

1. -One School Director from the residents of **Randolph, VT** for a term of three years.

Anne Kaplin 515

Blank 57

Spoiled

Write Ins: 6 different names

ARTICLE VIII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:

1. -One School Director from the residents of **Randolph, VT** for a term of three years.

Sarah Haupt 490

Blank 82

Spoiled

Write Ins: 6 different names

ARTICLE IX: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer.

1. -One School Director from the residents of **Brookfield, VT** for a term of three years.

Blank 508

Spoiled

Write Ins: 31 different names

ARTICLE X: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the school board to expend **\$22,165,294**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of **\$19,559** per equalized pupil.

YES-450

NO-125

BLANK-5

ARTICLE XI: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **\$916,666** in surplus funds from the 2020-2021 school year to the Operational Reserve Fund?

YES-499

NO-76

BLANK-5

ARTICLE XII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **\$524,997** in surplus funds from the 2020-2021 school year to the Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund?

YES-501

NO-73

BLANK-6

ARTICLE XIII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **\$48,000** in surplus funds from the 2020-2021 school year to the Legal Reserve Fund?

YES-458

NO-115

BLANK-7

ARTICLE XIV: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:

1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve

the transfer of **\$250,000** in surplus funds from the 2020-2021 school year to the Special Education Reserve Fund?

YES-487

NO-90

BLANK-3

Attest: Linda S. Lubold, Clerk

OSSD Annual Report 2023

To the communities of Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph

The story underpinning this year's school budget season is closely tied to the dramatic increase in Vermont real estate values. With mortgage rates at historic lows during the COVID pandemic, the demand for property far outpaced the supply, driving up real estate values. Further, in a state like Vermont, which served as a haven for remote workers fleeing crowded cities during the pandemic, we saw an even larger surge in demand and a commensurate increase in property values. For property owners this news comes with good and bad consequences: good, because the value of our homes has grown significantly; bad, because as those values increase so too does what we pay in property taxes. In fact, property values increased so much that sixty-five percent of Vermont's 254 towns will be ordered to reappraise in the coming year. The level of change is historic and will have a dramatic impact on our local taxes.

It is very important to remember that your property taxes are governed by two elements: one that is within the school district's control and one that is not. We control how much we ask from the taxpayers to run our local schools – we do this by limiting expenses and generating revenues. We have no control over dramatic changes to the real estate market. While the district seeks to increase spending in support of students next year, we will more than offset those expenses with significant additional revenues – we did it last budget season to support the 2022-23 school year, and we will do so again as we seek community support for the 2023-24 OSSD budget. If your property tax rates were only based on the school side of things:

- They would have gone down by \$.0685 per \$100 of assessed value this year (2022-23).
- They would go down an additional \$.0752 per \$100 of assessed value next year (2022-23).

Based on this, the owner of an average priced home would have seen an annual decrease in their property taxes of \$482. The district has done its job to reign in its impact on taxpayers; unfortunately, we have no control over the dramatic swing that has occurred in property values.

Given all this, our focus when creating this year's budget was a simple one: maintain the programs and systems we've built to support students while minimizing, as much as we can, the impact of the wild swing in property values on our local taxpayers.

The Bottom Line: Your Tax Rates

We are looking at an increase of \$2,552,334 million in expenses for next year which will be offset by \$3,495,868 million in additional revenues. This means that the district is requesting \$943,534 million less from taxpayers than last year. In terms of the increased expenses, approximately \$365,000 (fifteen percent) is discretionary; the rest is required to meet our legal and contractual obligations under the master agreements with the staff and to offset the significant increases in heating oil, fuel, supplies, and materials due to inflation. The discretionary increase primarily supports expanding educational programming: Carnegie Math, Robotics, Project Lead the Way, LEAD health curriculum, an afterschool activity bus, a new teacher at Braintree to offset their increasing enrollment, and three separate programs to support reading, writing, and enhanced understanding. Despite these increases, we have significant revenues to not only offset all the new costs, but to also reduce our ask from taxpayers.

In summary, local taxes are controlled by two elements: one that is within the district's control, and one that is not.

- The OSSD budget is within our control, basically how much we spend on education relative to the revenues we receive. We are asking for \$943,534 less from the taxpayers next year.
- The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) that the state uses as part of the tax formula is independent of our control. If the values of homes in your town have gone up over the past year, then the CLA will change so that you pay more in taxes (i.e., your property is worth more, so you pay more). CLA has to do with changes in the value of real estate in your town, not the district's budget – and property values have gone up significantly statewide this year.
- If your tax rate were only based on the school side of the equation, your rates next year would go down by about 7.52 cents per \$100 of assessed value, or about \$290 for the year for an average priced home (\$385,000).

