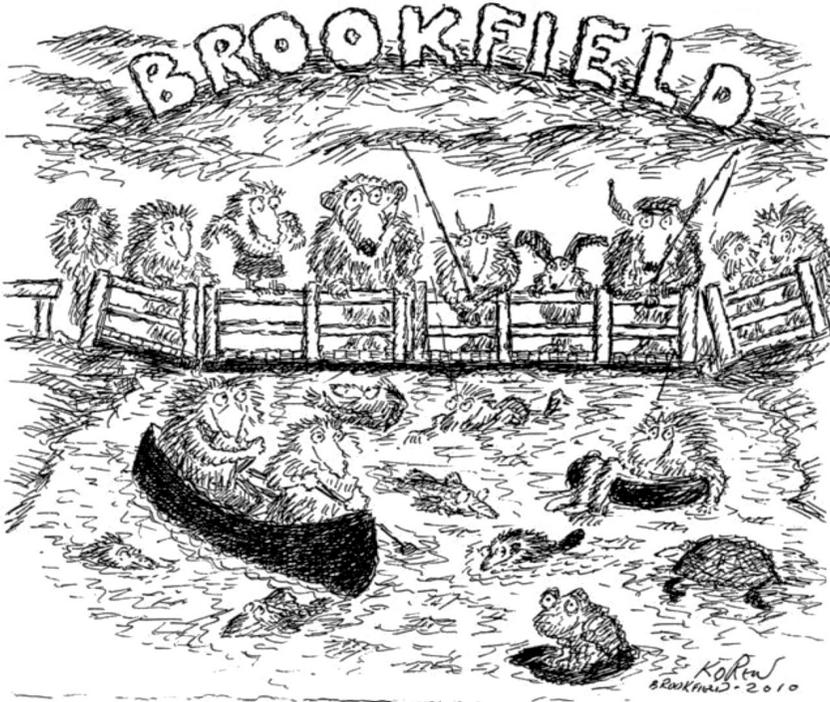


Annual Report
of the Town of

Brookfield



Ed Koren's drawing of the Floating Bridge
History of Brookfield (2010)

VERMONT

January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Town Clerk's Office Hours:

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

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

Brookfield Library Hours:

Winter 2023: Saturday 9 A.M. - Noon, Tuesday + Wednesday: 2:00-5:30 P.M

Summer 2023: (Memorial Day-Labor Day) Saturday: 9:00 A.M. – Noon; Tuesday + Wednesday: 2:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

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

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

Brookfield Elementary School.....	802-276-3153
Randolph Union High School	802-728-3397

Chartered: August 5, 1781

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

Town email address: townclerk@brookfieldvt.org

Landfill Hours:

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

(randolphvt.org/transferstation)

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

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

Photo Source: C. Curtis Koren

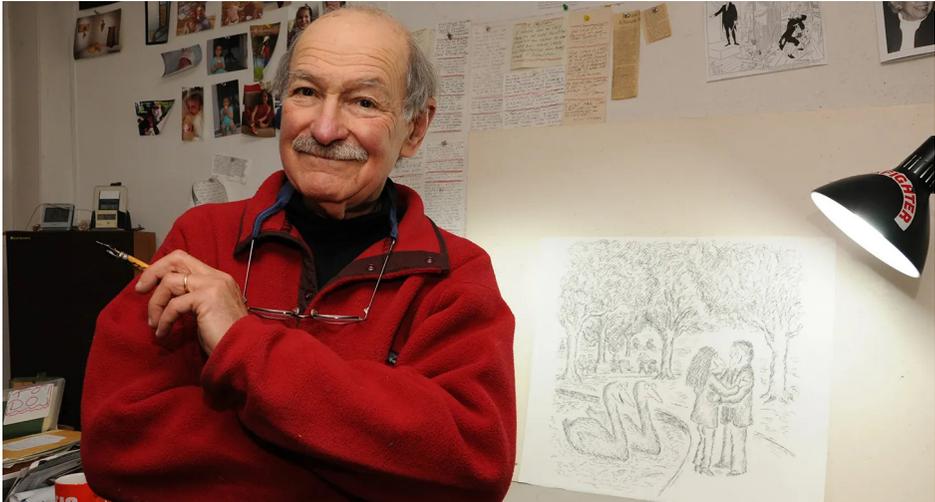
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DEDICATION

The Selectboard dedicates this year's Town Report to Ed Koren.



Ed Koren, born and educated in NYC, was most at home in his beloved Brookfield, in a house across the dirt road from the Floating Bridge and sandwiched between Green Trails Inn and the Brookfield Public Library (the oldest in continuous operation in Vermont). He bought his family home in 1978 and lived there happily for over forty years.

Ed treasured his neighbors, and the close community connections that drew them together.

He was honored to be part of the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department for 35 years, and deeply admired the members of the department for their dedication to community.

His son Ben went to the Brookfield Elementary School, and Ed was an energetic booster for the school, and an active member of the community groups that came together to build first a ball field and a playground. Following this success, the group went on to build a mezzanine for more classroom and storage space in the large cafeteria area, assisted by students from Brookfield Elementary and the Norwich University Architectural Program. or every work and play date over the years.

He found life in Brookfield to be much richer in so many ways than the one he had led in NYC. This was especially true for raising kids. He loved helping with after school projects, and those in summers -- fishing, building rafts and tree houses, and motorizing an old walker; and making detective movies that included any of the kids and pets that were around. One winter he got hold of donated cross country ski gear for kids, and on Wednesdays after school led interested kids on the ski trails from Brookfield Elementary to his house in Pond Village for hot chocolate.

Ed never tired of Brookfield's natural beauty, and the immensity of it to be found in this little town. He was a familiar sight exploring the town's roads on foot or bike or skis. He was appreciated by his friends and neighbors for his contributions to his place, but he was always quick to say that Brookfield gave him far more than he gave to the town.

He received many awards during his career, including the Vermont Art Council's 2007 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, and the Vermont Cartoonist Laureate. Ed was generous with his talent and drew art for tee shirts and cards for many Vermont organizations.

Through the years, Ed published several collections of his cartoons and wrote and illustrated children's books; but he became known nationally and internationally for his years spent with *The New Yorker* where he published over 1,100 cartoons and dozens of covers for the magazine.

Ed Koren was a national treasure, but he was Brookfield's own. We miss you Ed. RIP.

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD ANNUAL MEETING

WARNING

The legal voters of Brookfield are hereby warned to meet for the annual Town Meeting at the Brookfield Elementary School at 1725 Ridge Road, Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. to transact the following business:

Article:

1. To elect all officers as required by law for the ensuing year by Australian ballot. For this purpose, the polls will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
2. To hear and act on reports of the Town Officers.
3. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of revenues.
4. To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes paid into the Treasury as provided by law in two installments, and if so, to set the dates.
5. To see if the Town will approve the change of the Town Treasurer position from an elected position to a Selectboard appointed position starting the first Tuesday of March 2025.
6. To see if the Town will approve the change of the 1st Constable's position from a one-year term to a two-year term starting in 2024.
7. To see if the town will authorize adding \$200 to the budget for the Public Safety Advisory Committee.
8. To see if the Town will authorize an increase from \$500 to \$1,500 for the Randolph Area Food Shelf.
9. To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town General Fund and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.
10. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to pay a bonus of five hundred dollars each to the three Road Crew members (Tim, Ritchie and Rob) as appreciation for their efforts in the repair of our roadways during and following the July storm.
11. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to purchase a new Town Dump Truck. The cost not to exceed \$260,000 and to be financed over three-year period starting in 2024.
12. To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town Highway Fund and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.
13. To transact any other proper business.

Dated at Brookfield, Vermont, the 1st day of February 2024.

Attest: Carol Monness, Town Clerk

There will be an informational meeting on the Town Budget on Monday evening, February 26, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. at the Town Office as part of the Selectboard Meeting.

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Town of Brookfield 2023 Annual Meeting The legal voters of the Town of Brookfield met for the annual Town Meeting, at the Brookfield Elementary School at 1725 Ridge Road, Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business: Call to Order at 10:00 a.m. Moderator, Gregory Wight, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. G. Wight reviewed Roberts Rules of Order to the audience. He welcomed everyone to Town Meeting and announced that the Girl Scouts were selling cookies in the teachers work room. He also announced the Brookfield Historical Society was selling Ice-Out tickets as well.

