

January 1 - December 31,

2003

Brookline

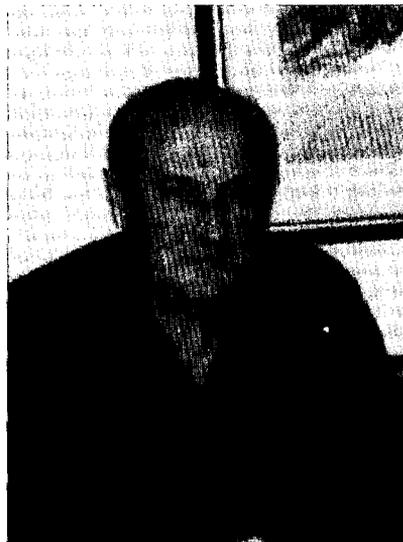
ANNUAL REPORT



Thank you

In 1978 Chris & Priscilla Ballou moved to Brookline, purchasing the old Smillie Farm. From that moment on Chris started helping and working for the Town of Brookline. Helping to make Brookline a Town people enjoy living in and proud to call home. He still mows the "Town Common" and had mowed the Town Office up until a few years ago. This last summer he could be seen out trimming the trees in front of the Town Office. Chris runs things by the book and the welfare of the Town always comes first.

Chris joined the Board of Selectmen in 1982, becoming Chair of the Board in 1984. He helped start Windham County Solid Waste, and has been on the Board since 1988. In 1983 joined the Board of Windham Regional Commission. In 1990 Chris first introduced the Community Development Grant now known as the Brookline Housing Rehab Program. Chris is Brookline's E-911 coordinator and still is the one to assign E-911 numbers to new homes.



When Bridge 19 started showing its age Chris contacted the State and when the river started eroding and threatening the road on Grassy Brook Road by the Sheil's house Chris again contacted the state for assistance. Chris is still in contact with the state on both projects and will continue to follow the projects as long as his health allows.

Chris's parents both came from Chester, VT and he went to school in Chester. Chris is a true Vermonter and has Brookline at heart when dealing with the state on the Town's projects.

Before Chris decided to run for this last term he asked Priscilla for some guidance. Her answer "You'd better run again because if you don't you will drive me crazy". Good advice Priscilla, it gave the Town three more years under Chris's guidance and for him to share his knowledge with the Board.

We all wish Chris well in his "Retirement." As much as he will be missed at the Selectboard Meetings, we know he will be there guiding us through the Bridge 19 and West River Erosion Projects.

Christopher Ballou!

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GENERAL TOWN INFORMATION

Town Office

Hours: Mondays, 9:00-2:00pm
Or by appointment
Telephone: (802) 365-4648

Meetings

Selectmen's Meeting: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Town Office - 7:00 pm
Planning Commission: 1st & 3rd Thursday
Town Office 7:30pm
Recreation Committee: 1st Monday
School Library 7:00pm

School

Telephone: (802) 365-7552
School Board: 2nd Wednesday
School Library 5:30pm

Riverside Cemetery:

Current cost is \$200.00 per space. Contact the Cemetery Commission for more information.

Health and Sewage Disposal Ordinance:

Details are on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Ownership:

Dogs and wolf-hybrids six (6) months or older must be licensed by April 1, 2004. A Rabies Clinic will be held at the New Brook Fire House March 13, 2004 10:00am-1:00pm.

Neutered dog or wolf-hybrid \$5.00

Unneutered dog or wolf-hybrid \$9.00

(\$1.00 goes to the State Rabies Control)

Highway Regulations:

Details are on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

LandFill:

Access permits available at the District scale house for \$10.00.

Fire/Rescue:

1-603-352-1100 or 9-1-1

TOWN OFFICERS-ELECTED

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator	David Parker Jr.	2004
Town Clerk	Penny Harrington	2004
Treasurer	Penny Harrington	2004
Delinquent Tax Collector	Penny Harrington	2004
Selectboard	Christopher Ballou	2004
	Joyce Meehl	2005
	Nelson Fountaine	2006
Listers	Ralph Sherman	2004
	Marsha Omand	2005
	Penny Harrington	2006
Auditors	Sheila Davis	2004
	Lisa Chabot	2005
	Daniel Meehl	2006
School Directors	Kim Ellison	2004
	Tom Staats	2005
	Gabriel Smith	2006
LGUHS School Director	John Reinhardt	2005
Cemetery Commissioners	Eloise Winot	2004
	Cynthia Nau	2005
	Howard Osgood	2006
	Wayne Winot	2007
	John Morrison	2008
First Constable		2004
Second Constable		
Trustee of Public Funds	Penny Harrington	2004
Town Agent	Lester D Rink	2004
Town Grand Juror	Lester D Rink	2004
Town Representatives	Mike Obuhouski	2004
	Carolyn Partridge	2004
Justice of the Peace	Kim Ellison	2004
	Cynthia Nau	2004
	Pamela Swing	2004
	James Walsh	2004
	Arthur Wellman	2004

TOWN OFFICERS-APPOINTED

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Assistant Town Clerk	Kendra Brooks	2004
	Sandra Sherman	2004
Assistant Treasurer	Kendra Brooks	2004
Road Commissioners	Selectboard	
Health Officer	John Morrison	
Assistant Health Officer	James Walsh	
Fire Warden	Lester D Rink	
Town Service Officer	Betty Wellman	
Fence Viewers	Lester D Rink	
	Lester Allbee	
	Maynard Bush	
Surveyor Of Wood & Lumber	Lester D Rink	
Tree Warden	Lester D Rink	
Windham Regional Commissioners	Christopher Ballou	
	Johnny Swing	
Civil Defense Chairman	Christopher Ballou	
Pound Keeper	VT/NH Vet Clinic	
Historical Society	Arthur Wellman	
	Lisa Chabot	
	Cynthia Nau	
	Roger Poitrus	
	William Staats III	
SEVCA		
WCSWMD (landfill)	Christopher Ballou	
Planning Commission	Archie Clark	2004
	Gene Horton	2005
	Cynthia Nau	2005
	Pamela Swing	2006
	Sharon Tierra	2006

TOWN & HIGHWAY PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2004

Total requested to be raised by taxation	
Expenditures	\$123,451.00
Anticipated Revenue	(60,700.00)
Prior Year Surplus	(21,000.00)
	\$41,751.00
Expenditures (see right for details*)	
Town	36,796.00
Highway	86,655.00
	\$123,451.00
Anticipated Revenue	
Town	24,600.00
Highway	36,100.00
	\$60,700.00
Prior Year Surplus	
Applied	\$21,000.00

*Town Operating Funds	Proposed 2004
Town Officers	
Payroll	\$10,500
Payroll taxes	1,224
Supplies/Postage	5,800
Dues	
VLCT	585
WRC	649
Insurance/Bonds	2,113
Seminars	600
County Tax	3,529
Lawn Care	
Town Property	480
Old Cemeteries	210
Landfill Fees	3,502
Town Office	
Electric	300
Telephone	490
Fuel	850
Sheriffs Patrol	2,500
Legal Services	500
Legal Notices	450
Copier	
Copies	550
Contract	1,464
Misc.	500
Highway Fund	
Summer Maintenance	
Payroll	5,500
Services/Labor	8,000
Materials	9,000
Winter Maintenance	
Contracted Services/Labor	24,500
Materials	11,000
General Road	
Culverts	1,000
Road Signs/Misc.	200
Labor	1,000
Mowing	675
Grader	
Diesel	550
Town Shed	
Electric	230
Retreatment	
Pavement/Lines Contract	25,000

TOWN MEETING MINUTES - 2003

On March 4, 2003 at 10:02 a.m., Moderator David Parker Jr. called the voters to order at the Brookline School Multipurpose Room for the Annual Town Meeting.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator.

David Parker Jr. was nominated. This position was uncontested and David Parker Jr. was elected by voice vote for a 1-year term.

Article 2: To elect a Town Clerk.

Penny Harrington was nominated. This position was uncontested and Penny Harrington was elected by voice vote for a 1-year term.

Article 3: To elect a Town Treasurer.

Penny Harrington was nominated. This position was uncontested and Penny Harrington was elected by voice vote for a term of 1 year.

Article 4: To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector.

Penny Harrington was nominated. This position was uncontested and Penny Harrington was elected by voice vote for a term of 1 year.

Article 5: To elect all other officers required by law.

Selectboard: Nelson Fontaine 3 year term
 Listers: Penny Harrington 3 year term
 Marsha Omand 2 year term
 Ralph Sherman 1 year term

(Courtney Nau thanked Stanley Noga for all his hard work on the Board of Listers)

Auditors: Daniel Meehl 3 year term
 Lisa Chabot 2 year term

Cemetery

Commissioner: John Morrisson 5 year term

1st Constable: Mike Winot withdrew, Archie Clark nominated and declined, Courtney Nau nominated and declined, Bruce Cutts nominated and declined. Motion made to have the SelectBoard appoint a 1st constable.

2nd Constable: Selectboard will appoint.

Trustee of Public Funds: Penny Harrington

Town Agent: Lester D Rink

Town Juror: Lester D Rink

Article 6: To see if the Town will accept the Auditors Report.

The Auditors report was accepted by voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the Town vote the sum of \$4,917.00 in continuing support of the following organizations.

Morningside Shelter	\$100
Women's Crisis Center	550
Windham Regional Commission Dues	649
Visiting Nurse Alliance	760
Vermont Center for Independent Living	80
R.S.V.P.	150
Youth Services	255
Vt League of Cities & Towns	563
Valley Health Council	724
George D. Aiken RC&D	50
Windham Historical Society	250
United Way Get Info (Helpline)	175
Grace Cottage Foundation	300
Brattleboro Area Drop-In	100
Council on Aging	265
	\$4971

It was noted that the amount is \$4971.00 not the \$4917.00 stated in Article 7. It was then passed by a voice vote.

Article 8: Shall the Town vote the sum of \$465 to support Southeastern VT Community Action, in (SEVCA)?

Chris spoke on SEVCA. David pointed out that there was an article in the back of the Town Report and read the excerpt on SEVCA. The Article was then passed by a voice vote.

Article 9: Shall the Town vote the sum of \$6000.00 for the support of NewBrook Fire Association?

Courtney made a motion to amend the amount to \$6500.00. Jim Rogers seconded it. Archie Clark spoke on behalf of the Department and invited everyone to a Fire Safety night to be held in March. The amendment passed by a voice vote. Then the article passed by a voice vote.

Article 10: *To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise by taxation to defray other Town expenses. (See Town Operating Funds).*

Chris spoke that the amount to be raised was \$66,850. He stated that the amount in 1999 was \$73,000.00. Since then the Towns budget went down due to school budgets and the amount being asked for this year is a small increase.

After a lengthy discussion on Bridge 19 Jim Rogers asked to address the Article. Made an amendment to level fund at \$51,500.00. Courtney Nau seconded. The amendment failed by voice vote. The question was read again to raise \$68,500.00 by taxation. Paper ballot was requested.

Yes - 84

No - 19

The budget was passed.

Article 11: *On what date or dates shall the Town taxes be paid.*

Penny Harrington made a motion to pay the taxes on Sept 1 and Nov 1. After much discussion and amendment was made to pay taxes on Mar 1 and Sept 1. The amendment was defeated by voice vote. An amendment was made to pay taxes on Sept and Dec 1. Hand vote Amendment was defeated. A voice vote passed to pay taxes on Sept 1 and Nov 1.

Article 12: *Shall the Town support the following resolution:*

“Be it resolved that the citizens of Brookline urgently call upon our municipal leaders, state legislators, Governor and congressional delegation to put Vermont in the forefront of a sustainable energy future. Specifically, we request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont homes, businesses, public buildings and transportation system, and to encourage expansion of the renewable energy industry in the State of Vermont.”

Lori Greenburg spoke on the resolution. After some discussion the Article passed by voice vote.

Article 13: *Shall the Town support the following resolution:*

“Be it resolved that the voters request the Legislature of the State of Vermont take action immediately to bar the relicensing of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station whose current license expires in 2012; to bar the licensing of any other nuclear generating station in the State of Vermont and to proceed forthwith implementing a state energy plan that relies upon renewable energy sources to supply Vermont’s energy needs.”