The table below shows the expected tax rate for each of our towns taking into account both the decrease caused by the school budget and the increase caused by changes to the CLA.

Town	CLA	*Change in Tax Rate from Last Year	**Annual Impact
Braintree	88.72%	+ \$0.1267	+ \$488
***Brookfield	109.53%	- \$0.2464	- \$948
Randolph	84.55%	+ \$0.0985	+ \$379

*Per \$100 of assessed value

**Based upon the average home value of \$385,000

***Brookfield town did a reassessment last year; their taxes will go down significantly this year.

Surplus and Reserve Funds

In addition to approving the overall budget this March, voters will be asked to determine the use of our surplus funds; therefore, it is important to understand what they are and how they are used by the district to benefit both the students and the taxpayers.

- Surplus funds are unspent monies left over at the end of a budget year.
- Reserve funds are surplus monies the voters have set aside for specific uses in the future. For example, the voters typically approve that some surplus funds go into our facilities reserve account so that we have money available to maintain and repair our buildings when needed without having to borrow the money or ask the taxpayers for more.

Surplus Amount and Proposed Allocations

During the last few school years, districts used federal grant monies to cover the additional costs due to COVID and to offset as much of their normal expenses as possible; because of this, we have \$1,310,439 in surplus funds to allocate. The below bullets outline what will happen with these surplus funds if voters vote yes on school ballot articles XI through XIV. Voting yes means:

- \$1,050,000 will be split into equal amounts and used to reduce the burden on taxpayers for the next three budget cycles. \$350,000 will be directly applied to next year’s budget, \$700,000 will be allocated to the Operational Reserve fund to be used in 2024-25 and again 2025-26 to reduce your property taxes.

- In addition to the above, an extra \$60,439 will be added to the Operational Reserve Fund to allow for future emergencies.
- \$100,000 will be allocated to the facilities reserve fund. This is to begin rebuilding what was spent repairing the RTCC/RUHS heating system.
- \$50,000 will be allocated to the Legal Reserve Fund. There is an exodus going on from the teaching profession after three years of COVID and the potential exposure faced every day by staff working in congregate settings. This means that the quality of the candidate pool has decreased overall which results in more human resource issues that must be managed often with the advice of legal counsel.
- \$50,000 will be allocated to the Special Education Reserve Fund. The state mandated change in special education funding has gone into effect. Districts are no longer reimbursed for most special education costs. Instead, we receive a block sum of money that must carry us through a school year – this puts us at risk, if a student moves in with severe needs after the start of the year, we may not have what we need to cover the additional costs of their services. This reserve fund would cover such costs should they occur.

In Closing

We are proud of our work on behalf of the district's students and our efforts have changed from a focus on keeping students and staff safe during the active phase of the COVID pandemic to a focus of learning recovery and acceleration as we slowly return to normal. Educational losses, especially in terms of the Board's Foundational Knowledge Ends were experienced due to remote learning, absences due to illness, school closures, and classroom level quarantines. This year the district shifted both regular budget resources as well as leveraged grants to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on these specific Ends:

- Increased internet connectivity both at school and in the homes of students with limited access.
- Replaced all SMART Boards with Clear Touch technology to take advantage of the skills acquired by the staff during remote session that promote enhanced in-person instruction.
- Delivered summer programming (K-12) for the purpose of increasing socialization skills and providing for academic recovery. This included district supplied transportation.
- Provided after school programming to extend time on learning for academic recovery.
- Increased staffing to provide full day pre-school to reverse lost socialization due to isolation during the pandemic. Further, to increase academic readiness for elementary school.

- Hired and deployed academic interventionists to provide extended time on learning opportunities during the school day for students in need.
- Hired and deployed an early education speech and language pathologist to address minor needs early to prevent them from expanding into more severe issues over time.
- Delivered staff training in the STERN Center's Lead to Read program in order to improve losses to basic literacy.
- Employed two STEM teachers (K-12) who also serve as integration specialists to increase students' foundational knowledge in science and to improve their critical thinking skills.
- Purchased and implemented the Carnegie Math Program across grades 6-12 and reinvested in Bridges Math (PK-5) to increase and accelerate the acquisition of foundational knowledge in mathematics.
- Purchased and implemented Geodes and Wit and Wisdom to increase student literacy and foundational knowledge across all disciplines.

The budget we have created for 2023-24 serves to continue these good works while raising the academic achievement of all students and their overall engagement in school. On behalf of all the staff and students across the OSSD, we thank you for your support as we look forward to another year working together in the service of your children our students.