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

Article 2: To hear and act on reports of the Town Officers. John Benson, Selectboard Chair, thanked everyone for coming out. He reported that recently all 3 town dump trucks have had a down period affecting plowing times with the recent snow accumulations. One crew member has been out with pneumonia. Keith Sprague, Road Commissioner, spent time under the trucks to help get them up and running again. The road crew was down 1 member from February-November but was able to hire a new employee from Williamstown to have a full crew for the Winter. Being short a crew member prevented them from getting summer jobs done. The Selectboard enlisted help from WB Rogers with jobs on Eagle Peak and Old Post Roads. There was a study done on the small bridges to ensure their stability. All 3 that showed abutment issues have been taken care of. The Town has applied and received a grant to replace Bear Hill & Halfway Brook Road culverts. The Town is also working on the Parker Road Bridge for possible upgrades. J. Benson also spoke of the upgraded town website. Stuart Edson has been working with the webmaster to improve the look and functionality of the website. If you have any comments or concerns to please direct them to S. Edson. With current concerns for the Orange County Sheriff Department (OCSD) not knowing where it is going to end up, the Selectboard has asked them questions on where the Town stands for coverage. They have not heard back yet. OCSD is the primary law enforcement for the Town. The Vermont State Police doesn't have the capacity as first responder. Several years ago it was mentioned at Town meeting about looking into creating a police force for Brookfield and the cost would be astronomical with training, vehicles, and insurance for law enforcement. It was decided at that time that OCSD was the best option. J. Benson recognized Teresa Godfrey, Town Clerk, has done a great job and the town was going to miss her. She took on Lister and when the Town Report needed to be done the last couple of years, she took on that task as well. There was a standing ovation for her.

Article 3: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of revenues. Motion by Erik Nielsen, seconded by Joy Kacik. J. Benson said this is in there in case we have to borrow but do not anticipate having to borrow. Call to vote. Motion carried.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes paid into the Treasury as provided by law in two installments, and if so, to set the dates. Motion by Marylou Maeder, seconded by Dan Childs that the first payment of 2023/2024 property taxes be due November 4th, 2023; the second payment due May 4th, 2024. No discussion. Motion carried.

Article 5: To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town General Fund and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same. Motion by Kym Anderson, seconded by Erik Nielsen. K. Anderson asked about the ARPA funds and what the Town is doing with them. J. Benson stated

they are not included in the budget. The Town held a number of Selectboard meetings on the use of the money and there was only 1 suggestion from the public. The Selectboard narrowed down the possible use of expenditures and as a long-term benefit to the Town. They decided to use the money to replace the shed at the Town Garage. Jon Binhammer asked if there was more than one bid for the shed, what the bidding process is and how much money is there for the ARPA amount. J. Benson said when they put it out to bid, there were no bids so they went out to local builders. One local builder expressed interest to take on the project. The concern is the cost of the materials but they put in a bid of \$350,000-\$390,000 which is within the balance of the ARPA fund of \$400,000 that the Town received. Patricia Kennedy asked if the Selectboard compared the cost of a steel building vs a wooden structure. J. Benson said they are looking at a wood frame with steel siding to minimize maintenance costs. It must pass the VT Energy Code. A total steel structure will not meet the energy code. The architect, Black River Design assisted in the design process. J. Kacik stated that not having the budget to study before the meeting she sees the amount increased significantly. The town should live within the budget. She understood that with the assessment going up, the tax rate went down but when setting the tax rate the amount needed went up. Where is the need to increase the budget? J. Benson explained the cost of everything has gone up. The tax rate is a comparison between the reappraisal amount, the budget, and the tax rate. The Grand List went up but the amount each property owner pays stays the same. One of the reasons the budget went up is that to increase the interest in Town Clerk and Treasurer positions we needed to look at benefits for those positions. The budget now includes Health and Dental Care in case whoever wins and needs benefits it is available. It is required by law to offer it. No other discussion. Motion carried.

Article 6: To approve a 12-month budget for the financial year of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town Highway Fund and to authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same. Motion by Kym Anderson, seconded by Amy Ingrassia. No discussion. Motion carried.

Article 7: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to place an order for the cab/chasey for the replacement of a Town dump truck, for delivery by fall of 2024. The cost, \$166,994.00 plus financing, would be paid for over a three-year period starting in 2024. Motion by Linda Runnion, seconded by Erik Nielsen. J. Benson said that as we have talked before, we trade at a 9-year cycle. The next truck will be traded in 2024. It now takes 14-18 months to hold an order placement. We are asking permission to place the order but will come back next year to ask for the money for the truck. The last truck took 16 months from placement of order to receiving the truck. Lora Churchill asked if we just need the cab & chassis but not a whole truck? How many wheels will the new truck have. We do not need another 10-wheeler. It is too big for our roads. J. Benson replied that plowing West Brookfield can take 3 hours or 6 hours depending on the truck and how much gravel it holds. Also, the garage can haul a full load vs a half load when transferring gravel from the pit. No more discussion. Motion carried.

Article 8: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to expend \$245,000 of the excess revenues from prior financial years as follows: \$85,000 for the replacement of the Town's 1-ton dump truck, \$60,000 for road improvements, \$50,000 to reduce taxes and \$50,000 for the replacement of the shed at the Town Garage. Motion by Joy Kacik, seconded by Amy Ingrassia. J. Benson stated that T. Godfrey came to the board after working with the outside auditors last year and said there was an excess of \$250,000. After the current audit review, the town has about \$680,000 in non-allocated funds. The Town works in a cash in-cash out financing. We set a budget and then the tax rate. There are revenues from delinquent taxes. The Town pays the bills and the amount

needed was less than what was taken in over the years so the money was tucked away. Since T. Godfrey has taken on Treasurer, she has shown the actual revenue vs the actual expenses and that balance was applied to the new budgets to lessen the amount needed for taxes. We do not want to use all the excess to save for unforeseen items and emergencies. The 1-ton has been used for the Town Clerk office and small roads. Buying a used vehicle, you don't know what might be wrong and now it is rusting out. We can buy new lasting 8-10 years vs used lasting 3-4 years. We are looking at road improvements and the \$50,000 for tax reduction. The shed would be an unheated shed roof bay for other equipment. Laura Rochat asked why we aren't using the \$680,000 vs \$245,000? J. Benson said the Selectboard didn't think it was prudent to use the whole amount. P. Kennedy questioned if it is a temporary structure? J. Benson said the enclosed portion is covered with the ARPA and this \$50,000 would cover a bay shed added on the side. This addition would be added to the contract. No more discussion. Motion carried.

Article 9: To see if the Town will approve the revision of the five current Selectboard terms from all 3-year terms to three, 3-year terms and two, 2-year terms. If approved, one 3-year and one 2-year term will be up for election each year starting in 2024. The Selectboard will determine which two current members will agree to take a two-year term, one ending in 2024 and one ending in 2025. Motion by Marylou Maeder, seconded by Dan Childs. Aaron Adler as a Lawyer said he was glad to see the correction of adding the 2 Selectboard members going to 1- or 2-year terms and not 3-year terms. His concern was why and how are the Selectboard members going to decide who goes to 2-year terms. J. Benson admitted that the Selectboard members are not Lawyers and the vote to create the 2 new positions was voted on a couple of years ago. The Clerk thought it was all 3-year terms after that. We are wanting to get on an even keel with 3-year and 2-year terms. A. Adler asked how they are going to decide. J. Benson said they will decide after the current vote at the organizational meeting on Monday night who will step forward to switch to a 2-year term. There was concern that it isn't fair to those elected currently but to wait, it would take 2 election cycles to change and maybe the Secretary of States office could advise. Keith Sprague, Selectboard member, (and currently on the ballot), remarked that he was appointed to the position originally and as an appointed, and if elected, I would volunteer for what's best for the Town. Perry Kacik asked to "call the question." G. Wight stated 2/3rds of the voters will have to agree to stop discussion. Call the question: Ayes have it with no nays. Motion carried.