Sharon Tierra moved the Article. Paper Ballot was requested. The article was defeated.

Yes - 47

No - 53

At 12:45 we adjourned for lunch.

Article 14: *To transact any other business that may legally brought before this meeting.*

After saying the Pledge of Allegiance, Cynthia Nau spoke on the upcoming Developmental Review By-law vote that was coming up. Tom Staats asked about another informational meeting. Diana Bander asked if an informational meeting could be held on a weekend. There was a show of hands for another informational meeting to be held. A show of hands:

Yes - 21

No - 25

Cynthia Nau invited everyone to the next Planning Commission meeting that was being held on March 6, 2003 at the Town Office.

The Town Meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Michael Obuchowski & Carolyn Partridge, House Representatives for the District spoke about Bridge 19. If all goes well the temporary bridge will be in the summer. They also spoke on health care issues, Act 60 and the sharing pool.

The School Meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

Article 1: *To elect a Moderator and Treasurer, as required by law.*

David Parker was nominated and elected by voice vote. Lisa Rucker was nominated and elected by voice

TOWN MEETING MINUTES - 2003 (cont.)

Article 2: *To elect a Town School District Director for a term of three years, as requires by law.*

Gabriel Smith was nominated. Kim Ellison nominated and declined. Gene Horton was nominated. Paper Ballot was requested.

Gabriel Smith - 39

Gene Horton - 28

Gabriel Smith elected to the 3-year term

Article 3: *To elect a Town School District Director for the remaining one year of an unexpired 3-year term, as required by law.*

Gene Horton nominated and declined. Kim Ellison nominated. Kim Ellison elected by voice vote.

Article 4: *To see what sum of money the School District will vote for Elementary Board business.*

Motion was made to raise \$639,056.00 for Elementary business. After discussion on the EEE budget, capital improvements, and the overall budget the motion passed by Paper ballot:

67 for

8 against

Article 5: *To authorize the School Directors to accept any donations of lands, gifts or monies for school use.*

Article passed by voice vote.

Article 6: *To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.*

Cynthia Nau thanked the School Board. Norman Solomon spoke on the Australian ballot petition that had been presented to the School board to call a special meeting.

Deborah Leggott, principal of the Elementary school spoke on the changes and the future of Brookline School.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously passed on voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Penny Harrington

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Brookline are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Multipurpose Room of the Brookline School in the said town of Brookline on Tuesday, the second of March 2004 at 10:00 in the forenoon to transact the following business:

Article 1. *To elect a Moderator.*

Article 2. *To elect a Town Clerk.*

Article 3. *To elect a Town Treasurer.*

Article 4. *To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector.*

Article 5. *To elect all other officers required by law.*

Article 6. *Shall the Town accept the Auditor's Report?*

Article 7. *To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise by taxation to defray Town Expenses ? (see Town Operating Funds)*

Article 8. *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$13,600.00 to pay for the Town's share of the West River Erosion Project?*

Article 9. *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$4274.00 in continuing support of the following organizations?*

Organization	2003 Approved	2004 Requested	2004 Proposed
Morningside Emergency Shelter	\$100	\$100	\$100
Women's Crisis Center	550	600	600
Visiting Nurse Alliance	760	760	760
Vt. Center for Independent Living	80	80	80
R.S.V.P.	150	150	150
Youth Services	255	255	255
Valley Health Council	724	724	724
George D. Aiken RC+D	50	50	50
Windham Historical Society	250	250	250
United Way Get Info	175	175	175
Grace Cottage Foundation	300	300	300
Brattleboro Area Drop-in Center	100	100	100
Council on Aging	265	265	265
SEVCA	465	465	465

Article 10. *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$200.00 Windham County Reads programs?*

Article 11. *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$50.00 for the support of Green Up Vermont?*

Article 12. *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$100.00 for the support of the Connecticut River Transit, Inc.?*

Article 13. *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$5,000.00 for support of the NewBrook Fire Association?*

Article 14. *Shall the town vote the sum of \$6,000.00 for the Brookline Historical Society for the restoration of the Brookline Round School House?*

Article 15. *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$2,500.00 for the Planning Commission expenses?*

Article 16. *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed in the existing Reappraisal Fund?*

Article 17. *Shall the Town support the following resolution:*

"Whereas the rising cost of health insurance is placing an increasingly unsupportable burden on town and school budgets, the voters of the Town of Brookline call upon the Selectboard, the Governor and our State Legislators to support and actively work for the creation of a UNIVERSAL AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM which is publicly financed and accountable to the citizens of Vermont, and which will reduce costs by eliminating most current administrative expenses?"

Article 18. *To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.*

Dated this 23rd day of January 2004.

Christopher Ballou

Nelson Fontaine

Joyce Meehl

WARNING FOR ANNUAL BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The legal voters of the Town of Brookline, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the School Multi-Purpose room in said Town on Tuesday, the 2nd day of March 2004 at 11 o'clock am to consider and act upon the following articles:

Article 1: *To elect a Moderator and Treasurer, as required by law.*

Article 2: *To elect a Town School District Director for a term of three years, as required by law.*

Article 3: *Shall the town vote to exempt the Brookline School District from the state requirement to operate either the school lunch program or the school breakfast program, or both, for a year.*

Article 4: *To see what sum of money the School District will vote for the Elementary School Board business.*

Article 5: *To authorize the School Directors to accept any donations of lands, gifts or monies for school use.*

Article 6: *To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.*

Dated this 23rd of January 2004.

Thomas Staats

Kim Ellison

Gabriel Smith



2003 Thanksgiving Dinner



SELECTBOARD'S REPORT

This past year has been a fairly quiet one for the Board and for the Town as a whole. Two major projects have been started but will not be completed until the end of 2004. These are the rehabilitation of Bridge 19 over the West River and the erosion control work along the west bank of the river downstream of the bridge which is being done by the State using Federal Emergency Management funds.

Renaud Bros, Inc. of Vernon was awarded the bid for the bridge rehabilitation, and they promised the temporary bridge would be put in by 3 November '03 (which they did) and the fully rehabbed original bridge by early November '04. We expect they will meet their deadline.

The erosion control project is more complicated, largely because there are so many irons in the fire - the Federal Government and many State organizations. There have been several State inspections of the river bank and the river bottom to see if endanger species and plants may be damaged. The engineers recently have advised the Board that they now have a plan which they will run by Nicholas Mercede for his approval (since he owns the narrow strip of land between the river and Grassy Brook Road). If he approves, they will start work sometime this coming summer and should be through by fall. The Town has a substantial Federal grant for this which will take care of 3/4 of these costs if the project stays under its ceiling.

The Town's grader, a Huber, which was purchased many years ago from army surplus, began acting up in February with brake failure. It is no longer being made and parts are very difficult to find. By late summer its failings had increased to the point where it could only be safely used on flat surfaces. The board decided that if it wanted to keep the Town's gravel roads in usable shape, a replacement would be required, and after considerable search through a reputable company the Town located a John Deere of younger vintage which much better meets the town's needs. We expect the sale of the Huber will reduce the cost of

the John Deere to approximately \$17,000.

As many of you know, the Planning Commission labored hard to put together a Development Review Bylaw which would provide a limited degree of control over development in the town. The Board put the bylaw to the Town for the required vote by Australian ballot where it was voted down by a large majority.

In late summer the Board passed a Flood Hazard Ordinance which it hoped would pave the way for the Town to join the National Flood Hazard Insurance Program which, in turn, would permit Brookline residents to buy flood insurance for their homes. The State has since advised us that the process we followed was flawed. They insisted that the Planning Commission would have to start the process and then pass it to the Selectboard which would hold its own hearings and then submit it to the town for a decision by Australian ballot. We have begun that process.

As you may have noticed, town road signs have been evaporating and then reappearing fairly frequently around town. In fact, they have been stolen and have had to be replaced, sometimes with purchased ones and sometimes with home-made ones. The Board has been dealing with the Sheriff's Office and we expect to see a reduction in this problem.

Nelson, working with Archie Clark, is in the process of cataloging bridges and culverts of all our town roads. This data, together with other information, will help to reduce the town's share of road maintenance and repair costs.

Once again the Board wishes to thank those town officers who are stepping down from their various positions for the hours and energy they have spent in service to this town; their contributions are recognized and much appreciated by all who live here.

TAX ANALYSIS

Taxes voted on Grand Lists of 295887.26

	2003	2003	2002
State Education Tax	1.28	52%	53%
Local Education Tax	0.93	37%	37%
Town Tax	0.13	5%	5%
Highway Tax	0.14	6%	5%
	\$2.48	100%	100%

Grandlist of 295887.26 x 2.48 = 733800.38

AUDITOR'S REPORT

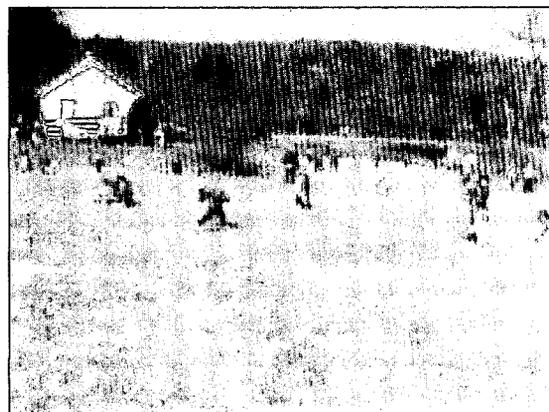
To the best of our knowledge, the books, supporting vouchers and orders of the Town for the year ending December 31, 2003 that we have examined are accurate.

This year we have changed the format of the town report from the smaller version of the 2002 book, to the larger size of this years book. Our goal is to provide a cleaner look, specifically for the financial reports and budgets. This was done at no extra cost.

Daniel C. Meehl

Sheila Davis

Lisa Chabot



2003 Easter Egg Hunt

LISTER'S REPORT

Ralph Sherman - Chairman
Marsha Omand - Clerk
Penny Harrington - Lister

Since last year elections we've been pretty busy. New homes as well as some homes that have been improved upon have been visited and brought up to date. The process by which these properties are brought up to date is the same process used in the past. The homes are measured and it's back to the town office to come up with assessed value.

On June 13th, 2003 Town Grievance was held and open to any Brookline resident, this went very well with only one resident with concerns.

The meeting with Terry Gildersleeve from the state was very helpful and informative.

Like neighboring towns we are preparing for town wide reappraisal. The last town wide reappraisal was in 1988. This reappraisal is imperative for fairness for all resident taxpayers.

All residents who were visited this year were very gracious and receptive.

Thank you,
The Listers.