Sincerely,

Layne W. Millington
OSSD Superintendent

Letter from the Board

To the Communities of Randolph, Braintree, and Brookfield

Greetings. It has been a busy year here at OSSD, and we are pleased to provide this report to the community on the activities, initiatives, and accomplishments taking place at our five schools. With the worst of the pandemic finally behind us, we have been grateful to return to a sense of normalcy in our day to day operations. Like most school districts across the country, we do have some catching up to do, but our schools continue to be happy and vibrant places of learning, and we are making good progress on a number of fronts. We hope you will take a few minutes to read through this year's report to learn more about where we are - and where we are going - as a unified school district.

We spent a good deal of time this past year looking at the district's "Ends," otherwise known as our student learning outcomes. As a reminder, our Ends Statement reads: Students have the knowledge, skills and tools to be prepared for the next stage of their lives, which justify the resources invested by the community. Examples of Ends include critical thinking, foundational knowledge (math, science, reading, writing and communication, social studies, life skills

and the arts), the ability to adapt, and an understanding of information technology. In addressing student learning outcomes on a statewide basis, the Vermont Agency of Education recently released its “Portrait of a Graduate,” and encouraged school districts throughout the state to do the same. A Portrait of a Graduate defines what a student should know and be able to do by the time he/she/they are ready to graduate. While Ends tend to be more focused on specific academic areas, the Portrait tends to be more general, and includes such skills as Learning, Global Citizenship, Academic Proficiency, Well-Being, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, and Communication. We will continue to work on defining a Portrait of an OSSD Graduate through the balance of the school year, adjusting and aligning our Ends in these general categories.

As we approach this work, we will also be addressing how we can best manage the impacts of social, political, and cultural disagreements that influence the learning climate in our schools, with an emphasis on ensuring that all of our stakeholders (students, parents, and caregivers) feel safe, accepted, heard, and included, regardless of their differences. While we are bound to a certain degree by state and federal laws, it is our goal to listen to, and be sensitive to, the concerns of all constituencies, and make decisions based on equity, fairness, and best practices. This is not always an easy task, and we ask for the community’s patience and support as we work through these sometimes polarizing processes and decisions. In all cases, our work is directed towards ensuring that every student has equal access to the best education possible.

Directly related to this work and to the development of our Portrait of an OSSD Graduate, we have formed a committee to look at “Ownership Linkage.” Ownership Linkage involves gleaning information from large groups of people (the above stakeholders, plus taxpayers, community members, and other interested parties) through meetings, forums, interviews, and other means to determine what they believe is important in our schools and what our current Ends might be missing. We invite your participation in this process.

The Board has also continued its work on policy governance this year with an eye towards helping new and existing board members understand what their roles as board members are in terms of overseeing the operation and direction of the OSSD schools. This work includes examining board policies, processes, and procedures in the areas of communications, handling and settling complaints, and setting district goals, which are then carried out by our administrative teams. After a strategic planning process completed at the end of the 2021 school year, our administrators have been focusing on four primary goals: strengthening school climate and culture; improving communication between the school and community; building students’ capacity to acquire foundational knowledge; and expanding students’ personal development skills.

Our school district has so much to offer, and many families from outside the district choose to send their children here. We are grateful for the support our communities give to each of our schools every day. Our administrators, teachers, support staff, coaches, volunteers, and everyone connected with our schools go above and beyond in their efforts to provide a safe and healthy learning environment; and they prove time and again that it really does take a village to raise a child. And while we may have our differences on how to best

educate and protect and nurture our students, there is no doubt that we all have their best interests in mind. Serving on your school board is a privilege and responsibility that each of us takes very seriously, and we will continue to do all we can to live up to the trust you have placed in us to govern and oversee your schools.

Anne Kaplan, Katja Evans, Chelsea Sprague, Hannah Arias,
Rachel Gaidys, Sarah Haupt, Megan Sault, & Sam Hooper

RTCC Director's Annual Report

Dear Community,

It is with great pride that I share with you the successes of RTCC over the past year.

Our students' desire to learn a trade through a hands-on approach is what makes RTCC special. Students have thrived this year as we have had the most "normal" educational year since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. Aside from the time away during the recent heating break, students have had more classroom and shop hours than they have had in the past 3 years. Enrollment is steady and through a comprehensive local needs assessment completed in 2022, we know that our programs are of high quality and scope.