Article 10: To transact any other proper business. G. Wight said T. Godfrey was looking for vote counters. About 6 raised hands. P. Kacik reminded everyone that St. Patrick's Day is coming up so the tickets are on green paper and the Brookfield Historical Society is selling chances to win money for guessing when the ice will go out at the Floating Bridge this year. Chances are \$2 each or 3-\$5 and you guess the date and time. The money goes to support activities at BHS at the Marvin Newton House on Ridge Road. J. Binhammer introduced himself as the Chairman for the Conservation Commission. The Commission is offering a way to help songbirds survive. Since 1970 over 3 billion birds have been lost from pesticides, collision with windows, loss of habitat, and other ways. The Conservation Commission is giving away sets of 3 stickers to put on windows to help keep birds from flying into them. They are available in the back room. J. Benson announced that Jon Jickling, Town Forester, has updated the master plan for the Town Forest and it is posted on the Town Website. If you have any concerns or comments you can speak to Jon Jickling. J. Jickling suggested getting to know the Town Forest. G. Wight, with no other discussion, adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Teresa Godfrey, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD OFFICERS 2023

Position	Length of Term	Name	End of Term Date
Town Moderator	1 yr	Greg Wight	3/5/2024
Town Clerk	3 yr	Carol J. Monness	3/7/2026
Treasurer	3 yr	Amy Ingrassia	3/5/2024
Asst. TC	appt.	Amy Ingrassia	Appt by TC
Asst. Treas.	appt.	Carol J. Monness	Appt by Treas
Admin. Asst.	appt.	Vicki Blanchard	Appt by SB
Selectboard	3 yr	J. Keith Sprague III	3/7/2026
	3 yr	John Benson	3/5/2024
	3 yr	Stuart Edson	3/7/2025
	2 yr	C. Curtis Koren	3/7/2025
	2 yr	Betty Lord	3/5/2024
OSSD	3 yr	Sam Hooper	3/7/2026
	3 yr	Chelsea Sprague	3/5/2024
Lister	3 yr	Kristi Ehlers	3/5/2024
	3 yr	Tom Garbitelli	3/5/2024
	3 yr	Carol J. Monness	3/5/2024
Auditor	3 yr	Vacant	3/7/2025
	3 yr	Vacant	3/7/2026
	3 yr	Vacant	3/7/2027
Del Tax Collector	1 yr	Carol J. Monness	3/5/2024
1st Constable	1 yr	Dan Mason	3/5/2024
2nd Constable	1 yr	Ed Neas	3/5/2024
Fire Warden		Jeff Brassard	Appt by FD
911 Coordinator		G. "Jack" Zebora	Appt by SB
Memorial Day Comm		Alice Kempe	Appt by SB
		Mary Doyle	Appt by SB
Library Trustee	3 yrs	Emily Noyes	3/7/2026
	3 yrs	Susan O'Brien	3/7/2026
	3 yrs	Amy Borgman	3/7/2025
	3 yrs	Dan Childs	3/5/2024
	3 yrs	Starr Strong	3/5/2024
Justice of Peace	2 yrs	Perry Kacik	2/1/2025
	2 yrs	Kym Anderson	2/1/2025
	2 yrs	Starr Strong	2/1/2025
	2 yrs	C. Curtis Koren	2/1/2025
	2 yrs	Elizabeth Deforge	2/1/2025
	2 yrs	Linda Runnion	2/1/2025
	2 yrs	Billi Gosh	2/1/2025
Town Forester	1 yr	Jon Jickling	3/7/2024
Health Officer	3 yr	Starr Strong	11/1/2024
Admin Officer	3 yr	Mike Fiorillo	7/22/2025
Admin Officer Asst Asst.	3 yr	Vacant	7/22/2025
Civil Defense		John Benson	
Agent to Deed Land			
Agent to Defend Suits			

Planning		H. Gwynn Zakov	Appt by SB
Commission		Keven Ring	Appt by SB
		Martha Judy	Appt by SB
		William White	Appt by SB
		Patricia Kennedy	Appt by SB
		Christina Harlow	Appt by SB
		Vacant	Appt by SB
Board of	Chair	Tom Allen	
Adjustment		Theresa White	
		Scott Brock	
		Dennis LaRocque	
		Vacant	
TRORC Rep		H. Gwynn Zakov	Appt by SB
TRORC Rep Alternate		Jon Binhammer	Appt by SB
Conservation	Chair	Jon Binhammer	Appt by SB
Commission	Vice-Chair	Susan Shea	Appt by SB
	Sec	Jon Jickling	Appt by SB
	Treas	Starr Strong	Appt by SB
		Vacant	Appt by SB
Public Safety	Chair	Lewis Stowell	
Advisory		Stuart Edson	
Committee		Dan Mason	
		Michael Rutkovsky	
		Michael Stoddard	

REPORT OF THE BROOKFIELD SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard offers the following report for 2023:

July Storm – The most significant event of 2023 was the July storm. With the ground already saturated, the over 5-inches of rain that fell on July 10 resulted in significant damage to Brookfield roads as well as private properties and homes. There were over 100 sites of road damage from small washes to the complete loss of entire road sections. The Road Crew, assisted by our Selectman in Charge of Roads, Keith Sprague, worked continuously the first few days, and was then assisted by several contractors to return several of our roadways to passable. This work continued through November with still further cleanup needed in the spring. A sincere thank you goes out to our Road Crew and Keith Sprague for repairing our roads, and to Vicki Blanchard, our Administrative Assistant, who worked tirelessly with FEMA to complete the damage assessment for the Town. At present, the estimated damage stands at just over a half million dollars and 106 sites.

In addition to the damage inventory/assessment, the Town has also applied to FEMA for mitigation monies to help alleviate future storm damage. If approved, this would involve the replacement of six structures which have been determined by Hydraulic/Hydrologic analysis to be undersized and not meeting current design standards. The total cost for these upgrades is estimated at \$2,659,112.00, of which the Town would be responsible for 25%.

Highway – At last year’s report, we indicated we had filled the vacant position on the Road Crew. Unfortunately, once again this was short lived. Come spring we found ourselves once

again one man down. We should all thank Tim, Ritchie and Rob for the long hours and efforts they have put in to make our roads passable following the storm being down one man. We are happy to report that we have been able to hire a young man in October, Austin Wheatley, as a full-time member of the Road Crew. A native of Brookfield, whose family dates back multiple generations in our community, we look forward to a long-term relationship with Austin.

As reported last year, the Town applied for and received a grant from FEMA to design a replacement structure on Halfway Brook Road. VHB was selected as the design consultant and Two Rivers Regional Planning Commission as the Contract Manager. The Design is scheduled for completion in early 2024. The construction funds for this project are part of our FEMA mitigation request.

The Town had also received a grant from VTrans for the design and replacement of a culvert on Bear Hill Rd. The project was anticipated to go to construction this past summer. However, VTrans had yet to obtain several necessary permits and once the July storm hit, priorities shifted to more immediate needs. It is still our hope that this will proceed to construction in 2024.

Town Garage Building – This project was proposed to start this past summer but once the July storm hit it was felt that further disruption and activity at the Town Garage site would only hinder the efforts of the Road Crew. Therefore, construction on this project will commence in the spring of 2024.

Radio repeaters - The two repeaters approved for purchase and installation at the Brookfield Elementary site are now fully operational. One is for the Town Road Crew and the other for the Fire Department. The purpose of these repeaters is to improve radio communications for both of these entities.

Betty Lord – After serving several terms on the Selectboard, Betty has decided to retire. We thank her for her service and we will miss her southern hospitality.

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

BROOKFIELD BOARD OF LISTERS - 2023 REPORT

This year has brought major changes to the Board of Listers. Some of you will have already met our new listers, Tom Garbitelli and Kristi Ehlers, and we have just appointed our Town Clerk, Carol Monness, to the third position. Kristi was appointed earlier in the year and will be running for the official election this March, the same goes for Carol.

For the Grand List year April 2022 – March 2023, the Brookfield Board of Listers completed more than 40 site visits/phone interviews, processed 64 property transfer forms (changes in ownership and/or land divisions), and continued with our management of 176 Brookfield properties currently enrolled in Vermont's Current Use program.

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

of our Current Use properties requires on-going communication and file exchanges with the Vermont Division of Property Valuation and Review.

It is the goal of the Listers to keep the Brookfield Grand List and records of the 887 (85 inactive) property parcels in Brookfield up to date. Please contact us at the town office if you have any questions or changes to your property (i.e. removing a structure). The Listers can be reached at the Town Clerk's Office number (802) 276-3352 or by email at listers@brookfieldvt.org. We will call (or email) you to arrange a time to meet.