2003 TOWN ACCOUNT

BALANCE-JANUARY 1,2003		\$109,826.04
PETTY CASH	\$20.00	
RECEIPTS IN 2003		
2003 TAXES	\$712,431.15	
DELINQUENT TAXES	\$29,655.82	
PENALTIES	\$5,609.41	
INTEREST-TAXES	\$7,180.18	
CIVIL FINES	\$216.00	
CURRENT USE	\$3,565.00	
COPIES	\$1,100.07	
DOG LICENSE FEES	\$736.00	
GREEN MOUNTAIN PASSPORTS	\$2.00	
HEALTH ORDINANCE FEES	\$175.00	
USA-DECONTE	\$223.00	
FISHING/HUNTING FEES	\$988.00	
MARRIAGE/CIVIL UNION LICENSE	\$53.00	
TAX SALE	\$31,500.00	
TOWN CLERK FEES	\$6,731.00	
TOWN-MONEY MARKET	\$855.37	
TOWNACCOUNT	\$26.99	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$801,047.99
LESS DISBURSMENTS		\$826,276.50
BALANCE DECEMBER 31 2003		\$84,597.53
PETTY CASH DECEMBER 31 2003		\$20.00

2003 TOWN ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES

SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$654,162.00	
HIGHWAY ACCOUNT-2002	\$12,984.57	
HIGHWAY ACCOUNT	\$65,500.00	
JD GRADER	\$19,000.00	
TAX SALE	\$31,500.00	
SHERIFF PATROL	\$1,695.40	
COUNTY TAX	\$3,529.49	
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$10,724.00	
DOG LICENSES	\$120.00	
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$1,212.00	
HUNTING & FISHING	\$857.50	
MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES	\$30.00	
INSURANCES		
TOWN OFFICERS BOND	\$100.00	
WORKER'S COMP	\$43.40	
LANDFILL FEES	\$3,025.48	
OVERPAYMENT IN TAXES	\$173.37	
PAYROLL EXPENSES	\$1,208.72	
TOWN OFFICERS		
AUDITORS		
FEES	\$346.00	
POSTAGE	\$230.98	
SUPPLIES	\$28.46	
BOOK	\$1,375.00	\$1,980.44
LISTERS		
FEES	\$1,775.25	
SEMINARS	\$360.00	
POSTAGE	\$56.05	
MILEAGE	134.28	\$2,325.58
FIRE WARDEN FEES	\$59.25	
HEALTH OFFICER FEES	\$168.00	
MODERATOR		
SEMINAR	\$73.00	
MILEAGE	\$84.24	\$157.24
PLANNING COMMISSION		
SEMINARS	\$70.00	
SUPPLIES	\$12.00	\$82.00
SELECTBOARD		
FEES	\$650.00	
LEGAL NOTICES	\$470.58	\$1,120.58
TOWN CLERK		
FEES	\$4,464.00	
POSTAGE	\$250.71	
SUPPLIES	\$1,752.62	\$6,467.33
TREASURER		
FEES	\$1,776.00	
POSTAGE	\$111.00	
SUPPLIES	\$120.00	\$2,007.00
DEL. TAX COLLECTOR		
FEES	\$738.00	
POSTAGE	\$50.26	
SEMINAR	\$150.00	\$938.26
ASST. TOWN CLERKS		
FEES	\$570.50	
TOWN OFFICE EXPENSES		
FUEL	\$833.96	
ELECTRIC	\$303.41	
TELEPHONE	\$490.41	
SUPPLIES	\$78.00	
COPIER CONTRACT	\$1,464.00	
COPIES	\$552.96	
REPAIRS	\$39.65	
LAWN CARE	\$692.00	
ROUND SCHOOL HOUSE	\$80.00	
Total		\$826,276.50

HIGHWAY ACCOUNT

BALANCE JANUARY 1, 2003			
HIGHWAY FUND			\$3,314.00
RECEIPTS IN 2003			
STATE FUNDS		\$36,109.36	
ROAD WEIGHT PERMITS		\$60.00	
INTEREST		\$96.47	
TAXES		\$65,500.00	
2002 TAXES		\$12,984.57	\$114,750.40
SUBTOTAL			\$118,064.40
LESS DISBURSEMENTS IN 2003			\$113,343.74
BALANCE DECEMBER 31 2003			\$4,720.66
HIGHWAY EXPENSES			
PAYORDER 2002	\$3,015.43	\$3,015.43	
BRIDGE 19			
LABOR	\$796.50	\$796.50	
WINTER MAINTENANCE			
LABOR	\$23,781.00		
MATERIAL	\$11,159.65	\$35,030.65	
SUMMER MAINTENANCE			
ATHENS ROAD			
LABOR	\$1,320.00		
MATERIALS	\$6,716.50	\$8,036.50	
BENNETT ROAD			
LABOR	\$100.00	\$100.00	
ELLEN WARE ROAD			
LABOR	\$455.00		
MATERIALS	\$882.00	\$1,337.00	
GRASSY BROOK ROAD			
LABOR	\$675.00		
MATERIALS	\$119.00	\$794.00	
GREER ROAD			
LABOR	\$1,785.00		
MATERIAL	\$1,050.00	\$2,835.00	
HARRIS HILL			
LABOR	\$328.00		
MATERIAL	\$46.50	\$374.50	
HILL ROAD			
LABOR	\$990.00		
PAVING/LINES	\$41,048.40		
MATERIAL	\$181.00	\$42,219.40	
KIRSCH ROAD			
LABOR	\$25.00	\$25.00	
PAPOOSE LANE			
LABOR	\$25.00	\$25.00	
PARKER ROAD			
LABOR	\$545.00		
MATERIALS	\$171.50	\$716.50	
PUTNEY MTN ROAD			
LABOR	\$1,138.00	\$1,138.00	
WHITNEY HILL ROAD			
LABOR	\$722.50	\$722.50	
MOW ROADSIDES			
LABOR	\$675.00	\$675.00	
MATERIALS ON ROADS	\$4,828.81	\$4,482.81	
SEMINARS	\$40.00	\$40.00	
GENERAL ROAD			
CULVERTS	\$1,205.10		
ROAD SIGNS	\$363.91		
LABOR	\$1,070.00		
SUPPLIES	\$84.28	\$2,723.29	
GRADER			
PARTS	\$1,662.74		
DIESEL	\$505.93		
LABOR	\$544.00	\$2,712.6	
TOWN SHED			
ELECTRICITY	\$231.49	\$231.49	
PAYROLL	\$5,312.50	\$5,312.50	
Total Highway			\$113,343.74

BRIDGE 19 ACCOUNT

BALANCE JANUARY 1 2003	\$30,836.71
RECEIPTS IN 2003	
INTEREST	\$213.52
<hr/>	
BALANCE DECEMBER 31 2003	\$31,050.23

TOWN EMPLOYEES

		WAGES
TOWN CLERK	PENNY HARRINGTON	\$4664.00
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK	KENDRA BROOKS	374.50
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK	SANDRA SHERMAN	196.00
SELECTBOARD	JOYCE MEEHL	250.00
SELECTBOARD	CHRISTOPHER BALLOU	200.00
SELECTBOARD	NELSON FONTAINE	200.00
TOWN TREASURER	PENNY HARRINGTON	1776.00
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR	PENNY HARRINGTON	738.00
AUDITOR	DANIEL MEEHL	266.00
AUDITOR	SHEILA DAVIS	80.00
LISTERS	ROGER POITRUS-2002	70.00
	STANLEY NOGA-2002	176.75
	MARSHA OMAND	656.00
	RALPH SHERMAN	292.00
	PENNY HARRINGTON	580.50
HEALTH OFFICER	JOHN MORRISON	168.00
FIRE WARDEN	LESTER DRINK	59.25
HIGHWAY	NELSON FONTAINE	5312.50
SUBCONTRACTORS	A.S. CLARK	38653.00
	NELSON FONTAINE	7055.50
	TONY PELTON	1420.00

DELINQUENT TAX REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Anne' Elizabeth Decker					\$858.08	\$858.08
Arbuckle W. Bernard					\$732.01	\$732.01
Barnum Robert & Susan			\$873.88	\$1,064.46	\$1,168.08	\$3,106.42
*Carey Terry					\$1,134.40	\$1,134.40
*Cole Gregaory & Elizabeth					\$2,030.93	\$2,030.93
**Condon Matthew					\$1,261.24	\$1,261.24
Davidson M					\$1,698.80	\$1,698.80
Ellison Bonnie	\$161.26	\$1,348.20	\$1,463.76			\$2,973.22
**Fernette Tracy & Keith					\$2,405.60	\$2,405.60
Greenpoint Credit					\$2,108.00	\$2,108.00
*Harris James					\$947.07	\$947.07
**Knapp Clarence & Hazel					\$473.68	\$473.68
Martocci Paul & Roselee				\$548.05	\$1,202.80	\$1,750.85
Mercede Frank Jr. Trust					\$66.07	\$66.07
Moore John & Sandra				\$1,304.02	\$1,430.96	\$2,734.98
Newbert Alan & Nancy					\$1,366.48	\$1,366.48
Newell Timothy			\$1,236.67	\$489.90	\$700.60	\$2,427.17
Nutting Walter & Brenda					\$1,411.12	\$1,411.12
Rogers James & Joyce					\$2,620.80	\$2,620.80
Szappanos Janos Jr				\$712.39	\$987.04	\$1,699.43
Szappanos Janos Jr				\$1,116.66	\$1,309.66	\$2,426.32
Townshend Associates					\$128.56	\$128.56
Tracy Parish		\$942.90	\$1,023.72	\$1,014.74	\$1,113.52	\$4,094.88
Totals	\$161.26	\$2,291.10	\$4,598.03	\$6,250.22	\$27,155.50	\$40,456.11

* Payment made after 12/31/03

** Paid in full after 12/31/03

VITAL RECORDS

Births recorded in 2003

Date	Name of Child	Sex	Parents
August 21 2003	Lilyisa Dutton	Female	Wendy Dutton & Paul Dutton
September 11 2003	Jeremy Douglas Graves	Male	April Wellman & Dartl Graves

Marriages recorded in 2003

	Bride	Groom	Place
February 21 2003	Sara Elliot	Kristopher Guestamachio	W. Townshend
August 16 2003	Mellisa Parsons	Enrique Von Rohr	Brookline

Deaths recorded in 2003

Date	Name	Age	Place
April 25, 2003	Anna C Rink	87	Townshend
July 16, 2003	Cecila Bills	98	Townshend
July 21, 2003	Muriel Feigelson	77	Brookline

BROOKLINE DOG ORDINANCE

The Brookline Dog Ordinance is meant to control the dogs within the Town of Brookline for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town. Pursuant to the provisions of 20 CSA, 3549, as amended, and such other special or general enactments as may be material thereto, the following Dog Ordinance is hereby adopted by the Town of Brookline by its Board of Selectmen.

SECTION 1: Definitions

DOG: Any animal of canine species.

OWNER: Any person or group who owns, harbors, keeps a dog or permits a dog to habitually remain on their premises.

VICIOUS DOG: A dog, which causes reasonable fear of bodily injury by attacking or threatening to attack a person lawfully upon the premises. A dog which has previously bitten a person, will be considered a vicious dog.

SECTION 2: LICENSING OF DOGS

All dogs in the Town of Brookline must, by Statute, be licensed by April 1 of each year or as soon as the dog is six months of age. Any dog in the Town of Brookline that does not have a current License after May 30 of each year will subject to a fine of \$50.00.

SECTION 3: IDENTIFICATION OF DOGS

A dog shall be required to wear its license at all times.

SECTION 4: CONTROL OF DOGS

A. A dog must be under restraint when off the owner's premise. A dog is under restraint if one or more of the following applies:

- (1) controlled by a leash;
- (2) at heel beside a competent person;
- (3) obedient to a person's command within the immediate vicinity;
- (4) is on or in a vehicle.

B. A dog that howls, barks, or cries and which disturbs the peace and quiet of other people will be in violation of this ordinance.

C. A vicious dog as defined in this ordinance shall be confined in a secure manner at all times.

SECTION 5: IMPOUNDMENT OF DOGS

A. All dogs found in violation of Section 2, 3 and 4 may be impounded at the Town designated pound and the owner(s) will be liable for all pound fees.

B. Any dog that has bitten a person MUST be confined by a veterinarian's office for the required ten (10) day period of observation. The owner(s) will be liable for all veterinarian fees during this time.

C. Impounded dogs not claimed by their owner(s) within five (5) days may be sold, given away or euthanized, according to 20 VSA.

SECTION 6: ENFORCEMENT

A. A violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be a civil matter and may be enforced in accordance with 24 VSA 1974a. 1977 et seq.

B. Fines -- A violation of this ordinance shall be a civil matter enforced in accordance with the provisions of 24 VSA 1974a.

	FINE	WAIVER FEE
Section 2:	\$200.00	
Section 3 & 4:		
First Offense	Warning	
Second Offense	\$30.00	\$15.00
Third Offense	\$60.00	\$30.00
Fourth Offense	\$80.00	\$40.00

Waiver fees may be paid in lieu of a court appearance.

C. The custodial official of the Town's ticket books shall be the Town Clerk. Payment of the fines are made payable to Town Clerk.

D. The issuing officials shall be the 1st or 2nd Town Constable, and Animal Control Officer(s).

E. The appearing officials shall be the 1st and 2nd Town Constable, and Animal Control Officer(s).

SECTION 7: GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. **Severability:** The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable and if any provision thereof be adjudged invalid such judgment shall not affect the validity of any other provision.