Work Based Learning provides RTCC students with practical experience and opportunities to interact with professionals from industry in order to extend and deepen the learning that happens in our programs. This also supports and promotes the development of college and career readiness. Students receive valuable experience and the opportunity to work and learn new skills. As many former graduates can attest to, these experiences range from job shadows to paid internships, which can often lead to full-time job offers following graduation.

All of our technical programs offer students the chance to earn valuable industry-recognized certifications (IRCs). In addition to being requested and accepted by business and industry, these IRCs are another way our students and programs demonstrate competence. This year our IRCs include Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA), Game of Logging, which is the premier international forestry certification, OSHA 10 safety training, ASE Certifications, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicle Inspection License and many more. As always, we are looking to expand the IRC opportunities throughout all of our programs. Students also earn American Heart Association certificates in Basic Life Saving (BLS), which is taught in house by our nurse within all program areas.

Students can take two free college level courses at over 20 Vermont Colleges via their sending school and are also able to access additional "Fast Forward" college credits through the Community College of Vermont and Vermont Technical College. Taking college classes and earning college credit while still enrolled in high school not only helps students understand the demands of college, but also helps them make the leap from high school to post-secondary education. RTCC works with a number of colleges and universities to connect our programs to theirs.

We are also proud of the number of community partnerships we have. It's long been our tradition to invite guests to share their experiences in their career pathway, as well as college and post-secondary technical school representatives to help students envision the next steps in their pathway towards successful careers. This year we have hosted speakers from numerous industries and backgrounds who have shared their unique perspectives on what the "real world" looks like; what career paths are available; the educational paths that are available after high school; and to offer words of advice along the lines of: "this is what I wish I knew when I was your age."

We will continue to host our annual "Challenge Day" to young women in grades 7, 8, and 9, virtually in March. Challenge Day allows students to learn about non-traditional career fields. These activities are funded by our Perkins grant and help us to have some of the best non-traditional program enrollments in the state.

There is simply not enough room in this report to describe the accomplishments of all of our programs so, please, follow us on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/rtcc/** or visit our website at www.orangesouthwest.org/rtcc to keep abreast of what's happening at RTCC! The website includes program information, applications for enrollment, and other RTCC information.

To the voters of our region: thank you for your ongoing support of career and technical education. We take seriously the trust you have placed in us to educate your children to be college and career ready. Please join us for our annual Spring Fling and Signing Night on Thursday, May 25 from 5pm-7pm. At this event we celebrate our students, staff, community partnerships, and families with food, games, activities, raffles and more. We also welcome the class of 2024 to RTCC.

With appreciation,

Felicia Allard, Director

RTCC offers students an opportunity to learn from one of twelve different pathways that can lead to college or career placements. We value and appreciate the community's support of our teachers, staff, and center. We hope you see the return from your investment, and thank you for validating our student outcomes by approving our budget.

What does RTCC provide for our students and community?

- Teachers who care deeply about our students and in helping them connect with what's important to them; as well as provide them with skills (technical, academic, personal) that allow them to 1) make the most of their education; 2) start on a path toward college, career and beyond; and 3) build positive relationships that lead to personal growth and life-long learning, which leads to being positive members of our community.
- An extremely high quality technical education program. Every program is organized around industry-approved competencies so that students learn exactly what is "prescribed" by our state and national business

leaders. Our programs benefit from the review and advice of nearly 65 local program advisory board members.

- Quality Math and English instruction and access to support for SAT, Accuplacer, ASVAB, and other entry exams into the post-secondary world of education. Students also receive one on one support from our Student Services Academic Center for all course work.
- The newly re-designed Pre-technical Explorations program. This is a year-long program for students in grades 9-10. Through integrated projects in a variety of career pathways, students earn academic credits in English/Humanities, Math and Science while identifying different career pathways they may want to investigate and explore.
- Programs that leave students truly “College and Career Ready” and that provide college credit upon successful program completion. College level courses are offered outside of their programs as well.
- Opportunities for students to learn and apply state-of-the-art skills that are important components of their field of study. Students get to use current software and equipment that is exactly what they will experience when they go on to college and career.
- Valuable industry-recognized certifications (IRCs) that put students well ahead of those who don’t participate in technical education.
- Every year almost all of our students participate in some kind of business-based experience from business tours to guest speakers. More than half of our students participate in formal internships or multiple job shadows of varying intensities with over 200+ business/community partners throughout the region. These “co-ops” may be paid or unpaid, long- or short-term but they all help our students to clarify their college and career plans, gain experience, and often propel them into a paid position. Businesses from across our region welcome RTCC students and often celebrate how prepared they are for working in the real world.