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

Reminder to Veterans: Any **disabled veteran**, who is planning to apply for the Veterans Tax Exemption, is required to submit a Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans and Their Survivors form (Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs form 3802) and letter of eligibility to the Department of Veterans Affairs **before May 1st** of each year. A Veteran exemption **cannot** be applied until the Listers receive notification from the State that the exemption form has been approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Brookfield Listers: Kristi Ehlers, Tom Garbitelli, and Carol Monness

VITAL STATISTICS 2023

Marriages:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name #1</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Name #2</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Place of Marriage</u>
05/27/23	Katherine E. Kauffman	Brookfield	Albert G. Hermsen, III	Brookfield	Montpelier, VT
06/03/23	James C. Fisher	Randolph	Megan K. Miller	Randolph	Montpelier, VT
09/23/23	Heather M. Robinson	W. Brookfield	Robert A. Danaher	W. Brookfield	Brookfield, VT
11/22/23	Danny T. Boone	Brookfield	Amy J. Boone	Brookfield	Williamstown, VT

Births:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Mother's Name</u>
Kate Abigail Batchman	Bryce Elliot Batchman	Lindsey Anne Batchman
Kuiper Byrne	Daniel Byrne	Colleen Elizabeth Small
Anais Ocean Obenaur	Kyle Edward Obenaur	Caitlin Flood Obenaur
Maverick Bishop West	Brady Thomas West	Fianna Dona Barrows
Orion Sol Walker	Keith William Walker	Talon Kriss Birns
Sophia Joyce Caplin		Alyssa Sue CaplinDopp
Bethany Catherine Cote	Thomas Donald Cote	Jordan Helaine Cote

Deaths:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>	<u>Place of Burial</u>
Campbell, Theresa M.	78	01/09/2023	Brookfield, VT	Valley Crematory, WRJ, VT
Cushing, Sidney E. Sr.	65	01/31/2023	Brookfield, VT	Green Mountain Crematory, Northfield
Landry, Joyce	90	02/16/2023	Brookfield, VT	Valley Crematory, WRJ, VT
Koren, Edward B.	87	04/14/2023	Brookfield, VT	Brookfield, VT
Cutler, Justin S.	29	04/16/2023	Brookfield, VT	So. Burlington, VT
Hall, Myrtle	100	08/23/2023	Randolph Ctr, VT	Valley Crematory, WRJ, VT
Doyle, Albert R.	88	10/10/2023	Brookfield, VT	Valley Crematory, WRJ, VT
Keene, Thomas T., SR	88	08/25/2023	Brookfield, VT	Brookfield Center, VT

Burials:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>	<u>Place of Burial</u>
Greco, Eugenia				East Brookfield
Keene, Thomas T. Sr.	88	08/25/2023	Brookfield, VT	Brookfield
McKee, Marion C.	94		Essex, VT	Brookfield Center

Respectfully submitted, Carol J. Monness, Town Clerk

GENERAL & HIGHWAY BUDGET

Town Income	Budget 7/1/22-6/30/23	Actual 7/1/22-6/30/23	Budget 7/1/23-6/30/24	Actual 7/1/23-12/31/23	Budget 7/1/24-6/30/25
10-4-1-10-00 Property Taxes Received	** \$321,246.00	\$279,297.25	\$417,236.00	\$244,984.86	\$471,431.00
10-4-1-10-01 Del Tax Principal	\$0.00	\$98,075.98	\$0.00	\$27,441.26	\$5,000.00
10-4-1-30-00 PILOT	\$6,940.00	\$8,550.12	\$8,500.00	\$9,016.12	\$8,500.00
10-4-1-40-00 Current Use-Hold Harmless	\$90,000.00	\$87,011.00	\$87,000.00	\$69,370.00	\$70,000.00
10-4-1-60-00 Judicial-Local Fines	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$77.50	\$500.00
10-4-1-70-00 Reappraisal	\$0.00	\$8455.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10-4-2-02-00 Town Clerk's Fees	\$12,000.00	\$14,028.96	\$12,000.00	\$6,307.75	\$12,000.00
10-4-2-03-00 Book Restoration Fund	\$2,300.00	\$5,007.79	\$2,500.00	\$2,208.00	\$2,500.00
10-4-2-04-00 Copier Reimbursement	\$1,200.00	\$1,656.15	\$1,000.00	\$462.25	\$1,200.00
10-4-2-05-00 Dog Licenses	\$150.00	\$796.00	\$150.00	\$91.00	\$500.00
10-4-2-07-00 Marriage Licenses	\$250.00	\$10.00	\$150.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
10-4-2-08-00 Permits	\$1,500.00	\$2,532.00	\$1,600.00	\$756.20	\$1,600.00
10-4-2-10-00 Posting Fees	\$80.00	\$65.00	\$80.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
10-4-2-10-00 Liquor Licenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-4-2-30-00 Miscellaneous Income	\$100.00	\$7,424.00	\$100.00	\$-490.90	\$500.00
10-4-3-10-00 Int. Bank Accounts	\$1,500.00	\$6,392.16	\$1,500.00	\$3,922.65	\$1,500.00
10-4-3-40-00 Delinquent Tax Penalties	\$6,000.00	\$4,135.96	\$3,000.00	\$1,918.94	\$2,500.00
10-4-3-50-00 Int. Delinquent Taxes	\$20,000.00	\$12,928.76	\$15,000.00	\$4,068.85	\$12,000.00
Total Town Income	\$463,766.00	\$536,366.13	\$550,316.00	\$370,184.48	\$589,881.00
10-4-9-00-00 Highway Income - Other		\$15,362.26	\$0.00	\$43,706.03	\$5,000.00
10-4-9-01-01 Paving Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-4-9-02-01 FEMA Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-4-9-03-01 DR427 Trees Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-4-9-10-00 Property Taxes Raised	** \$655,655.00	\$567,058.05	\$745,955.00	\$454,971.86	\$845,957.00
10-4-9-20-00 St. of VT-Highway Aid	\$148,500.00	\$152,515.68	\$148,000.00	\$157,110.50	\$152,000.00

GENERAL & HIGHWAY BUDGET

10-4-9-30-00 RT 65 Maintenance Contract	\$13,000.00	\$15,296.08	\$13,000.00	\$566.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
10-4-9-35-00 Highway Permits	\$250.00	\$675.00	\$250.00	\$110.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
10-4-9-87-01 MSB 2021 truck loan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-4-9-87-02 Western Star Truck Loan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-4-9-88-01 Transfer from Hwy Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-4-9-90-01 Prior Year Hwy Surplus	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$195,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Highway Income	\$817,405.00	\$751,007.07	\$1,102,205.00	\$656,464.39	\$1,016,207.00	\$1,016,207.00
Total Income	\$1,281,171.00	\$1,287,373.20	\$1,457,521.00	\$1,026,648.87	\$1,606,088.00	\$1,606,088.00
General Fund						
10-5-1-10-00 Town Clerk's Salary	\$21,075.00	\$21,075.08	\$21,075.00	\$10,537.50	\$21,760.00	\$21,760.00
10-5-1-11-00 Asst. Town Clerk's Salary	\$7,500.00	\$7,818.35	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
10-5-1-15-00 Treasurer's Salary	\$16,860.00	\$16,860.00	\$16,860.00	\$5,944.30	\$16,860.00	\$16,860.00
10-5-1-16-00 Assist. Treasurer's Salary	\$15,000.00	\$18,729.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,237.50	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
10-5-1-17-00 Del Tax Collector Fees	\$6,000.00	\$4,236.76	\$3,000.00	\$2,680.57	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
10-5-1-20-00 Selectmen's Salaries	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
10-5-1-25-00 Admin. Assistant Salary	\$11,500.00	\$12,007.50	\$14,200.00	\$7,330.00	\$14,200.00	\$14,200.00
10-5-1-26-00 Admin. Asst. Asst. Salary	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
10-5-1-50-00 Lister's Salaries	\$20,160.00	\$22,110.50	\$27,720.00	\$7,859.50	\$28,510.00	\$28,510.00
10-5-1-52-00 Constable's Salary	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,000.00	\$525.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
10-5-1-54-00 2nd Constable Salary	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
10-5-1-55-00 Admin Officer Salary	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00	\$0.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
10-5-1-56-00 Librarian Salary	\$12,900.00	\$13,958.32	\$12,900.00	\$6,450.00	\$13,100.00	\$13,100.00
10-5-1-57-00 Assistant Librarian	\$1,400.00	\$1,046.09	\$1,400.00	\$731.49	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
10-5-1-58-00 Auditor's Salaries	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
10-5-1-65-00 Health Officer's Salary	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
10-5-1-68-00 BCA/ Elections	\$2,500.00	\$1,436.21	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Total Town Services	\$125,395.00	\$128,477.81	\$132,155.00	\$47,295.86	\$134,230.00	\$134,230.00