B. **Designation:** This ordinance shall be referred to as the Brookline Dog Ordinance and in prosecution hereunder a copy of this ordinance, verified by the Brookline Town Clerk to be lawfully adopted and existing ordinance of the Town of Brookline, shall be prima facie evidence thereof. An allegation that the act constituting the offense charged is contrary to the specified provision of this ordinance shall be a sufficient reference hereto.

C. **Repeal of Prior Ordinances:** Any other dog ordinance or regulation heretofore adopted by the Town of Brookline is hereby repealed.

D. **Amendments:** All amendments to this ordinance shall be made in accordance with Title 24 VSA, Chapter 59.

E. **Publication and Posting:** This ordinance shall be: (1) entered into the Selectmen's minutes; (2) shall be posted in at least five (5) conspicuous places within the Town of Brookline; and (3) the full text of the ordinance or a concise summary of it published in the Brattleboro Reformer not more than fourteen (14) days following the date specified below when this ordinance is adopted.

F. **Effective Date of this Ordinance:** This ordinance is hereby adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Brookline on this 16th day of April, 2003 and shall, unless a petition is filed as provided by law, become effective on June 15th, 2003 sixty (60) days after said date.

CEMETERY ACCOUNTS

Riverside Cemetery

Balance 1/1/03		\$2,378.51
Old Cemetery		\$411.30
Interest Income	\$8.41	
Sale of 2 lots	\$400.00	

Expenses of 2003

Lawn Care	\$1,720.00	
Service Charges	\$11.23	\$1,731.23

Balance 12/31/03		\$1,466.99
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Riverside Capitol Improvement

Balance 1/1/03		\$1,781.43
Interest income	\$7.54	

Balance 12/31/03		\$1,788.97
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Lord Abbott Account

Balance January 1 2003		\$1,390.13
Interest	\$15.79	

Balance December 31 2003		\$1,405.92
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The Old Cemetery Account was closed in 2003 and combined with the Riverside Account.

BROOKLINE HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM

This Program has funds available for low and no-interest loans for necessary home improvement for those who qualify. The kinds of home improvements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Plumbing | Septic Systems |
| Weatherization | Well and Spring |
| Electrical | Heating |
| Roofing | Health and Safety Matters |
| Lead Paint | |

If you or someone you know has housing repairs needs and has problems financing them, consider this program that offers loans at low or no-interest rates, or other possible arrangements.

Those interested or who want more information, contact any of the following people:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Chris Ballou 365-4253 | Cynthia Nau 365-4164 |
| Dick Barker 365-4685 | Sue Clark 365-7539 |
| Betty Wellman 365-7995 | |

Residents of Brookline who meet the income guidelines listed below qualify for this assistance:

Number in Household	Annual Income (less than)
1	\$24,750
2	\$28,300
3	\$31,800
4	\$35,350
5	\$38,200
6	\$41,000
7	\$43,850
8	\$46,650

Home improvement/Rehab Account

Balance 1/1/03		\$35,353.71
Interest income	\$243.83	
repayments	\$1,486.80	\$1,730.63
Total Income		\$37,084.34
Less Disbursements		\$11,852.50
Balance 12/31/03		\$25,231.84

BROOKLINE COMMUNITY GROUP

The Brookline Recreation Club changed its name in 2003 to the Brookline Community Group. The mission of the group goes beyond recreation, providing opportunities for continuing education and involvement in a variety of community activities. The group continues to host its staple of events with new activities in the works. The year's activities got underway in March with a Fire & Safety class presented by Archie Clark and Gary Lavorgna. Those in attendance were provided lots of practical information and hands-on training.

The Easter Egg Hunt followed in April at the Town Office. The lack of snow didn't keep the nearly fifty children from attending. The long grass in the field provided plenty of cover for the five hundred eggs of candy.

In May, the BCG hosted the annual Green-Up day. A bottle drive was added to the day's activities with many elementary kids helping to clean and bag the hundreds of bottles and cans found and donated. The third annual summer picnic took place at the Meehl's Field in August. More than one hundred people attended giving many new residents a chance to get acquainted. Lots of delicious food, outrageous fun, and loads of laughs were in abundance as the usual suspects were soaked in the dunking booth. The

horseshoes were also a big hit.

The Thanksgiving Feast took place in late November. Many thanks go to the NewBrook Fire Dept. for providing us the use of the firehouse. In addition to an abundance of great food, everyone enjoyed plenty of relaxing conversation with neighbors. A turkey raffle was new this year with chances to win lots of terrific prizes and goodies.

New this year was the creation of a Lifelong Learning Scholarship Fund. This fund is open to all Brookline residents and provides scholarships of up to \$100 for assistance

For information about the scholarships, events, town information, and more, see our web site: www.brookline-vermont.com.

in attending classes, camps, or any other lifelong educational/athletic activity (See web site for more info).

The Brookline Community Group is dedicated to providing our town with recreational, social, and educational opportunities. There are no fees for attending most of the events relying on donations to offset costs. We are indebted to the many people who continue to volunteer time to make these events possible and our town such a wonderful place to live.

Thank you Brookline,
Archie and Lorrie Clark
Bruce and Joyce Meehl

Gary and Julie Lavorgna
John and Lynn Reinhardt

Balance January 1, 2003		\$666.46
Receipts in 2003		
Interest	\$6.48	
Town Meeting	253.49	
Bottle Drive	111.43	
Bottle Drive-Picnic	\$135.25	
Thanksgiving Dinner	\$214.00	
Clark Donation	\$100.00	
Bingo	\$119.00	
Bottle Drive-Green Up	\$162.30	
Snowmobile Club	\$50.00	
Picnic	\$139.00	\$1,290.95
Total Income		\$1,957.41
Expenses		
Easter Egg Hunt	\$30.32	
Green Up	\$109.00	
Town Picnic	\$205.00	
Service Charge	\$8.75	\$353.07
Balance December 31, 2003		\$1,604.34

\$679.88 of the Brookline Community Group account is designated for the scholarship fund.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Brookline Round School House was open 4 Saturdays this summer (May, July, August, October) and had just over 100 visitors. One visitor came from Germany, others from Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey and the New England States.

We are hoping to be open more in the summer of 04. Bill Staats created picture boards of Brookline, Art Wellman had his historical photos and data on display and Lester Allbee, whose father taught at the school, shared his stories with our visitors. Lester attended the school for 1 year and part of another before the Round School House closed and the students were sent to the school we now use.

We have embarked on more fund raising events in order to help us obtain grant money (matching funds) to restore the weak parts (floor, sill, and roof) of our Historic Round School House. Early in the summer

we repaired broken windows and repaired part of the roof flashing.

As many of you have seen/purchased our new Round School T's and Sweat Shirts you will be happy to know that with warmer weather on the way we will have short sleeve T's available. Other items we are selling as fund raisers are copies of the original Marie and Anna Rink "Historical Sketch of Brookline, Vermont" booklets and "The Round Schoolhouse in Brookline, Vermont" by Thomas St. John. Neila Fisher prints continue to sell well and along with our other items they will be available on Town Meeting Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Nau - Chair

Lisa Chabot

Bill Staats

Roger Poitras

Art Wellman

BROOKLINE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Brookline Planning Commission welcomes Sharon Tierra to the board. Sharon has taken over the duties as our secretary. We are now sending minutes of our meetings to the Select board in order to create better communication.

After two years of hard work the Planning Commission was disappointed but not discouraged in the result of the Development Review By-Law vote. It was evident that the results of the survey done 10 years ago did not reflect the feelings of the town today. We met early in the summer and decided to take 2 months off to re-group and we came back this fall full of ideas and enthusiasm.

- 1- Create and distribute a new survey to determine the direction the town wishes to go.
- 2- Up-date the current Town Plan.

In order to better serve the town, Sharon Tierra and Cynthia Nau attended the Annual Town (Municipal) Officers Education Conference in the fall, focusing their attention on planning issues and Conducting and Analyzing Community Surveys.

We applied for a Municipal Planning Grant and have received \$7,500.00 in order to cover the cost of creating and mailing a current survey, to up-date our town plan as is required by law. The grant money also includes consulting service fees. This would include the costs of warnings, hearings and printing costs. The grant received was half the amount requested and the Planning Commission hopes the town will approve the additional amount requested in order to update the town maps.

Time Line: The residents and/or taxpayers will have received Surveys by mid-February and the Planning Commission will be prepared to answer any questions you may have at Town Meeting.

Please return Surveys by the March 15 deadline.

Thank you,

Brookline Planning Commission

Cynthia Nau-Chair 2005

Archie Clark 2004

Pam Swing 2006

Gene Horton 2005

Sharon Tierra 2006

BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD

This past year at the Brookline school has been a very busy one. We started out our fiscal year by using the money set aside by the town from our surplus to replace the shingles on the roof. Jancewicz & Son did a great job and all went well with the exception of some water damage that was the result of a heavy downpour before the roof was fully secured. Their insurance paid for all repairs. On the upside, Jancewicz & Son's supplier sent the incorrect shingles for the job and instead of a 30 year shingle they sent a lifetime shingle. They said they would install them for the same price and honor the lifetime guarantee.

We also used the money set aside in last year's budget to get carpet in the library and the K-1 classroom. It's been 15 years since the renovation at the school and we are starting to see some wear and tear so we are trying to keep up on maintenance so that it doesn't hit us all at once. We have had two incidents this past school year do to the aging of the equipment. One was a leaking propane gas line between the propane tank and the school. The other one was a burst pipe in the air exchanger above the 5/6 Grade classroom. We would like to thank Newbrook Fire Department, West River Transportation, community members and school staff for their quick response, assistance and, most importantly, the continued patience and flexibility of the students and staff.

The real challenge for the board and the school is the newly enacted federal mandate called No Child Left Behind. This has put a huge emphasis on accountability and how often we test our students. Unfortunately, the test in place for Vermont students did not meet the criterion for No Child Left Behind so everyone is scrambling to get in line with the federal mandate. The cost to the town could be rather large if our school does not perform up to these federal standards (as with many other federal mandates this one also comes to us with no funding.)

The changes to Act 60 have also been quite a challenge. The new law called Act 68 changes the funding formula and it's emphasis is cost containment. One way to contain cost is by combining resources with neighboring schools. We have continued to have discussions regarding collaboration with area schools and have formed a committee called The West River

School Collaborative Committee. The members of this committee are comprised of school parents, community members with no children in school, our principal, one board member and our superintendent. This is being facilitated by Winton Goodrich from the Vermont School Board Association. The committee has broken into subcommittees and is charged with looking at ways to maintain a quality education for our students and containment of cost to our town. This committee is doing a great job and is a real service to the town and deserves our thanks for all the hours spent. If you would like information regarding their work or would like to attend their meetings feel free to contact anyone of them. The members are Marie Tattersall, Samantha Bovat, Marjorie Ray, Beryl Lombard, Cynthia Nau, Kim Ellison a member of the board, Deborah Leggot our principal, and Cheryl Ruth our Superintendent.

Our principal, Deborah Leggot along with Judy Hawkins, our administrative assistant continue to rise to the challenge of our small school and are doing an admirable job. The model of part-time principal and full-time assistant seems to be very effective.

Our current staff of Sue Biolsi, Laura Robertson, Chris Parkins and Francis Holland have been working hard to keep up with all the challenges of educating our students. We would like to thank them for their dedication. We would also like to thank all those who have contributed their time and energy to working in the school and/or with the Board and look forward to your continued support.

The next few years will prove to be pivotal to our town and will need the full attention of all town members. What we do in our school needs to be the decision of the whole town. By trying to get out in front of the issues that challenge us, we will be more informed to make the right choices.

Again we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Brookline School Board

BROOKLINE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As I continue through the second year as part-time principal at Brookline Elementary, I am continuously reminded of the necessity of collaboration. Through the willingness of all staff to work together for the common good of the students, a daily atmosphere of respect, excitement and happy learning is present. I begin this report by naming teamwork as the hallmark of our small school and thank everyone who contributes to this effort.