Annual Report for Braintree Elementary, Brookfield Elementary and Randolph Elementary Schools

We are excited to have a year that looks more like a normal school year. We are still finding some effects from Covid19, with some students and staff having to be out, but our classes are able to continue moving forward in the schools. With students in school each day, we are working diligently on all academic areas.

Our math curriculum is the focus for all elementary school teachers this year. The kindergarten through fifth grade teachers have readopted Bridges Mathematics to improve consistency in language and numeracy approaches throughout the grades. Our sixth grade teachers adopted a program called Carnegie, the same curriculum used by seventh through ninth graders in middle school. This alignment between sixth grade math and the middle school will aid in a smoother transition to middle school math and create the consistency we are looking for to bridge the elementary and middle schools.

In literacy, our elementary schools are increasing the amount of time spent on word work (or phonics) in the classrooms. All kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms continue to implement the research based curriculum, Foundations, to improve decoding skills, which is critical for developing successful readers.

We welcomed Jeff Green to the district this year as our new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) instructor. He collaborates with classroom teachers to provide STEM instruction in all of our schools in grades kindergarten through six while classroom teachers continue with our regular science curriculum.

This year, the Agency of Education changed the statewide assessment from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) that we have been administering to the Cognia Assessment which we will give at the end of this school year. This change will take time this winter and spring so that we can ensure that our teachers and students are prepared for any changes in format or testing protocols.

Braintree Elementary School

At Braintree Elementary, students enjoy a place-based learning environment that encourages an appreciation of the natural world and its inhabitants. This mission is supported by several partnerships and opportunities.

Farm to School

Our Farm to School program provides students with hands-on experiences growing, harvesting, cooking, and eating fresh produce. This year, we opened Braintree Blossoms, our school farmstand. Students in all grades have made items to sell at the farmstand, including apple sauce and pies, granola, and pot-pourri. Our intermediate students are learning firsthand how to operate a small business. They set prices, create advertisements, organize inventory, engage with customers, and complete financial analyses. We have also been fortunate to partner with local farmers and families who have donated items to support the farmstand, and students had a great time designing and painting the farmstand sign with local artist Barbara Carter.

This year we have also been utilizing a social studies curriculum provided through a grant with the Clemmons Family Farm that highlights the diversity in agriculture and history in Vermont and the rest of the United States.

STEM Learning

With the introduction of Jeff Green, district STEM instructor, students in kindergarten through grade six receive weekly lessons in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). These lessons support and extend science learning already happening in the classroom. Students have studied adaptations of birds, created interactive online books, and built robots to solve problems using Makey Makey and LittleBit components. We celebrated National STEM Day in November with stations celebrating each letter of STEM. Students built their own LED flashlights and coded robots to cruise the gym with Tina Scheindel, OSSD's Director of Technology.

Family & Community Engagement

Braintree students have been taking advantage of being able to go on field trips again. Students have visited apple orchards, farms, and the Chandler Music Hall to see a performance from the Garifuna Collective. They've hiked Mount Cardigan, visited the Rock of Ages Quarry after learning about minerals and the

rock cycle, and had a blast at Motio Recreation Center as a school-wide reward.

Families have come together as our Partners in Education (PiE) Club, a family advisory council which meets monthly. Seeing a need for field trip fundraising, they have already held a successful fundraiser baking and selling pies for Thanksgiving. We had excellent turnouts for our annual pumpkin carving and story walk event as well as our winter concert and community potluck. Inviting families back inside our building has been wonderful!

Brookfield Elementary School

Outdoor learning:

At Brookfield Elementary School we continue our commitment to outdoor education and our connection to nature. Beginning in our preK classroom, classes use the outdoors as a calming learning environment as well as a natural laboratory. Last spring we constructed a timber frame structure nestled against the north side of the pine windbreak which classes now use for outdoor learning in all seasons and weather.

Farm to School:

We provide opportunities for our students to make the vital connection between healthy farms, healthy foods and healthy communities. We already have raised beds that are planted by fourth grade students and have plans to increase the number of them, so more classes can participate. Students have participated in preparation and taste-testing of local foods in collaboration with our farm to school coordinators and will continue with a monthly schedule. It is always fun to watch them prepare and enjoy these foods.

After School Program:

Our after school program provides a safe and nurturing environment for students who need a place to be after school. The Arts Bus comes weekly to provide enriching opportunities for participants. The program which serves one-third of our students is at capacity.

School Club:

Our parent organization has re-formed and seeks greater participation from families. They have sponsored a bake sale on Election Day and put on a successful movie night that was well attended. They have scheduled a bonfire evening in January to bring families together.