GENERAL & HIGHWAY BUDGET

10-5-2 Payroll Expenses									
10-5-2-40-00 Social Security	\$18,000.00	\$17,962.16	\$19,000.00	\$8,692.86	\$19,500.00				
10-5-2-45-00 Medicare	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.95	\$4,500.00	\$2,033.11	\$4,500.00				
10-5-2-50-00 Workman's Comp	\$550.00	\$2,328.17	\$775.00	\$444.17	\$1,750.00				
10-5-2-50-01 FD Workman's Comp	\$1,200.00	\$1,632.25	\$1,490.00	\$1,448.40	\$1,250.00				
10-5-2-52-00 State Child Care Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$625.00				
10-5-2-55-00 Town Health Insurance		\$0.00	\$30,680.00	\$0.00	\$40,100.00				
10-5-2-56-00 Town Dental Insurance		\$0.00	\$1,380.00	\$0.00	\$1,380.00				
10-5-2-60-00 VT Employees Retirement	\$2,500.00	\$929.43	\$2,500.00	\$720.88	\$2,610.00				
10-5-2-80-00 Mileage	\$600.00	\$720.70	\$650.00	\$506.23	\$800.00				
10-5-2-81-00 Constable Mileage	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$75.00	\$500.00				
10-5-2-82-00 Lister Mileage	\$500.00	\$485.56	\$300.00	\$10.82	\$300.00				
10-5-2-9 Professional Services									
10-5-2-94-00 Training	\$1,800.00	\$557.81	\$1,800.00	\$1,042.31	\$1,800.00				
10-5-2-94-01 Constable Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
10-5-2-94-02 Lister Training	\$500.00	\$215.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$250.00				
10-5-2-95-00 Professional./Legal Services	\$7,000.00	\$1,313.10	\$7,000.00	\$3,915.12	\$7,000.00				
10-5-2-96-00 Audit	\$20,000.00	\$12,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00				
10-5-2-97-00 Reappraisal 2020-2022	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
Total Payroll Expenses & Professional Services	\$57,350.00	\$42,845.13	\$90,875.00	\$4,957.43	\$106,365.00				
10-5-3-04-00 Police Services	\$16,250.00	\$8,710.00	\$16,500.00	\$3,299.50	\$20,000.00				
10-5-3-10-00 Fire Department Budget	\$39,300.00	\$41,889.76	\$47,050.00	\$17,347.67	\$58,400.00				
10-5-3-15-00 Fire Truck	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
10-5-3-25-00 Library Budget	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	\$2,400.00	\$4,800.00				
10-5-3-30-00 Cemetery Budget	\$32,000.00	\$16,379.18	\$35,000.00	\$21,150.05	\$30,000.00				
10-5-3-60-00 Ambulance Service	\$83,000.00	\$78,683.01	\$89,000.00	\$62,884.26	\$90,275.00				

GENERAL & HIGHWAY BUDGET

10-5-3-70-00	Emergency Management	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-5-3-80-00	Street Lights	\$3,600.00	\$3,606.20	\$3,800.00	\$1,555.25	\$3,800.00
	Total Town Services	\$180,450.00	\$154,068.15	\$196,650.00	\$108,636.73	\$207,775.00
10-5-4-12-00	Advertising & Notices	\$1,000.00	\$2,379.63	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
10-5-4-16-00	Town Report	\$3,000.00	\$2,382.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
10-5-4-18-00	Book Restoration	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
10-5-4-20-00	Office Supplies	\$3,500.00	\$4,930.43	\$3,800.00	\$4,731.44	\$4,200.00
10-5-4-22-00	Dog Licenses	\$150.00	\$90.55	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
10-5-4-24-00	Dog and Animal Control	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
10-5-4-28-00	Postage	\$3,000.00	\$3,655.05	\$3,000.00	\$2,669.14	\$3,500.00
10-5-4-30-00	Administrative Other	\$150.00	\$438.57	\$150.00	\$83.45	\$150.00
10-5-4-40-00	Lister's Supplies	\$500.00	\$525.46	\$875.00	\$484.35	\$300.00
10-5-4-41-00	Lister Computer Support	\$250.00	\$1,478.48	\$250.00	\$780.00	\$800.00
10-5-4-44-00	Tax Maps	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,650.00
10-5-4-45-00	M&S Cost Tables	\$250.00	\$286.59	\$300.00	\$315.95	\$300.00
10-5-4-46-00	VALA Membership	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
10-5-4-47-00	Blueprints/Reproductions	\$50.00	\$15.75	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
10-5-4-50-00	Computer Hardware	\$1,000.00	\$339.19	\$4,000.00	\$311.95	\$3,500.00
10-5-4-51-00	Computer Software	\$300.00	\$415.09	\$1,500.00	\$196.54	\$500.00
10-5-4-52-00	Computer Support	\$7,500.00	\$8,541.75	\$8,000.00	\$6,947.26	\$13,000.00
	Total Administrative Expenses	\$24,410.00	\$25,478.54	\$31,525.00	\$16,520.08	\$34,700.00
10-5-6-10-00	Buildings and Grounds	** \$27,365.00	\$37,193.50	\$10,000.00	\$3,187.28	\$15,000.00
10-5-6-10-01	Electricity	\$1,200.00	\$2,111.89	\$1,500.00	\$476.89	\$2,000.00
10-5-6-10-02	Heat	\$2,500.00	\$2,569.91	\$2,500.00	\$1,422.00	\$3,500.00
10-5-6-10-03	Telephone	\$1,400.00	\$1,540.38	\$1,400.00	\$649.19	\$1,500.00
10-5-6-10-04	ISP	\$1,000.00	\$864.00	\$1,100.00	\$432.00	\$1,200.00

GENERAL & HIGHWAY BUDGET

10-5-6-20-00 Copier Expense	\$750.00	\$127.64	\$750.00	\$757.08	\$500.00
10-5-6-55-00 Office Equipment	\$1,200.00	\$807.81	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Total Building Expenses	\$35,415.00	\$45,215.13	\$18,450.00	\$6,924.44	\$24,900.00
10-5-7-10-00 Property/Liability Insurance	\$7,200.00	\$10,723.50	\$10,120.00	\$6,034.85	\$11,500.00
10-5-7-20-00 Officers/Employees Bond	\$1,500.00	\$464.34	\$2,120.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-5-7-30-00 VLCT	\$2,700.00	\$0.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,737.00	\$2,800.00
10-5-7-40-00 Two Rivers Plan Comm.	\$2,000.00	\$1,966.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,028.00	\$2,100.00
10-5-7-50-00 Orange County	\$41,000.00	\$40,897.12	\$42,000.00	\$0.00	\$42,000.00
10-5-7-60-00 Brookfield Plan Comm.	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-5-7-60-01 Conservation Comm.	\$200.00	\$19.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-5-7-70-00 Interest Expense	\$100.00	\$88.25	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
10-5-7-80-00 Bank Charges	\$250.00	\$116.24	\$250.00	\$5.00	\$250.00
10-5-7-85-00 Errors and Omissions	\$860.00	\$278.60	\$1,170.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
10-5-7-90-00 Solid Waste Trans Fac.	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
10-5-7-91-00 Road Survey		\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Total Other Expenses	\$57,110.00	\$54,553.05	\$65,160.00	\$10,804.85	\$66,350.00
10-5-8-10-00 Capstone Comm. Action	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-5-8-11-00 Arts Bus	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
10-5-8-12-00 VT Rural Fire Task Force	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
10-5-8-13-00 Randolph Area Mentoring	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-5-8-15-00 Tri-Valley Transportation	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
10-5-8-17-00 Red Cross	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
10-5-8-18-00 Green Up VT	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
10-5-8-20-00 Memorial Day	\$300.00	\$525.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
10-5-8-30-00 VT Visiting Nurses	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00