My collaborative work with the Brookline and Townshend Schools continues and is being formally studied by a steering committee under the guidance of Winton Goodrich from the Vermont School Boards Association. This group has named itself the West River School Collaborative Committee and has invited interested members from Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, Wardsboro and Townshend to explore the different ways small schools in our district can share the cost of education. This is a lengthy research project. The committee is charged with making recommendations to their school boards based on their findings. With the forecast of declining school enrollments in Vermont, the state mandates for continuous academic improvement and the burden of school finance through taxation on resident families, creative solutions for education funding must be found. The committee welcomes any and all inquiries into this process. For meeting minutes log on to : www.wcsu.k12.vt.us/~brookline/steering.htm

There have been several personnel changes: Jamie Douglas is our new PE teacher. Jamie will also conduct winter sports activities at the school during this eight week program. Dave Domenick has returned as our instrumental music teacher after a one year sabbatical. Michelle Worden is our cleaner. Michelle Bostrom and Tammy Mace are special education instructors.

This past fall we successfully put the school "through its paces" with two evacuations and problems with air quality. These issues have been thoroughly resolved. A propane gas leak in the underground line was the main culprit and caused our air quality alarm system to register unsafe levels. The Vermont Labor and Industry Office has given us high

marks for our physical plant systems and correction of the faulty line. They have complimented the responsiveness of the Newbrook Fire Department, bus company and school personnel throughout this disruption. I wish to compliment and thank the staff for their flexibility and professionalism during and after the evacuations.

The relocation of the library to its central location has proved to be very useful for students, staff and visitors. Patricia Ballou and Barbara Brooks continue to help students with reading. Barbara Bourne, Joanne Staats, Holly Meyer, Heidi Nystrom, Sandy Sherman and Rich Ray are our ELF volunteer instructors (Environmental Learning for the Future) and are providing a rich, hands-on science experience for our students. The Jason Project (Gr. 5/6 with Townshend Elementary Gr 6) is another science program that offers students a multimedia, collaborative experience. Marjorie Ray regularly volunteers in the classroom and has facilitated a Japanese Club with a visiting teacher from SIT. Steve Chabot and Kerry Capponcelli bring Rick's pizza to BES on Thursdays for the 5/6 grade fundraising project. Gary Lavorgna continues to generously volunteer to complete our long list of repairs. We continue to share expenses for concerts and other cultural events with Townshend Elementary School. Enrichment activities create stimulation for all types and styles of learners.

A growing body of research suggests strongly that the quality of teaching is the largest school-related factor associated with student achievement. Our teachers have responded actively this year to the school-wide implementation of Thinking Maps: a higher-level thinking skill tool. They used the maps during parent conferences for goal setting and the development of personal learning plans for each student. We were pleased with the positive response to this process and opportunity to communicate more thoroughly.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Brookline School community.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah M. Leggott, Principal

BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED BUDGET

FY 2005 Budget Proposal

1/21/04 Board Approved

	FY2002 ACTUAL	FY2003 ACTUAL	FY2004 Adopted BUDGET	FY2005 Proposed BUDGET
REVENUE				
Taxes	265,713	241,408	275,046	0
Interest Income	3,729	1,805	7,000	2,500
E-rate Grant	0	0	1,500	1,500
Total Local Revenue	269,442	243,213	283,546	4,000
State Aid - Education Spending Revenue	472,995	501,608	502,332	866,081
State Aid - Ed Fund/Career ctr. on behalf	9,040	21,424	14,539	13,438
State Aid - Small Schools Grant	48,651	49,176	46,706	46,706
State Aid - Transportation	11,037	11,333	11,361	9,178
State Aid - Special Ed Block Grant	22,616	24,994	25,897	24,305
State Aid - Special Ed Intensive	52,565	78,681	77,499	106,969
State Aid - Special Ed Extraordinary	120,566	99,000	104,400	36,450
State Aid - Special Ed EEE	3,417	4,581	3,596	4,208
State Aid - Milk Program	0	0	500	500
Total Other Revenue	740,887	790,797	786,830	1,107,835
TOTAL REVENUE	1,010,329	1,034,010	1,070,376	1,111,835
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries - Teachers	137,555	128,713	119,873	128,210
Salaries - Aides			1,932	0
Substitute	2,730	1,750	1,800	1,800
Reserve Negot. Salary & Benefits				
Health & Dental Benefits	19,510	22,501	22,939	25,699
Fica Expense	10,465	9,380	9,456	9,946
Workers Comp Insurance/Disab.	295	1,463	1,300	1,600
Tuition Reimb./Prof. Development	1,578	1,068	2,925	2,925
Early Ed Services	8,516	12,292	10,000	5,000
Art Instruction-WCSU	4,516	4,708	5,336	5,878
Music Instrumental -WCSU	3,837	9,316	5,077	5,606
Music Instruction -WCSU	5,127		5,612	6,000
Physeed Instruction -WCSU		9,562	4,439	5,150
Enrichment Activities	1,466	2,455	1,000	1,000
Professional/Technical Services	60	92	1,000	1,000
Equipment Repairs	806		1,000	1,000
Educational Supplies	3,290	5,268	4,500	4,500
Text Books	1,202	1,547	1,300	1,300
Audio Visual/Internet Connection	1,593	840	1,000	3,000
Computers		2,243	2,500	2,500
Instructional Equipment	2,085	3,571	3,000	3,600
Total Instruction	204,631	216,769	205,989	215,713

	FY2002 ACTUAL	FY2003 ACTUAL	FY2004 Adopted BUDGET	FY2005 Proposed BUDGET
Spec. Ed Teacher -WCSU	3,889	0	0	0
Spec. Ed Aide	5,495	13,085	24,460	39,967
Spec. Ed Health Benefits	423			4,000
Spec. Ed FICA expense	18,332	1,001	1,871	3,057
WCSU Spec. Ed Services	5,801	16,198	17,849	17,781
Spec. Ed Testing & Services		18,630	10,429	20,000
Spec. Ed Townshend Collab.			0	0
Special Ed Tuition		11,671	16,200	38,000
Special Ed Travel		4,885		5,000
Spec. Ed Supplies	797	27	200	200
Total Special Education	34,737	65,497	71,009	128,006
Essential Early Ed	20,011	6,826	2,759	3,198
TOTAL DIRECT EDUCATION	259,379	289,092	279,757	346,917
SUPPORT SERVICES				
Guidance Services-contracted	3,711	4,205	5,160	5,393
Nurse Services	6,489	6,295	6,924	7,458
Library Salary	5,831	5,883	5,994	6,376
Library FICA	202	449	459	488
Library Books		382	400	400
Board - Professional Audit	2,100		0	2,200
Board & Treasurer - Fees	1,184	1,184	1,100	1,100
Negotiations/Services	1,200	703	1,000	1,000
Board - Bookkeeping Serv.	1,850	1,950	2,050	2,132
Board - Advertising/ Supplies	157	4,049	1,000	1,000
Board - Dues	675	0	600	600
Total Board Services	7,166	7,886	5,750	8,032
WCSU Office Assessment	18,482	16,968	15,675	17,849
Principal Salary	31,220	0	15,000	15,600
Secretary	4,560	23,442	18,200	28,288
Principal Office Health Ins.	2,370	0	4,754	5,348
Principal Office FICA	2,737	1,793	2,540	3,357
Principal Professional Dev.	2,500	0	750	750
Townshend Education Collab.		20,000	13,471	14,358
Supplies	91	197	500	200
Dues	0	0	100	0
Total Principal's Office	43,478	45,432	55,315	67,902
Total Fund Balance @ year end	115,224	76,333	66,333	36,333
Brookline Elementary School Enrollment	53	53	45	47
Total Elementary Cost/Student	7,643	8,503	9,925	11,332
Brookline LGUHS enrollment	45	45	40	40
Total LGUHS cost per student	9,285	9,750	10,125	10,110
Education spending/equalized student (act68)			9,096	10,342
Estimated Homestead Tax Rate (act 68)				1.67
Total Expenditures to be presented to voters at Town Meeting	577,192	643,844	639,056	677,093

BROOKLINE SCHOOL PROPOSED BUDGET (cont.)

	FY2002 ACTUAL	FY2003 ACTUAL	FY2004 Adopted BUDGET	FY2005 Proposed BUDGET
Custodian Salary/Contract	5,230	5,690	6,861	8,000
Custodian FICA Expense	400	435	525	0
Maintenance Contracted Services	4,993	13,785	4,000	4,000
Property & Liability Insurance	1,823	1,339	950	1,500
Telephone	772	1,027	2,000	1,200
Custodial Supplies	732	968	1,900	100
Electricity	3,894	3,781	3,300	3,800
Fuel	3,907	6,550	6,000	6,500
Building Equipment	759	615	1,600	1,600
Total Custodial Services	22,510	34,190	27,136	26,700
Transport - contracted	10,000	12,000	13,200	13,728
Field Trips	1,016	442	1,000	1,000
Transportation Fuel	3,240	4,863	3,300	4,800
Total Transportation Services	14,256	17,305	17,500	19,528
Capital Improvements			5,000	5,000
Debt Interest	8,561	7,569	6,570	5,565
Debt Principal	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Debt Service	23,561	22,569	21,570	20,565
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	145,686	161,564	166,882	185,690
SUB TOTAL EEE & K-6 Expenses	405,065	450,656	446,639	532,607
LELAND & GRAY ASSESSMENT	442,910	429,058	441,320	434,742
Career Ed Tuition	800	1,817	3,650	24,758
Transportation - High School	10,000	12,000	13,200	13,728
Transportation - Career Ed	1,548	3,176	900	1,500
Special Ed Secondary Services			8,667	14,000
Special Ed Secondary Tuition	159,779	176,195	166,000	90,500
Sub Total Secondary Expenses	615,037	622,246	633,737	579,228
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,020,102	1,072,902	1,080,376	1,111,835
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(9,773)	(38,892)	(10,000)	0
PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS APPLIED	35,000	35,000	10,000	0
Net	25,227	(3,892)	0	0
Undesignated General Fund Balance	110,224	71,333	31,333	31,333
Reserved for Roof Repairs			30,000	0
Reserved for unemployment claims	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total Fund Balance @ year end	115,224	76,333	66,333	36,333
Brookline Elementary School Enrollment	53	53	45	47
Total Elementary Cost/Student	7,643	8,503	9,925	11,332
Brookline LGUHS enrollment	45	45	40	40
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Total Expenditures to be presented to voters at Town Meeting	577,192	643,844	639,056	677,093

BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT BALANCE SHEET

	General Fund Year ending June 30, 2003
ASSETS	
Cash	86,156
Accounts Receivable-State of Vermont	0
Accounts Receivable-DOE	0
Interfund Receivable/Liability	3,689
Reserve for Bond Debt 1995-09	105,000
Total Assets	194,845
LIABILITIES	
Bond Debt 1995-09	105,000
Accrued Salaries	3,989
Accrued Fica	305
Accrued Expenses	5,529
Total Liabilities	114,823
FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balance	31,333
Designated to reduce taxes	10,000
Reserved for Roof Improvements	30,000
Reserved for unemployment claims	5,000
Total Fund Balance	76,333
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	191,156

The annual debt service requirements for the 1989 school addition are scheduled through the year 2010. The current principal amount due on the bond equals \$105,000 as of 6/30/03.

Changes in Fund Balance:	
Beginning Fund Balance 7/1/02	85,224
Roof Improvement Reserve	30,000
Fy 2003 Surplus/(Deficit) as of 6/30/03	(38,891)
Ending Fund Balance as of 6/30/03	76,333

WCSU SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPERVISORY UNION STAFF

Administrative and Special Personnel

Superintendent	Cheryl W. Ruth
Director of Special Education	Abigail Dillon
Language Arts Coordinator	Tina Shakespeare
Technology Coordinator	Neil Manders
Business Manager	Frank Rucker
Assistant Business Manager	Teri Fletcher
Administrative Assistant (Superintendent)	Ruth Ann Chalifour
Administrative Assistant (Special Education)	Mabel Hmieleski

This year has been an exciting one for the schools in the Windham Central Supervisory Union.