Randolph Elementary

Student Leaders: Our students at Randolph Elementary continue their work on learning what it means to be a leader this year through our new Social Emotional curriculum called Leader In Me. This curriculum centers around teaching the seven habits of highly effective people (which are highlighted in blue for your reference). Students are focusing on how they can be proactive and make choices in an insightful manner rather than a reactive way. Classes are learning to choose goals and set targets for themselves within their social and academic

life by beginning with the end in mind. Prioritization of tasks is taught within classrooms by putting first things first - students decide what they need to do first, second, third, etc., in order to make progress on or achieve their goals. Students are also learning to work together by thinking of win-win scenarios, meaning individuals involved in a problem work together towards a compromise where everyone wins rather than someone having to lose. Another skill promoted within the classrooms is to “seek first to understand, then to be understood,” meaning students are practicing actively listening to one another and then sharing their thoughts on an idea. The next skill that is developed is to synergize, where students collaborate and incorporate individual ideas to create something even bigger and better.

Finally, students are taught and modeled the importance of “sharpening the saw,” discussion and practice around living healthy and balanced lives, physically, mentally and emotionally. Through this development of leadership skills, students are learning to set academic and personal goals and how to embark on the steps it takes towards achieving or revising these goals. This life-long critical skill is fostered through this learning and opportunities around our school. Students can apply for a variety of leadership positions within the school and are given opportunities to help others within our school community. From helping the kindergarteners pack up at the end of the day to helping with the care of our school garden to helping plan school wide assemblies, our student leaders work together to apply these skills on a regular basis within their positions at school. We are excited to see the growth in our students throughout this process and the teaching of this new curriculum.

PBIS Targeted Interventions: Our school has focused for many years on Universal PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). Students are taught what it means to respect themselves, respect others, and respect the environment in each setting within the school and children earn tokens for following these expectations. This year, we added targeted support for some of our students who are struggling with these three areas. A team of teachers and staff work to set clear goals, create interventions for behavior and monitor the progress of the interventions for students who need them. These new target supports have made a positive impact for our students to increase their access to learning within our school.

CLiF Year of the Book- We are excited we received a \$25,000 grant for our first through sixth grade through the Children’s Literacy Foundation. With this grant, students meet authors, are exposed to new books, and learn about the process of writing a book to inspire the young writers in our school. The grant has allowed for authors and storytellers like Duncan McDougall and James Arnosky to come and present to our students and for students to select a free book to take home each month.

Since our kindergarten and prekindergarten grades are not included within the Year of the Book grant, Randolph Elementary School applied for and received an early literacy grant that allows for books to go home with our youngest students six times a year. We are so thankful for these opportunities to provide more reading material to our students as well as have authors come and present their paths towards becoming an author.

From the Principals:

Dear Randolph Union School Community,

It is our privilege to have the opportunity to share with you all of the wonderful things that are happening at your local middle and high school; we feel very fortunate that we get the chance to share these details with you every year and in anticipation of Town Meeting Day. We continue to be so inspired by this resilient, caring community, and the students who we have the privilege of working with every day. In the following report, you will find information about the various areas of focus that have been maintaining our attention throughout this year and last. While we could not possibly relay everything we have been working on, as that content could fill a novel, we have done our best to feature some of the most relevant information for your knowledge and review, with a particular emphasis upon some of the efforts we have made to attend to the learning needs of our students as a result of the ongoing pandemic, which has necessitated innovation, adaptation, and flexibility on the part of both students and faculty alike.

To provide some context, Randolph Union consists of a middle and high school, grades 7-12, that hovers around 375 to 400 students. While most of our students come from our three sending towns of Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph, every year students and families from neighboring towns in Vermont have the opportunity to engage in a school choice lottery, and this year, 22 families from 8 towns, including Stockbridge, Tunbridge, Hancock, and Chelsea, have selected Randolph Union as their middle and high school.

There are many reasons why families choose to send their students to us at Randolph Union, and why we feel so proud to represent this caring and vibrant school community:

Co-curricular Opportunities

For a school of our size, we offer an incredible bounty of co-curricular opportunities for our students. Students can choose to participate in 11 different options for athletics, including wrestling, gymnastics, bowling, bass fishing, and track and field, with co-op opportunities for other sports we do not host through RU, such as ice hockey; students have access to an equal number of clubs, including poetry, Manga & Anime, robotics, and cooking, as well as leadership opportunities on our Captain's Council and Campus Life Committee. Our new Athletics and Activities Director, Nick Bent, reports that currently about half of our students take part in a co-curricular activity, and his goal is to increase student participation to 55% by the Fall of 2023, and to continue to work toward providing more options for students to grow these programs and increase student participation and engagement.