GENERAL & HIGHWAY BUDGET

10-5-8-40-00	Randolph Senior Citizens	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,100.00
10-5-8-60-00	Clara Martin Center	\$1,905.00	\$1,905.00	\$1,905.00	\$1,905.00	\$1,905.00	\$1,905.00
10-5-8-70-00	Ctr. for Independ. Living	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
10-5-8-71-00	Rand Area Food Shelf	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
10-5-8-71-01	Rand. Area Community Development	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
10-5-8-85-00	Orange Co. Parent Child	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
10-5-8-90-00	Safe Line	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
10-5-8-96-00	CV Council on Aging	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
10-5-8-97-00	Orange Co. Restorative Justice	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00
10-5-8-98-00	Gr. Mt. Econ Dev. Corp	\$671.00	\$671.00	\$671.00	\$671.00	\$671.00	\$631.00
10-5-8-99-00	Central VT Adult Edu.	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Total Town Contributions	\$17,801.00	\$17,726.00	\$15,501.00	\$15,201.00	\$15,201.00	\$15,561.00
	Total General Town Expenses	\$498,131.00	\$468,363.81	\$550,316.00	\$224,271.50	\$224,271.50	\$589,881.00
	Highway Fund						
10-6-1-00-00	Highway Salaries	\$200,000.00	\$161,732.46	\$238,300.00	\$91,434.28	\$257,150.00	\$257,150.00
10-6-1-10-00	Highway Comm. Salary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
10-6-2-30-00	Vt. Employ. Ret. Fund	\$9,000.00	\$6,944.33	\$10,525.00	\$4,116.08	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
10-6-2-40-00	Unemployment	\$2,385.00	\$609.00	\$2,860.00	\$0.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00
10-6-2-50-00	State Child Care Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,132.00	\$1,132.00
10-6-2-50-00	Health Insurance	\$58,600.00	\$48,265.73	\$63,315.00	\$27,137.22	\$81,655.00	\$81,655.00
10-6-2-60-00	Dental Insurance	\$2,700.00	\$2,447.19	\$2,685.00	\$996.87	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
10-6-2-70-00	Life Insurance	\$800.00	\$251.90	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
10-6-2-80-00	Workman's Comp	\$9,800.00	\$11,316.20	\$12,000.00	\$6,430.94	\$14,800.00	\$14,800.00
10-6-2-95-00	Mileage Expense	\$500.00	\$2,262.15	\$750.00	\$772.26	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
10-6-2-96-00	Training	\$1,000.00	\$3,900.00	\$750.00	\$3,900.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
	Total Payroll Expenses	\$284,785.00	\$237,728.96	\$331,985.00	\$134,787.65	\$134,787.65	\$375,187.00

GENERAL & HIGHWAY BUDGET

10-6-3-10-00 Salt	\$15,000.00	\$13,158.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
10-6-3-15-00 Chloride	\$15,000.00	\$24,424.25	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
10-6-3-20-00 Gravel	\$50,000.00	\$73,093.00	\$60,000.00	\$32,674.00	\$75,000.00
10-6-3-25-00 Sand	\$80,000.00	\$93,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$6,913.00	\$95,000.00
10-6-3-40-00 Roadside Mowing	\$11,000.00	\$9,500.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$10,000.00
10-6-3-45-00 Tree Removal	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
10-6-3-50-00 Fuel	\$55,000.00	\$60,671.49	\$72,000.00	\$43,961.31	\$70,000.00
10-6-3-60-00 Contract Hwy Services	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
10-6-3-70-00 State Fees	\$2,000.00	\$1,965.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
10-6-3-80-00 Green Up Vermont	\$1,500.00	\$770.36	\$1,500.00	\$1,347.00	\$0.00
Total Highway Maintenance	\$233,000.00	\$276,582.10	\$270,000.00	\$95,895.31	\$289,500.00
10-6-4-10-00 Equipment Maint./Repair	\$60,000.00	\$94,297.25	\$60,000.00	\$40,563.31	\$60,000.00
10-6-4-10-01 Uniforms & Safety Equip.	\$6,000.00	\$5,336.79	\$6,200.00	\$1,980.78	\$6,200.00
10-6-4-20-00 Hwy Building and Grounds	** \$42,300.00	\$38,025.58	\$10,000.00	\$1,852.15	\$15,000.00
10-6-4-30-00 Electricity	\$2,150.00	\$1,785.04	\$2,200.00	\$617.22	\$2,500.00
10-6-4-40-00 Telephone	\$1,600.00	\$1,891.94	\$1,600.00	\$944.22	\$2,000.00
10-6-4-50-00 Radios	\$10,555.00	\$10,659.00	\$2,500.00	\$338.50	\$5,000.00
10-6-4-60-00 Vehicle Insurance	\$3,250.00	\$975.10	\$4,500.00	\$892.50	\$4,500.00
Total Equipment & Building	\$125,855.00	\$152,970.70	\$87,000.00	\$47,188.68	\$96,700.00
10-6-5-10-00 Culverts	\$12,000.00	\$184.52	\$12,000.00	\$19,353.63	\$20,000.00
10-6-5-15-00 Bridges	\$20,000.00	\$7,547.60	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
10-6-5-30-00 Erosion Control	** \$55,000.00	\$1,587.52	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
10-6-5-50-00 New Equipment	\$6,000.00	\$18,375.00	\$6,000.00	\$200.16	\$15,000.00
10-6-5-60-00 Road Signs	\$8,500.00	\$6,481.12	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00

GENERAL & HIGHWAY BUDGET

10-6-5-70-01 July 2023 Storms						\$303,284.00	\$0.00
10-6-5-85-00 Loader Lease	\$19,820.00	\$19,817.12	\$19,820.00	\$19,817.12		\$19,817.12	\$19,820.00
10-6-5-89-01 New Truck	\$66,800.00	\$198,702.95	\$65,400.00	\$65,414.31		\$65,414.31	\$85,000.00
10-6-5-90-00 Paving	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$5,000.00
10-6-5-95-00 Road Reconstruction	** \$100,000.00	\$1,725.00	\$110,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$50,000.00
10-6-5-95-03 Grant Expenditures	\$25,000.00	\$7,125.00	\$25,000.00	\$8,497.17		\$8,497.17	\$25,000.00
10-6-5-95-04 Halfway Brook Culv Grant	\$0.00	\$3,971.98	\$0.00	\$23,713.53		\$23,713.53	\$0.00
10-6-5-95-05 Ferris Road Grant				\$19,945.00		\$19,945.00	\$0.00
10-6-5-96-01 New 1 Ton Truck-2023	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$85,000.00	\$83,076.00		\$83,076.00	\$0.00
Total Capital Expenses	\$321,120.00	\$266,017.81	\$343,220.00	\$543,300.92		\$543,300.92	\$234,820.00
10-6-6-00-00 Interest Expense	\$0.00	\$46.33	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10-6-7-00-00 Highway Equip Fund	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$20,000.00
10-6-8-01-00 Town Garage Research		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
10-6-8-02-00 Transfer Hwy Bldg Repair	\$50,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$24,890.00		\$24,890.00	\$0.00
10-6-9-99-00 Uncategorized Expense	\$1,500.00	\$1,308.95	\$50,000.00	\$13,125.72		\$13,125.72	\$0.00
Total Highway Other	\$71,500.00	\$131,355.28	70,000.00	\$38,016.66		\$38,016.66	\$20,000.00
Total Highway Expenses	\$1036,260.00	\$1,064,654.85	\$1,102,205.00	\$859,188.28		\$859,188.28	\$1,016,207.00
Total Expenses	** \$1,534,391.00	\$1,533,018.66	\$1,652,521.00	\$1,083,459.78		\$1,083,459.78	\$1,606,088.00

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

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD GENERAL LEDGER COMBINING BALANCE SHEET FOR 7/1/2022-6/30/2023

Please note the money received from ARPA is now located in the Hwy Bldg Repairs line item