As a result of the continuing curriculum and professional development work, and the efforts of the teachers and others working in curriculum and instruction, all of the schools in the Windham Central Supervisory Union met their Annual Yearly Progress targets as defined by the Vermont assessment system. There is much more to education than test scores, but these benchmarks indicate that our students are mastering essential skills. We remain committed to the state-wide portfolio system in both writing and math and offer practice sessions as well as scorer calibration sessions within our district as part of our professional development work. One of our professional development days in May is dedicated to all teachers coming together to score portfolio pieces done over the year by students and to collaborate about student work.

This year the Windham Central SU professional development committee has chosen to organize the days into topical study strands. Teachers choose their topic and participate in a study group for the year. Nearly all of these groups are led by administrators and teachers within our district and provide another forum for us to collaborate. We also continue our involvement in the Integrated Inquiry Project, which integrates the study areas of science and math, and our commitment to teachers involved in the Vermont Math Initiative and the Vermont Reading Initiative. Other study areas being addressed include: cultural studies, differentiated instruction, reading/writing in the content areas, team teaching, technology integration,

and other content based seminars.

Leland & Gray Board and Administration continue to actively search for solutions to space issues. The school has also begun the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation process. This is a comprehensive, multi-year study process involving a self-study, as well as a site visit and evaluation by a visiting team of professionals. For the initial phase, the faculty reviewed and revised the school's "Mission Statement" and "Student Learning Expectations" which were reviewed and approved by the Board. Eight study subcommittees have been formed, one to address each of the eight standards for accreditation. Committee members include staff, Leland & Gray Board members, students, parents and community members.

We continue our major Supervisory Union wide initiative of technology use and integration including revised systems for connectivity to ensure continued access to the Internet from each individual building. As our use of our student data management system increases, we look toward implementing systems to help us meet the increasing requirements for data analysis related in large part to the increasing testing requirements.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss educational issues with the community at any time. If you would like to speak with us please feel free to call at 348-6801.

Cheryl Ruth
Superintendent

WVCSU COMPARATIVE BUDGETS

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Adopted Budget	FY 2005 Proposed Budget
REVENUES			
Interest Income	362	250	250
Federal Grant-Class Size Reduction	79,562	0	0
Brookline Assessment	18,483	15,675	17,849
Dover Assessment	34,398	34,336	37,107
Jamaica Assessment	32,453	34,710	37,656
Marlboro Assessment	28,998	29,858	31,817
Newfane Assessment	38,391	44,040	48,087
Stratton Assessment	4,753	3,732	5,680
Townshend Assessment	29,981	35,083	32,661
Wardsboro Assessment	21,701	24,259	24,611
Windham Assessment	6,921	10,450	11,511
Winhall Assessment	16,453	21,274	22,453
Leland & Gray UHS Assessment	146,615	161,978	152,553
Total General Fund Assessment	379,146	415,395	421,985
Total General Fund Revenues	459,070	415,645	422,235
EXPENDITURES			
AUDIT SERVICES	10,672	3,000	5,000
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT			
Professional Salaries	83,610	88,204	163,950
Professional Salaries-Coordinators	37,399	70,953	20,283
Clerical Salaries	27,148	28,506	29,931
Reserve for Salaries & Benefits	0	0	0
Curriculum	2,484	5,000	3,000
Health & Dental Benefits	22,180	25,126	30,146
Fica Benefits	10,922	14,356	16,384
Disability & Life Ins. & Retirement Benefits	2,940	2,516	2,669
Workmens Comp insurance	5,288	750	750
Unemployment insurance	6,083	250	500
Professional Services	4,648	13,500	10,000
Information System Services	9,152	12,000	12,000
Inservice	3,580	6,000	3,500
Bond Insurance & Prof. Liability	271	7,640	9,000
Travel	10,941	9,000	9,000
Conferences	4,441	2,400	2,400
Supplies	2,735	2,500	2,500
Equipment	2,297	2,500	2,500
Dues	3,576	3,500	3,500
Misc Expenses	100	100	100
Total Superintendent's Office	239,795	294,801	322,112

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Adopted Budget	FY 2005 Proposed Budget
BUSINESS OFFICE			
Salaries	28,980	64,260	56,290
Health Insurance & Retirement Benefits	1,011	11,418	8,026
Fica Insurance	2,217	4,916	4,306
Equipment Repair	193	1,250	1,250
Telephone	6,539	7,150	8,500
Postage	3,000	3,000	3,000
Advertising	3,414	1,000	1,000
Supplies	2,300	4,500	3,500
Equipment	3,000	4,500	4,500
Total Business Office	50,654	101,993	90,372
BUILDING MAINTENANCE/SERVICES			
Property Services - Custodial	2,916	3,200	4,000
Equipment Repair	150	1,250	1,250
Rent	15,300	14,000	15,000
Electric/Fuel	2,477	2,400	3,500
Equipment	1,998	2,000	2,000
Total Custodial/Building Maintenance	22,841	22,850	25,750
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	323,962	422,645	443,235
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	135,108	(7,000)	(21,000)
FUND BALANCE APPLIED	0	7,000	21,000
NET	135,108	0	(0)
Ending Fund Balance	179,742	172,742	126,742
Office Renovation Cost Allocation to Fund Balance		(25,000)	
Estimated Ending Fund Balance		147,742	

BROOKLINE ELEMENTARY EMPLOYEES

Fiscal Year 7-01-02 – 6-30-03

	Position		Salary	BCBS	Dental
Susan Biolis	Teacher	100%	33,750	10,085	\$347.00
Michelle Bostrom	K-teacher	50 %	14,175		
Melanie Zuolinski	Guidance	20%	5,160		
Lisa Cauanaugh	Aide	50%	11,990		
Nancy Fuller	Cleaning		5,408		
Judy Hawkins	Administration		23,400	4,754	
Erica Laughman	Food Service		1,857		
Cynthia Nau	Librarian	20%	5,670		
Christopher Parkins	Teacher	50%	18,900	1,904	174.00
Laura Robertson	Teacher	50%	20,250		
Frances Holland	Teacher	100%	41,850	10,085	347.00

UNITED WAY

With this letter I request 2004-05 funding in the amount of \$175 for United Way GET INFO's comprehensive information and referral services for the residents of Brookline.

Many people facing new problems or life transitions do not know where to turn for help. United Way GET INFO performs a critical service in Brookline and throughout greater Windham County by assessing and linking residents to community resources to help them maintain their health and well being.

From July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, we assisted more than 2,349 individuals and families through our telephone helpline. Our assistance includes a careful assessment of each person's needs, problem-solving support, information and referrals to appropriate community services for those needs, and follow-up – if needed.

New in 2003, we are pleased to announce the launch of our online Vermont Community Resource Guide, a user-friendly searchable database of health and human services, available at our website www.vermont211.org.

Although our expenses have increased with inflation during the last year, we are not passing on the increase to towns. During the past year, as a result of securing new funding sources we have reduced our reliance on funding from cities and towns from 11% to 8% of our total budget. The remaining 92% of expenses are covered by United Way funds, individual contributions, grants, contracts and special event fundraising. The 8% we receive from cities and towns is critical to our ability to effectively provide assistance to those in need.

Thank you for your continued support of this vital service for town residents.

Yours Truly,
Sharon Tierra, CIRS
United Way GET INFO, Windham County Coordinator



2003 Summer Picnic



V^T ENHANCED 911 BOARD REPORT

Statewide System Operations - Jan 1 2003 to Nov 30 2003

Total Calls Handled System-wide	Wire-Line	113,763	Wireless	60,374
Total Abandoned Calls System-wide	Wire-Line	15,464	Wireless	3,656
Average Call Answer Time System-wide	5 Seconds			
Average Call Duration System-wide	1 Minute 54 Seconds			

The Vermont E-911 system continues to perform within established benchmarks.

The Enhanced 911 Board operates ten 911 call answering points, known as Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). They are located at the Springfield Police Department, the Hartford Police Department, the Montpelier Police Department, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office, the Saint Albans Police Department, the Shelburne Police Department, and the State Police Barracks at Williston, Rutland, Rockingham and Derby to be operational by Jan 2004.

E 9-1-1 Address Confidentiality

In 1996, the General Assembly passed a law requiring Towns that created new street addresses for

enhanced 9-1-1 to provide a confidentiality option to residents.

This option allows residents to prevent their names from being linked with their new street addresses in municipal public records, such as the Grand List. If you choose to exercise this option, you are required by law to provide the Town Clerk with an alternate mailing address, such as a Post Office box. Copies of the "Confidentiality Option Form" and instructions are available at your Town Office or on the internet @ www.state.vt.gov/e911. Your Confidentiality Option Form is not a public record and is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law. Town officials are required to preserve your privacy.

SPECIAL SCHOOL MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2003

On April 26, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. Moderator David Parker Jr. called the voters to order at the Brookline School Multipurpose Room for a Special School Meeting.

Article 1: Shall the municipality of Brookline adopt its school budget by Australian Ballot?

After a lot discussion on the question the question was called by Courtney Nau and seconded. Paper Ballot was asked for.

Yes	25
No	27
Total Votes	52

Article 2: Shall funds on the amount of \$30000 designated for "Roof Repairs" be redesignated for "Capital Improvements"?

After discussion on the question on whether the roof needed to be repaired or not and what the Boards intentions for use of the money in a Capital Improvements fund the question was called.

Yes	15
No	32
Total Votes	47

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted
Penny Harrington

VT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) teaches people with significant disabilities how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. We also conduct public education and systems change activities to promote the full inclusion of disabled people in community life.

An estimated one in five Vermonters has a disability. VCIL, a private not-for-Profit corporation, is Vermont's first and only cross-disability center for independent living and the first organization in the state to be directed and staffed by a majority of people with diverse disabilities.

Statewide, from October 1, 2002 through September 11, 2003, VCIL responded to 1,974 requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information and referral on a broad range of subjects related to living with a disability. We provided one on one peer counseling to 342 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and life opportunities; provided 405 households with financial and technical assistance for making their bathrooms and entrances accessible to a disabled family member; provided 340 with personal assistance and/or assistive technology; provided communications equipment to 67 deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired individuals through our

Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, and served home-delivered meals to almost 533 Vermonters through VCIL's Meals on Wheels program for Individuals Under 60 with disabilities.

VCIL's central office is in downtown Montpelier with three smaller regional offices in Bennington, Brattleboro and Burlington. The Montpelier office houses our resource library and our toll-free information line, which provides answers to disability-related questions from every Vermont community. Our locally-based Peer Advocacy Counselors are available to people with disabilities in every municipality in Vermont.

During FY 2003, VCIL provided direct services to Vermonters throughout the state, utilizing the following services/programs:

1. Information & Referral
2. Home and Community Access program
3. Meals on Wheels (people with disabilities under the age of 60)
4. Peer Advocacy Counseling
5. Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program
6. Sue Williams Freedom Fund

To learn more about VCIL, call us toll-free at 1- 800-639-1522

NEWBROOK FIRE AND RESCUE

From September 2002 to September 2003 NewBrook had 172 calls: 42 fire and 130 rescue. Eight new members joined the department during the year.

Through the diligence of Captain A. Mayor we received Homeland Security Grant monies (\$15,000) which allowed us to purchase some "big" items such as a new thermal imager, a GPS, and three new radios for the trucks. Numerous pagers were bought also, which is an annual budgeted item.

NewBrook had to abandon certain events like the clambake and Robert's Bros. Circus, but because of folks like the owner of Rick's Tavern, who donated 10% of the Thursday night dinner receipts in January and the tireless efforts of Sandy Sherman and Samantha Bovat for the Silent Auction gayla held in December, we never skipped a beat in fund raising.

The past year the Executive Board met with our insurance provider to review our coverage, the apparatus bay floor was painted, a new water system installed, and we were able to pay off the building loan. NewBrook is currently in the process of installing a dry hydrant at the Four Columns Inn pond.

Major expenses for the year included: \$4500 +/- in due, \$15,000 +/- in insurance premiums, \$14,500 +/- in maintenance, and \$10,000 +/- in utility and fuel costs.

The Town of Brookline donation (\$5,000) is greatly appreciated and we ask again for level funding this year. Thank you so much.