Career Education and Flexible Pathways

This year, Jason Finley joined RUHS as the Director of Career Education and Flexible Pathways. In this role, he hopes to help students explore career education and flexible pathways as a means to making better-informed decisions about their aspirations and goals.

Currently, Mr. Finley is working with students to support internships, such as at Applied Research Associates, a local scientific research and engineering company with a focus on addressing safety and national security, where a student is developing CAD and engineering skills using SolidWorks. Other students he works with are working towards high-demand, high-pay careers in healthcare, such as through enrollment in Gifford Health Care's Medical Assistant Training Program, which is a 14-week training program where students spend half the day in a classroom setting led by Gifford staff and the remainder of the day in supervised clinical training in primary care and surgical clinics. Students enrolled in this program are paid full-time employees for the duration of the program and at the end of the training and after passing the national exam will be Certified Medical Assistants and guaranteed a job at Gifford!

Another high-demand career path that RU students are exploring with Mr. Finley is in the area of Early Childhood Education. Mr. Finley and school counselor Beverly Taft recently helped students explore this career path through a social mixer with educators in PreK through Middle School as well as from Capstone Community Action's Head Start, Montessori School of Central Vermont, and the Turtle Island Children's Center. This event was followed by a session learning about postsecondary education and professional development opportunities through the Community College of Vermont, Aspirations with Northern Lights, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children, and learning about the financial support available through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. Like most of Mr. Finley's work, a key component of the day was to help students understand the intersection of career and education pathways. Next semester we are excited to announce that Mr. Finley will also be offering, through the Community College of Vermont, a free 3 credit college course at RU. Students participating in CCV's INT-1520: Exploratory Workplace Experience course will be exploring careers, practicing professional communications, and making connections between classroom learning and a career-based field study.

We look forward to seeing more career education woven throughout our school as well as the exciting ways students are personalizing their education through RU's flexible pathways!

Advanced Placement Courses and Standardized Assessments

Randolph Union offers a large selection of Advanced Placement courses for a school of its size. This year we are offering Calculus, Computer Science Principles, Literature and Composition, French Language and Culture, Physics, and United States History, and in alternating and previous years we have also offered Biology, Language and Composition, and World History. We encourage any student who wants to take an Advanced Placement course to take it and we do not have prerequisites; this is important to us in encouraging all students to strive for academic excellence at RU.

Last year, around 40% of the students who sat for an Advanced Placement exam at RU received a "passing" score of a "3" or higher, which allows a student to fill a prerequisite at most colleges and universities that they may apply to for their postsecondary study; this includes 55% of our students enrolled in Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles, 53% of students enrolled in

Advanced Placement Language and Composition, and 100% of students who were enrolled in Advanced Placement World History.

As far as standardized assessments are concerned, this Fall's "Star" assessment data, which maps to the state's standardized assessments, indicates that each grade level has at least 40% of students scoring "proficient" in reading and math, with the grade 9 cohort with the highest proficiency rate of 63% in math.

The state is currently rolling out a new standardized assessment this year to replace the former SBAC called "Cognia", and we will resume a similar testing schedule as we have in the past and will report those results as we receive them.

Project- Based Learning and Community Partnerships

RU's Project-Based Learning program is intended to prepare our students for their postsecondary pursuits by providing them with exposure to authentic and relevant problem-solving experiences to further develop the transferable skills that our community partners have highlighted as being vital to prepare students for work and study beyond high school. This work includes opportunities for on-site field work with our community partners. This year, RUHS is offering five Project-Based Learning courses: Yearbook PBL, Interact PBL, Digital Music PBL, Racial Justice PBL, and Mindfulness and Movement PBL.

Across these classes, students and lead teacher partners pursue authentic and engaging learning experiences employing the Core Elements of Project-Based Learning: Personalizing Learning, Keeping It Real, Engaging Experts, Engaging Emotions, Igniting Inquiry, Showcasing Success, Infusing the Arts, Gamifying, Fostering Design Thinking, Teaching/Learning Across Disciplines, Empowering The Team, and Reimagining The Classroom.

The Interact PBL has already partnered with experts at the Red Cross to offer a blood drive in the RUHS gymnasium. The Yearbook PBL seeks to showcase success by creating a stunning, professional and polished yearbook. Digital Music PBL personalizes learning through skill-building in creating personalized ring tones. The Racial Justice PBL has reimagined the classroom by attending the Day of Racial Justice on the State House lawn, as well as participating in an evening listening session at Kimball Library. Mindfulness and Movement engages the emotions through daily mindfulness activities, journaling, and collaborative group work focused on improving student wellness across the building.