Account Name	General Fund	Fire Dept	Cemetery	Library	Highway Equipment	Reappraisal	Rec/ Conservation	Garage Research	Hwy Bldg Repairs	Totals
Bar Harbor GF Ck	\$193,769.38	\$ (0.03)		\$ 6,639.27		\$31,334.20				\$231,742.82
Bar Harbor MM		\$ 2,732.23	\$ 5,249.96							\$ 7,982.19
NSB GF Checking	\$1,411,792.49		\$ 42.78							\$1,411,835.27
NSB Savings		\$16,623.34	\$20,858.07							\$ 37,481.41
BH Restoration Savings	\$17,407.52									\$ 17,407.52
BH Tax Sale Savings	\$ 200.17									\$ 200.17
Due To/From Other Funds	\$(705,900.28)	\$ 3,909.14	\$13,384.12		\$ 163,195.00		\$18,154.81	\$15,325.99	\$500,309.31	\$ 8,378.09
NSB GF Cert of Deposit	\$107,111.68									\$107,111.68
CD 15837			\$63,294.73							\$63,294.73
Vanguard Investments				\$57,136.56						\$57,136.56
Fidelity Investments				\$(18,879.22)						\$(18,879.22)
Equipment Fund CD					\$ 25,287.25					\$ 25,287.25
Reappraisal					\$ 7,000.00					\$ 7,000.00
Total Asset	\$1,024,380.96	\$23,264.68	\$102,829.66	\$44,896.61	\$188,482.25	\$38,334.20	\$18,154.81	\$15,325.99	\$500,309.31	\$1,955,978.47
Account Name	General Fund	Fire Dept	Cemetery	Library	Highway Equipment	Reappraisal	Rec/ Conservation	Garage Research	Hwy Bldg Repairs	Totals
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,599.30									\$ 3,599.30
Due To/From Other Funds						\$ 8,378.09				\$ 8,378.09
Perpetual Care Res			\$83,477.42							\$83,477.42
Overpaid Taxes	\$ 7,051.02									\$ 7,051.02
Federal Deposit	\$ 523.87									\$ 523.87
State Deposit	\$ 437.59									\$ 437.59
VMERS-DB	\$ 613.90									\$ 613.90
State of VT-Dogs	\$ 424.00									\$ 424.00
Total Liability	\$ 12,649.68		\$83,477.42			\$ 8,378.09				\$104,505.19
Fund Balance	\$ 257,376.74	\$21,626.96	\$18,320.16	\$71,766.16	\$104,287.25	\$29,940.44	\$21,814.25			\$1,525,131.96
Town Garage Fund					\$ 64,195.00			\$22,498.75		\$86,693.75
Tot Prior Yrs. Fund Bal	\$1,257,376.74	\$21,626.96	\$18,320.16	\$71,766.16	\$ 68,482.25	29,940.44	\$21,814.25	\$22,498.75		\$1,611,825.71
Fund Bal Current Year	\$(245,645.46)	\$ 1,637.72	\$ 1,032.08	\$(26,869.55)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 15.67	\$(3,659.44)	\$(7,172.76)	\$500,309.31	\$239,647.57
Total Fund Balance	\$1,011,731.28	\$23,264.68	\$19,352.24	\$44,896.61	\$188,482.25	\$29,956.11	\$18,154.81	\$15,325.99	\$500,309.31	\$1,851,473.28
Total Liab Fund Bal	\$1,024,380.96	\$23,264.68	\$102,829.66	\$44,896.61	\$188,482.25	\$38,334.20	\$18,154.81	\$15,325.99	\$500,309.31	\$1,955,978.47

BROOKFIELD TAX RATE — 2023-2024

MUNICIPAL TAX RATE		
Description	Credits	Debits
General Town Expenses		550,316.00
Town Highway Budget		<u>907,205.00</u>
		1,457,521.00
Town Highway State Aid	157,110.00	
State Snowplow Funding	13,000.00	
Town Clerk's Fees	12,000.00	
Interest	16,500.00	
Hold Harmless	87,011.00	
PILOT Program	8,550.00	
Delinquent Tax Penalty	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous Revenues	6,330.00	
Fiscal Year Adjustment	50,000.00	<u>353,501.00</u>
To Be Raised By Taxes		1,104,020.00
Municipal Grand List (1%)		2,035,617.50
Local Agreement Rate		.0038
Municipal Tax Rate		.5312
Total Municipal Tax Rate		.5450
EDUCATION TAX RATES		
Homestead Rate		1.2724
Non-Homestead Rate		1.2700
TOTAL HOMESTEAD TAX RATE		1.8174
TOTAL NON-HOMESTEAD TAX RATE		1.8150

Approved by the Selectboard: December 11, 2023

BROOKFIELD DELINQUENT TAX REPORT

December 31, 2023

Carol J. Monness, Delinquent Tax Collector

Delinquent taxes continue to be paid but most delinquent property owners are not making any payments. As indicated by an *, payments are being made. I will be pursuing tax sales beginning in June 2024.

Principals Owed:

<u>Year</u>	<u>2022 report</u>	<u>2023 report</u>
2003	\$ 1,430.10	\$ 1,430.10
2006	3,602.15	3,602.15
2008	3,287.57	3,287.57
2009	4,399.76	4,399.76
2012	0	0
2013-6	662.14	662.14
2013-2014	2,451.30	2,451.30
2014-2015	2,530.70	544.82
2015-2016	2,542.32	2,228.28
2016-2017	4,583.60	4,583.60
2017-2018	7,432.88	6,374.60
2018-2019	14,138.62	13,312.03
2019-2020	20,996.15	18,554.61
2020-2021	37,610.11	32,515.77
2021-2022	52,285.30	41,359.25
2022-2023		65,281.54
Totals	\$157,952.70	\$200,587.52

DELINQUENCIES

2003-2013-6

MOORCROFT, JAMES

2013-2014

FOOTE, PHILIP

KING, KARL

MOORCROFT, JAMES

2014-2015

FOOTE, PHILIP

MOORCROFT, JAMES

2015-2016

SEVERANCE, JOHN

SEVERANCE, STEVE

SNOW, LEON

2016-2017

MOORCROFT, JAMES

SEVERANCE, STEVE

SNOW, LEON

2017-2018

FOOTE, PHILIP

KING, KARL

MOORCROFT, JAMES

SEVERANCE, STEVE

2018-2019

COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE

FOOTE, PHILIP

HORD, JENNYLOU

KING, KARL

MOORCROFT, JAMES

SEVERANCE, JOHN

SEVERANCE, STEVE

SLAYTON, ELGIN

SNOW, LEON
2019-2020
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
CUSHING, SIDNEY E SR
FOOTE, PHILIP
HODGDON, DUSTIN *
HORD, ERIC
KIDDER, RICKY
KING, KARL
MANNING, PATRICIA
MOORCROFT, JAMES
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SHEDD, WARNER
SLAYTON, ELGIN

2020-2021
BELAND, STEVEN
CAMP, BETH
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
CUSHING, SIDNEY E. SR
DE MARTINI, PAUL
FOOTE, PHILIP
HODGDON, DUSTIN *
HORD, ERIC
HORD, JENNYLOU
KAJA HOLDINGS 2
KIDDER, RICKY
KING, KARL
MANNING, PATRICIA
MOORCROFT, JAMES
NEWMAN, LAWRENCE
SEVERANCE, JOHN
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SHEDD, WARNER

2021-2022
BELAND, STEVEN
BLACKBURNE, CASSIE
CAMP, BETH S.
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
CUSHING, SIDNEY E. SR
DE MARTINI, PAUL I
ELLIOTT, MICHAEL E.
FOOTE, PHILIP
FREEMAN, JAMES C
HAGGETT, ADAM
HOGG, ROBERT B.
HORD, ERIC R.
HORD, JENNYLOU
KAJA HOLDINGS 2 LLC
KIDDER, RICKY A.
KING, KARL
MANNING, PATRICIA

MOORCROFT, JAMES
NEWMAN, LAWRENCE
PEMBERTON, PATRICK *
RANDALL, CHARLES
ROGERS, MICHEAL
SEVERANCE, JOHN
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SHEDD, WARNER

2022-2023
BALL, SCOTT A.
BELAND, STEVEN
BLACKBURNE, CASSIE
BRYCE, STARR
CAMP, BETH S.
COLLINS, JAMES ESTATE
CUSHING, SIDNEY E. SR
DE MARTINI, PAUL I
DOERFER, JANE A. * pd in Jan*
ELLIOTT, MICHAEL E.
FOOTE, PHILIP
FREEMAN, JAMES C
HAGGETT, ADAM
HODGDON, DUSTIN M.
HURLBURT, KIMBERLY
KAJA HOLDINGS
KIDDER, RICKY A.
KING, KARL A.
KIRPATRICK, JAMES
KLAR, JOHN S. & JA
KNOWLES, STEVEN J.
LAGERSTEDT, TIMOTHY
MANNING, PATRICIA
MASSEY, AUSTEN
MOORCROFT, JAMES
NEWMAN, LAWRENCE J.
PATRONI, ALBERT M.
PEMBERTON, PATRICK
PENNEY, JOSEPH W.
PERRY, MONIQUE J.
RANDALL, CHARLES E.
SEVERANCE, JOHN
SEVERANCE, STEVE
SHANGRAW, JOHN
SHEDD, WARNER
SLAYTON, ELGIN
TAPLIN, CHARLES

BROOKFIELD TOWN AUDITORS REPORT

The Town of Brookfield has had the FY23 accounts audited by Sullivan & Powers. A copy of the audit report will be available in the vault in the Town Office. The VMERS State initiated audit for 2021-2022 has been completed and passed. There are currently no Town Auditors. If you are interested in becoming an auditor, please contact the Town Office.