Respectfully submitted
Gregory L. Record
President NewBrook Fire & Rescue

V T DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Vermont Department of Health works to protect and improve the health of all citizens. The following are some of the essential services available to residents of Brookline:

Bioterrorism-Emergency Preparedness: The Brattleboro District Office of the Vermont Department of Health is actively working with local, state and federal agencies to assure a rapid and effective response to bioterrorism and any other public health threats or emergencies.

Reportable Disease Case Investigations: Infectious diseases continue to be a major source of illness, disability and death in the U>S> and Vermont, accounting for 25% of all doctor visits each year. The Health Department investigates all cases of disease such as meningitis, hepatitis, pertussis (whooping cough), and infectious diarrhea to determine their source, to recommend control measures (including current treatment standards) and to prevent further spread of the disease.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance: WNV first appeared in the U>S> in New York City in 1999 and has become well established in the United States. Birds, mammals and people can get WNV from the bite of and infected mosquito. The Vermont Departments of Health and Agriculture conduct surveillance for WNV each year from June until cold weather limits mosquito activity in the fall. In 2003, five Town Health Officers in different parts of the state also participated in the program, assisting primarily with mosquito trapping. As of November 18, 2003, 450 mosquito pools were tested with none positive for WNV. In Windham County, there were 132 dead bird reports, 52 were tested and 23 were found to be infected. Three humans were positive (two from Addison County and one from Windham County). Four horses have tested positive (three from Addison and one from Windham.)

Food & Lodging Inspections: National surveys show that more people are eating out more often. Public health sanitarians inspect eating establishments (restaurants, schools, fairs) to decrease the risk of food borne disease outbreaks. The five greatest risks for food borne outbreaks are: keeping food too long at improper temperatures, inadequate cooking, contaminated equipment, food from an unsafe source, and poor personal hygiene among food handlers. Inspections include review of a 44 item checklist to evaluate food storage, preparation and handling as well as to identify where there is a high likelihood of practices contributing to illness if left uncorrected. Of the one establishment in Brookline, one inspection was completed by a sanitarian during 2003.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): One of the most effective ways to improve the health of the overall population is to improve nutrition and physical activity. WIC improves the health of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and young children by assuring access to health care, teaching families about good nutritional practices, and providing an individually designed package of nutritious food to eligible individuals. During 2003, 19 women, infants and children living in Brookline received foods as well as health screening.

New public health issues emerge every year. Some challenges being addressed by the Health Department include emergency preparedness and response to disease threats like SARS or potential acts of Bioterrorism; expansion of substance abuse prevention and treatment; and improving health care for people with chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular disease.

Please visit our web site. www.healthyVermonters.info for information on health topics, public health emergency preparedness and response, new releases, publications, reports and general health emergency preparedness and response, new releases, publications, reports and general public health information.

VISITING NURSE ALLIANCE OF VT AND NH, INC

Home Care, Hospice and Family Health Services

The Visiting Nurse Alliance is like the local police and fire departments - a strategic part of the community's safety net - with services that must be continuously available to anyone in need. The need varies dramatically from month to month and year to year. The VNA provides a comprehensive range of care, requisitioned by hospital staff and physicians, for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

We value the continued partnership with the Town of Brookline to help us meet your residents' home care, hospice and family health needs. Town funding accomplishes the following:

- Enables your family, friends and neighbors to remain independent and at home as they receive skilled clinical care during times of injury, recovery from surgery or accidents, disability, whether for short-term and chronic illness. For many such patients, many are addressing multiple medical, emotional and social issues at the same time.
- Provides emotional support plus pain and symptom management during terminal illness. Hospice care extends to family members as well. More and more patients want to be at home during their end of life, and through hospice they have that control.
- Provides community-wellness programs and assistance to young families at risk. Clients range from fathers and/or mothers who want to be more effective parents through learning parenting skills or providing a balanced diet; infants who require hi-tech health care; and children who grow and learn through play groups that offer interaction with other children.

The VNA provided the following services this past year: (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003)

Skilled Nursing	15
Physical Therapy	37
Occupational Therapy	2
Medical Social Worker	1
Home Health Aide	176
Total Visits	72

On behalf of the people we serve in your community, thank you for your continued confidence.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H Larman, BSN, MBA

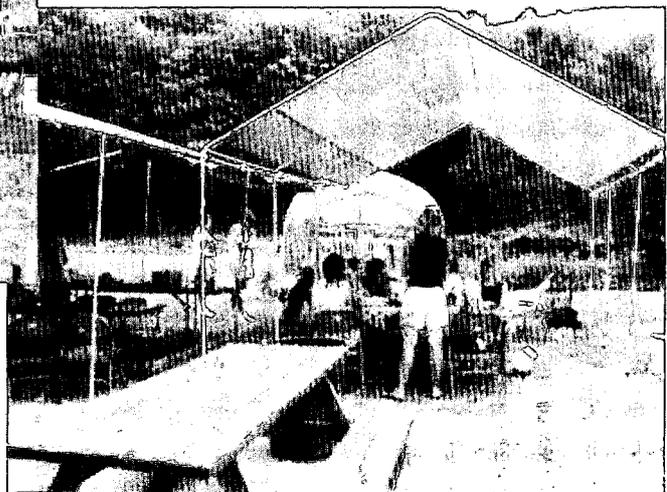
Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT and NH, Inc.

President and Chief Executive Officer 4 6

S. Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001



2003 Summer Picnic



GEORGE D. AIKEN RC&D

The George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) has been "making things happen" for towns with natural resource conservation and rural development projects over the past year. We are here to serve your community. We coordinate and facilitate assistance to town governments, school districts, fire departments watershed groups and nonprofit organizations in the six southern Vermont counties. By bringing together help from our extensive network of resources, we can focus technical and financial resources on your specific needs. We get technical assistance and staff help through the U.S. Department of Agriculture but private sources make up most of our budget. The Council is a self-supporting 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Highlights of our work in the six counties in 2003 include:

- 14 towns received funding to improve water quality and upgrade backroads through our better backroad grants
- Two towns received complete water supply plans identifying all potential useable water sources for fire fighting in the town
- 16 towns received funding and engineering assistance to design and install dry hydrants as a source of water to fight fires
- 6 towns received Jeffords fire safety grants to purchase personal protective gear for firefighters
- Numerous farmers received technical and marketing assistance with agritourism ventures

- 5 farmers received grants to support agritourism on their farms
- 10 towns received assistance from a consultant to help them prepare for an ISO (Insurance Service Office) evaluation. Towns are given a rating from 1 to 10 by the ISO and many insurance companies use that rating to set their rates. If a town can lower their ISO rating, it may lead to lower insurance costs for businesses and residents in that town
- We continue to serve as the fiscal agent for the White River Partnership and Connecticut River Birding Trail
- Teams of high school students from throughout the area participated in the Vermont Envirothon

Other current projects include helping a town with flooding problems, erosion control and streambank stabilization in several locations, helping to develop community centers and recreation fields. We currently have funding available for low interest loans (3.0-5.0%) to develop agritourism ventures on farms. Do you have a project or program that could use some assistance to "make it happen"? Over the years George D. Aiken RC&D Council has helped many communities and organization on a variety of projects. We work on a request basis, so the first step is up to you, giving us a call. For information and free consultation call Kenneth Hafner our RC&D Coordinator at (802)728-9526 or email: kenneth.hafner@vt.usda.gov

BRATTLEBORO AREA DROP IN CENTER INC.

The Brattleboro Area Drop in Center provided emergency food assistance to 15 households from Brookline in 2003. Overall in 2003, the Center provided food to 1470 unduplicated households in Brattleboro and 47 surrounding towns, as well as outreach and case management services to 259 homeless individuals.

We have been serving an increasing number of working families and elders who are unable to make ends meet in times of high costs of fuel, medicine, and transportation.

We do not anticipate this trend reversing itself in the upcoming year.

We are very appreciative of any support Brookline can provide.

Thank You
Melinda Bussino
Executive Director

SOUTHEASTERN VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965.

Our mission is to work in collaboration to foster sustainable self-sufficiency, to strengthen our communities, and to eliminate the root causes of poverty. SEVCA has a multitude of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Transportation, Weatherization, emergency services (i.e., fuel/utility assistance, food, shelter), crisis intervention, Parent Education, Micro-Business Development, Head Start, Individual Development Accounts (IDA), and three thrift stores.

In the community of Brookline we have provided the following services during FY03:

Weatherization:	1 home @ \$4008.00
Outreach services:	4 families; 28 services
Fuel Assistance:	7 assists @ \$816.00

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of community action funds and town funds allows us to not only increase, but improve service.

We thank the residents of Brookline for their support.

Deborah M. Osienski
Executive Director

VALLEY HEALTH COUNCIL, INC.

For over three decades the Valley Health Council has been providing homemaker services in the West River Valley Towns, allowing our Clients to remain in their own homes or to return home from hospitals or nursing homes. We also provide respite care to relieve a care giver who requires a break from the constant care of a dependent person.

While Homemaker service is our primary service, we also provide free transportation to medical appointments, loan of medical equipment, such as walkers, commodes, wheelchairs, etc. We have a Telephone Reassurance program, a monthly Blood Pressure and Toe Nail Trimming Clinic and we provide a car for four monthly shopping trips for citizens of the Valley. Our Thrift Shop, located one mile North of Townshend on Rte 30, provides good clean clothing at very reasonable prices or for free, if necessary. The staff provide information and referrals to our neighbors. We utilize Public Service Announcements and also print out news in the Cottage Door to help cut down on expenses.

We enjoy our clients in your town and look forward to serving them and others in the future. In the course of the past year the homemakers have made

959 visits and worked 2343 hours in the homes. They have traveled 9,215 miles and have spent 192 hours traveling to the clients in the towns we serve. We loaned 168 pieces of medical equipment to 107 people. Our drivers have transported numerous people to medical appointments, many of your neighbors have availed themselves of the free toe nail trimming clinics and many more have gone on the van trips to do their grocery shopping.

We are requesting \$724.00, which is \$1.55 per capita, for the year 2004. We enjoy serving your community and we do appreciate your assisting us financially, which helps enable us to continue providing these services to your residents.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Elaine Scott
Director

WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Windham Solid Waste Management District Staff are pleased to report another successful year of operating the only large municipally owned and operated Material Recycling Facility in Vermont. The Staff also thanks the District residents and businesses for your continued support over the past year.

The rural drop-off recycling program continues to experience increased quantities over the previous year due to the conscientious recycling habits of the residents and area businesses. The District received approximately 7,000 tons of recyclables for the year. The actual expenditure for the Fiscal Year was \$276,885 without the surplus fun subsidy. The District provided the recycling drop-off and processing program, household hazardous waste collection, convenience center, universal waste and computer disposal for a net cost of \$39.55 per ton. This represents a \$367,115 savings if all the recyclables were disposed of as refuse at the local commercial transfer station.

The District did experience problems due to recycling contamination from people putting garbage and

other non-recyclable items in the recycling drop-off containers. This resulted in having to close yet another drop-off site this past year along Route 30 in West Dummerston. Everyone's cooperation is needed to help keep these sites clean and used properly for recyclable materials.

The District once again obtained a federal grant to provide educational assistance to residents, businesses and institutions, within the District. We provided book and textile recycling throughout the District and continue to accept textiles full time at the District Facility in Brattleboro.

The permanent paint drop-off at the District facility in Brattleboro is also assisting residents by providing the resources to recycle paints year round rather than waiting for the Household hazardous Waste Collection (HHW) day each year

As always, the District Convenience Center in Brattleboro is available for use by residents and accepts used crankcase oil, fluorescent tubes, batteries, ballasts and other materials on a daily basis.

Please call the District with any questions at 257-0272.

YOUTH SERVICES

For over thirty years, Youth Services has helped Windham County area youth and families overcome life's challenges and learn healthy new ways to live. Whether it is problems such as substance abuse, family crisis, or general issues of growing up, our organization's staff of professionals helps youth and families find solutions. Equally important, Youth Services works in partnership with other local service providers, schools, private and public funding sources as well as with community and state groups to deliver services that help our area's youth and families, regardless of their ability to pay.