Two primary goals focus our work moving forward: the first goal is to pursue opportunities for high quality exhibitions of learning for an authentic audience by the end of the year. The second goal is to reestablish a PBL Advisory Board made up of a diverse group of students, teachers and local community members to brainstorm, collaborate, and expand upon project-based learning opportunities already offered at RUHS.

Mathematics & STEM

RU's mathematics/STEM department has been working to re-adopt the newest edition of the award-winning Carnegie Learning Math program. This year, our

district grade 6 classrooms have joined the RU continuum so as to help students bridge the transition from elementary to middle school. This now offers our students a fully aligned integrated mathematics Common Core State Standards (CCSS) curriculum from grades 6 to 12, with Computer Science, Robotics, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Math For Everyday Life, and Innovation Center courses as program offerings for extensions.

Our instructors have participated in program specific implementation training throughout the year, as well as meeting in team collaborations for materials use and assessment analysis. The Carnegie Learning company trainer will be on-site in our classrooms in the Spring, and continues to be available for troubleshooting and advice as it is needed. This program meets the CCSS expectations for rigor and mathematical practices by utilizing tasks that are aligned to real world situations and by supporting foundational content through multiple formats.

RU has also continued our work to enhance STEM opportunities by expanding our Robotics offering in Middle School with Tom Zani, and fielding a Robotics Team, coached by Tim Moynihan.

Student Services: Support, College Exploration & Graduate Data

At Randolph Union, we have a department mission to create universal social emotional support by pushing into classrooms and co-teaching specific units with classroom teachers. Last year, Beverly Taft co-taught a unit within the US History course during an economics unit. Beverly led classes that looked at cost of living, level of education, and projected incomes along with how to be an informed consumer. Additionally, Kara Merrill co-taught a unit with Angela Bauer in English 9. As students read the book *Speak*, Kara used the SAFE-T curriculum from Prevent Child Abuse Vermont. This seven-week unit that includes the topics of consent and sexual abuse fulfills the school's responsibility laid out in Act 1, a bill passed in the legislature in 2009. Student Services will continue co-teaching these classes, with the intention to add more co-teaching across more grade levels in the coming years.

Martha Gold, our licensed mental-health counselor, currently offers specific therapeutic work to targeted students. The student services department works hard to prioritize students whose families might not have the resources to engage in outside mental health services. Therefore, she offers two different small groups, she meets for individual therapy with 25 students, and she offers drop in support and Act 264 coordination for the school.

Student Services at RU has long been an exemplar across the state in terms of the college exploration process. Research indicates that one of the best ways to inspire students to apply and matriculate to college is to bring them onto college campuses. Prior to the pandemic, Student Services coordinated one visit per year for each grade level. Unfortunately, COVID greatly impacted the ability of our department to access college campuses over the last two and a half years. However, we were able to once again take our juniors to visit Northeastern University and Suffolk University last May. Furthermore, we anticipate being able to bring our grade 8 students to Vermont State University, Johnson, our grade 9 students to a CCV access day, our grade 10 students to the University of Vermont, and our grade 11 students on a trip to explore college campuses in

Boston. Lastly, this will be the first year that we will be able to help seniors attend school-specific instant decision days.

With a 5-year average graduation rate of 95%, RU continues to graduate students well above the statewide average of 85%. Just about half of our senior students attend a 2 or 4 year college upon graduation, with 15% taking a gap year to pursue college the following year, and 30% entering the workforce or an apprenticeship. Some of the colleges and universities our students are attending after graduating from RU include Middlebury College, University of Vermont, Vermont Technical College, Northern Vermont University, Castleton University, The New School, University of Colorado, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Villanova, University of Montana, Montana State University, St. Lawrence University, UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, University of New England, Skidmore College, Sarah Lawrence University, Champlain College, Northeastern University, University of Maine at Farmington, Norwich University, and Parsons School of Design in NYC.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you some of the amazing work happening at RU. We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our colleagues, who earnestly strive to provide the best possible educational experiences for our students, as well as the support of our nursing staff, technology, maintenance, transportation, and food services departments, who are instrumental in providing us with the support we need to provide our students with incredible resources and expertise.

Finally, we wish to thank you, the Randolph Union school community, for your unwavering support throughout these most challenging years; years that have consisted of tremendous adversity as we continue to face the repercussions of the ongoing pandemic. So many of you have generously donated your time and expertise on behalf of our students; we are deeply grateful to you, and deeply fortunate to work in service of this community.

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students,
Cathy Sutton & Lisa Floyd, RU Co-Principals

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Return Receipt Requested