Some of the services our agency provides include Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Youth and Family Counseling, Home-Based Family Services, and mentoring through our Big Brothers Big Sisters program. In addition, we offer crisis intervention through our Youth Outreach, Transitional Living Services and Runaway

Programs and alternatives to the court system through our Juvenile and Adult Court Diversion and Restorative Programs.

This Past year, Youth Services' programs assisted over 2,019 local youth and family members. Support from communities such as yours helps make it possible for Youth services to be responsive to the ever-changing needs of our area's residents.

This year we respectfully request \$255 from the Town of Brookline to help fund our agency's services. Your ongoing support will help make it possible for Youth Services' programs to have a significant, positive impact on the lives of youth families in the Town of Brookline and throughout the Windham County area, we are very grateful for your past generosity and hope we can count on you continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Leitha Cipriano
Executive Director

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont league of Cities and Towns' mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. Most government services used by Vermonters on a daily basis are those provided by its cities and towns. These include highways, police, fire, recreation, sewer and water.

Vermont municipal officials are responsible for raising and expending nearly on-half of the non-federal taxes raised in the state.

- In large part, volunteer elected and appointed municipal officials lead these governments. VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns to serve and strengthen the ability of these officials to provide quality services at affordable levels of taxation:

- Advocacy representation before the State legislature, administration and judiciary, ensuring that municipalities have the resources and authority to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate and in securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs.

- Training, technical assistance and publications to strengthen the ability of municipal officials to serve their communities. In the past year, we have responded to almost 50,000 telephone calls, 21,200 of them from local officials on the toll-free telephone line available to them. Our Municipal Assistance Center and Group Services staffs provided over 750 workshops and small group training sessions attended by over 4,000 municipal officials and answered over 2,300 legal ques-

tions posed by municipal officials. VLCT distributed over 3,200 hard copies or electronic mail versions of VLCT's Weekly Legislative Report to municipal officials each week during the legislative sessions.

- Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost. These include an array of municipal insurance programs, among many others. Examples of how this saves local taxpayers dollars are the securing of municipal employee health insurance and liability coverage for town operations. The VLCT Health Trust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to your employees. The value of VLCT PACIF to all our members was made painfully clear last year when the major re-insurer for the largest private sector option available for municipal property and casualty insurance was declared insolvent by the State of Pennsylvania, threatening the payment of claims made under those policies.

All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 140 other municipal entities including villages and fire districts. Membership dues are \$.72 per capita plus a \$250 service fee per year. VLCT maintains its offices in Montpelier and employs 42 staff members. It has an annual operating budget of approximately \$3.0 million.

Individuals interested in finding out more about Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including reviewing its audited financial statements can visit its website at www.vlct.org.

MORNINGSIDE SHELTER

Morningside Shelter offers three programs. Emergency Shelter, Service Enriched Housing and Outreach.

Morningside Shelters mission is to provide temporary shelter, service enriched housing, outreach services to prevent homelessness and other related services at no or nominal cost to families and individuals who, because of family breakup, loss of employment, eviction, mental illness, substance abuse or other personal crisis, are without housing.

The shelter offers safe, clean supportive temporary housing to the homeless, an emergency food shelf, advocacy, assistance with finding employment and housing.

The Service Enriched Program (SEH) provides safe, clean and affordable long-term housing and supports (30-36 mo.) to individuals and families leaving the shelter who are committed to making positive changes in their lives. Clients and advocate meet once weekly or more if needed in their homes to discuss progress and address important issues and concerns.

Outreach services provide short-term support to make the transition from Morningside to the community. Outreach services are target to individuals leaving the shelter and intervention services to those living in the community who have been identified as at risk of becoming homeless.

WINDHAM COUNTY READS

I am writing to you on behalf of Windham County Reads, a non-profit literacy organization dedicated to bringing families and books together. Over the past 15 years we have been creating and carrying out a variety of successful literacy programs and projects, many of which have been replicated in other parts of Vermont and New England.

Programs and services utilized by Brookline residents include the Bookmobile, the March Reading Challenge, annotated Summer Reading lists and our Love Me ~ Read to Me partnership with Early Education Services. We greatly appreciate the \$150 we received from Brookline during FY 2003, and want to acknowledge that Brookline was one of the first three towns to allocate funds for our programs.

This year we are seeking support from 15 Windham County towns, and every dollar of new town

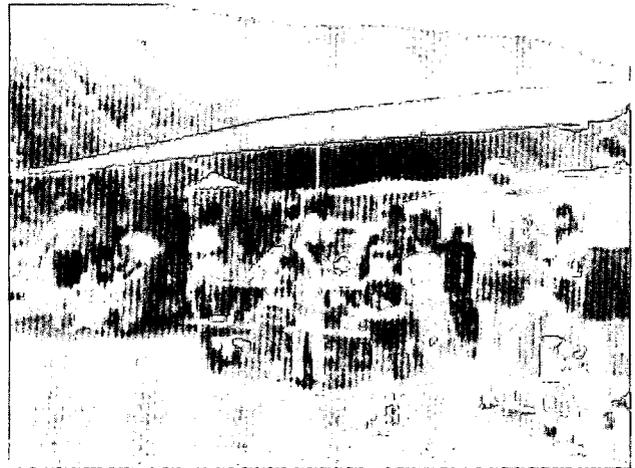
funding we receive will be matched by the Thomas Thompson Trust. Since we wish to maximize this matching grant opportunity, and since you already have shown your interest and support, we are asking your consideration for an allocation of \$200. The match from the Trust will then result in a total of \$250.

In the event that an article will be going before the town meeting, the following may be helpful: We the undersigned voters of the town of Brookline in the county of Windham and the state of Vermont, do hereby request that the following article be included in the warning for town meeting: "shall the town of Brookline raise and appropriate the sum of \$200. Support Windham County Reads programs?"

Thank you so much,
Director, Windham County Reads



2003 Summer Picnic



WINDHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

As my first year of sheriff comes to an end, I have found the position to be extremely exhilarating, and also have found that there are not enough hours in a day to accomplish all that I had set out to do. I have worked to improve on the community policing done by the deputies in the field, this was done through additional training, restructuring the supervision, and constant monitoring. Although I feel that we have made some improvements there is still work to be done. We have also felt the impact of budget cuts and have continued to provide timely professional service by rearranging schedules to better cover peak time. We have obtained six additional fulltime positions through the federal cop's grant which we are investigating the best way to utilize. The towns have been supported by two highway safety grants over the year, one for seatbelt enforcement and the other for Driving while intoxicated. The Department was also just awarded a speed grant from the governors highway safety. The

last two grants are new to the department this year.

The struggle is the budget cuts we have received impact us in maintaining Deputies so that they can be available when needed. We are working to gather the towns together so that a plan could be implemented which would meet the needs of all, at the lowest cost to the taxpayers. This will take some time however, arrest seem to be going up, as evident by the paperwork submitted by the deputies going to court. We are looking for whatever assistance towns can provide to increase the funding which would allow for increased visibility in the town in order to prevent crimes.

Additionally, as we all know the cost of insurance, gasoline, vehicles, etc. Continues to go up. Also in 2004 the county is no longer funding the dispatchers for the sheriff's department.

Sheila Prue, Sheriff

GREEN UP VERMONT

Thirty-three years strong, "Green Up Day" is a special day when Vermonters clean and spruce up their communities. We were the first state in our nation to designate a day for such cleaning of the entire state. Working together, we can keep our unique Green Up spirit growing for Vermont.

Green Up Vermont is the not-for-profit 501C(3) organization that promotes litter-free communities by supporting Green Up Day, civic pride and education.

Over 13,000 Vermonters participate in Green Up Day 2003, using over 33,000 Green Up bags, collecting over 200 tons of trash, piles of mixed metals and tires. Green Up Vermont arranged widespread promotional support in excess of \$25,000.

The success of Green Up for Vermont depends upon two essential ingredients. One is the combined efforts of individuals and civic groups who volunteer

to make it all possible; and two, the financial support given by the public and private sectors throughout Vermont.

With your town's help, we can continue our unique annual Vermont tradition of take care of our beautiful landscape and promoting civic pride so our children grow up with Green Up.

Careful use of resources minimized Green Up's costs. The State appropriates funds that cover about 15 percent of our budget. The rest comes from gifts from towns, individuals and businesses. These funds pay for supplies, promotion and services of two part-time employees. We ask your community to contribute, according to population, to keep Green Up growing for Vermont.

**Green Up Day,
May 1, 2004**

MOORE FREE LIBRARY

Message from the Board of Trustees

The Moore Free Library is honored to serve our community and is a cultural center for the towns of Newfane and Brookline. We are pleased to offer scholarships, adult and children programming, a permanent art collection, monthly art shows, gift books to school children, and a large up-to-date collection of reading material.

The Moore Free Library operates on a small budget with all money being donated. We receive no local, state, or federal government money. We are most grateful to the Friends of The Moore Free Library who conduct an annual book sale. With the proceeds from the book sale, the Friends provide many extras above and beyond our budget. We are especially grateful for the generous annual contributions made to the Library by you, the members of our community. Without these contributions, we would not be able to meet our operating costs.

The Library continues to encourage young readers and their families to enjoy books. Throughout the year, parents and preschoolers may attend the popular story/craft times directed by our gifted librarian, Meris Morrison, which include guest speakers and presentations. Upcoming programs this spring include a slide show by Charlie Marchant on "Cemetery Wander-

ings" and another show by Tom Clynes, a National Geographic writer and photographer. In April, we plan to have a benefit concert by Jack and Nancy Reed. Annual statistics reflect a lively library with thousands of books, tapes, and magazines circulated: over 4,000 visits during regular library hours, and over 1,200 children and adults have attended our weekly story/craft times.

In the Crowell Art Gallery, attached to the Library, we plan very exciting exhibits this spring and summer: Newfane Elementary School children (March), Albert Sievers WWII photos (April), Gordon Landenberger art (May), Kim Colligan prints (June), Gordon Meinhard paintings (July), Brian Shafford paintings (August), Robert Daughtry computer graphics (Sept), M. Linn Bruce paintings (October), Adelle Hersh quilts (Nov) and the Crowell Permanent Collection of Vermont artists (Dec-April 2005).

We are a dynamic, growing institution, and you are welcome to stop by Tuesdays through Fridays between 1:00 and 5:00 PM and Saturdays 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Story hour takes place Thursdays at 10:30 AM.

The Moore Free Library Board:

Bob Doyle, Myra Fassler, Jonathan Field, Julie Lavorgna, and Richard Marek.

GRACE COTTAGE FOUNDATION

"To see if the Town of Brookline will vote to raise \$300 by taxation for Grace Cottage Foundation, which supports the services of the Otis Health Care Center, including Grace Cottage Hospital and Emergency Services, Grace Cottage Family Health Services, Grace Cottage Adult Day Services, Heins Home Community Care Home, and the Bock EMS Training Center."

All of these services above are available for the residents, second homeowners, and visitors to Brookline. The Otis Health Care Center, of which Grace Cottage Hospital is a part, is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation which depends on the generosity of supporters to keep it going, especially in view of continuing cutbacks in Medicare/Medicaid and insurance reimbursements. Grace Cottage Foundation is a subsidiary of the Otis Health Care Center, and also a non-profit

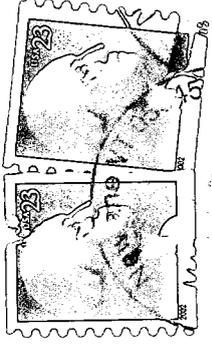
501(c)3 corporation which provides financial support for the hospital by building an endowment and raising contributions for the hospital to offset operating losses and to purchase new medical equipment, as needed.

Any and all Brookline residents and second homeowners are encouraged to visit Grace Cottage at any time to see, firsthand, what services we offer. Lunch in our employee dining room, followed by a tour, is always an option - please call Grace Cottage Foundation to make these arrangements if this is something that would interest you, in a group or individually. After all, our door is always open, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Sincerely,
Andrea Seaton
Executive Director

NOTES

TOWN OF BROOKLINE
P.O. BOX 403
NEWFANE, VT 05855



VT Dept of Libraries
109 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05609