BROOKFIELD PLANNING COMMISSION

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

The Planning Commission applied to the state's Department of Housing and Community Development for a state Bylaw Modernization Grant this year. The town's application was successful and was awarded \$11,340 to enhance our zoning and land development bylaws to address the local and regional housing shortage and remove obstacles to developing more housing units. The Planning Commission is working with Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) to update the bylaw accordingly. The commission continues to collaborate with the Brookfield Conservation Commission to consider bylaw updates to help preserve our natural resources and working lands.

The Planning Commission hopes to finish updating the bylaw in 2024 and there will be opportunities for Brookfield residents to participate and weigh-in during public hearings. We always encourage residents to join our meetings either in-person or remotely. If any Brookfield resident has any thoughts, ideas or proposals relating to any of our development bylaws, please reach out to gwynnzakov@gmail.com or join us for one of our meetings! The Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm and for the foreseeable future meeting both via ZOOM and in the Town Offices in a hybrid format.

The commission had two members step down this year and had one new addition. The Planning Commission would like to thank Christina Harlow and Timothy Gershon for their hard work and participation as commissioners, and welcome Jim Merriam to the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission is comprised of the following members:

Gwynn Zakov, Chair	William White, Vice-Chair	
Jim Merriam, Member	Martha Judy, Member	
Patricia Kennedy, Member	Keven Ring, Member	1-Vacancy

BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT - 2023

The Brookfield Conservation Commission began the year by continuing to work with County Forester A.J. Follansbee on a new management plan for the Brookfield Town Forest, located on Halfway Brook Road. The new plan includes two areas that will be treated as future old forest, one of which is a beautiful hemlock stand, and the other a hillside northern hardwood forest. The plan calls for timber improvement activities on the remaining lands. The Selectboard approved the new plan. Commissioners spent a day flagging boundaries of the town forest for eventual marking.

We also have been meeting with the Brookfield Planning Commission on a somewhat regular basis to discuss issues regarding conservation and natural resources in the Brookfield Zoning Bylaw. The Conservation Commission proposed a revised Conservation Zone and a Wildlife Connectivity Overlay Zone for consideration by the Planning Commission. We hope to assist the Planning Commission with natural resources elements of the Brookfield Town Plan, which is up for renewal this year.

In an effort to sustain the Commission for the future after the resignation of member Kathy Kinter last year, Commissioners began a search for new members, and accepted Sarah Shaw and Marty Allen as new members of the Commission. We welcome their enthusiasm and new energy!

The Conservation Commission purchased a game camera for our efforts to document an important wildlife crossing along I-89. The photos corroborated our hypothesis that the area identified was significant – there were many photos of deer and other animals using the underpass for movement. We will be working with VTrans on a plan for improvements to enhance the area and make it more “wildlife-friendly” while maintaining vehicular travel. Stay tuned.

The Brookfield Community Partnership sponsored a talk about Brookfield’s special natural resources and the Conservation Commission at the Old Town Hall. And the Commission led a tree identification workshop in early fall at Allis State Park. We want to continue to offer programs for the public – let us know if you have ideas for programs.

The summer flood devastated the boardwalk at the Sunset Brook Natural Area on Rt. 65. Commissioners are reevaluating the boardwalk and bridge at the site. This is the second time the bridge has floated downstream during a flood event.

Numerous discussions about wildlife, natural areas, woody material in streams, new legislative actions such as the forest blocks law and the community resilience and biodiversity protection act have been stimulating for Commissioners. We welcome community input about things we can do to benefit people and nature in Brookfield, and we thank you for your support!

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Binhammer, Chair

BROOKFIELD TOWN FORESTER REPORT

The newly developed forest management plan for Brookfield's town forest was presented and approved by the select board in early 2023. This 169-acre property located in the southeast corner of Brookfield provides the town with a unique opportunity to demonstrate good forest management and nature conservation while providing recreation opportunities for town residents. During the summer the Brookfield Conservation Commission began the work of identifying and marking the property boundaries. Later in the year contact was made with the Orange County forester about state grants that may be available to support development of recreational trails on the property.

On a sad note, this year we saw a continued expansion of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Brookfield. The EAB, which was first discovered in Brookfield at Allis State Park in 2021, is an invasive insect that attacks ash species, killing a large proportion of trees. This year Allis began removal of larger ash trees as a precautionary safety measure. Currently Vermont State EAB infestation maps indicate that EAB is likely present in much of the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Jickling, Brookfield Town Forester

BROOKFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023

CALLS:	
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT = 21	MUTUAL AID/ASSIST = 8
CO2 / FIRE ALARM = 5	STRUCTURE FIRE = 2
VEHICLE FIRE = 1	GRASS/BRUSH FIRE = 1
POWER LINE DOWN = 2	

2023 The Fire Department celebrated our 75th anniversary.

We also lost one of our brothers, Ed Koren. He was a vital part of our department for 35 years.

The flood in July kept us busy checking on our neighbors, closing roads and pumping a few basements.

As you can see from our calls most of our calls are for MVA. This year we are asking for more money to purchase a vital rescue tool. A battery operated jaws of life. It's a combination cutter/spreader to help us quickly and safely remove trapped patients from a vehicle.

Stay safe,

Chief Kevin Wheatley

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD CEMETERY REPORT 2023

This past year there were four ashes internments.

Two lots were sold.

Two old maple trees were taken down, with plans to take two old maple trees down this year (2024).

There was another accident in Center Cemetery, resulting in 10 broken granite posts and two damaged headstones.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Mangan, Kirkyard Services, LLC

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This is for the Calendar year ending December 31, 2023.

The committee met once each month, on the third Wednesday in person from January to December at the Brookfield Town Office with exception of February 2023. The March 15 meeting did not have a quorum and no official action was taken.

The committee hosted several guest speakers plus town officers:

Scott Clouatre, Chief, Randolph Police Department attended in April to relate the progress in reviving the Randolph Police Department.

Rich Doolan, Brookfield Emergency Management Director attended several meetings to describe his progress in preparing Brookfield, Braintree and Randolph for disasters and issues involved in the July flood in Brookfield. The committee has assisted him in launching the Emergency Management Shelter Volunteer Program. He has enlisted a number of volunteers and has started training them to operate an Emergency Shelter in the Brookfield, Braintree and Randolph area.

Orange County Sheriff George Contois attended the June meeting and related the difficulties he was having in the Orange County Sheriff's Department. He was continuing the Law Enforcement Services contract with Brookfield in FY 2024 and was trying to hire more deputies.

Kevin Wheatley, Brookfield Fire Chief, Amy Ingrassia, Treasurer and Rich Doolan attended the November meeting to provide recommendations for the High-Risk Voluntary List Program. This program would offer residents of Brookfield with health issues the opportunity to register with the town so that they could be checked on in weather events or other issues that could be life threatening for them such as power outages. This would complement state programs in the event they became overwhelmed.

Members of the Public Attending: The committee members are always interested in issues brought to their attention and are also willing to have guests observe the meetings. No notice is required for members of the public to attend. Several meetings had issues brought to the committee's attention by members of the public.

Continuing Projects:

Law Enforcement Services Contract- The committee continued to serve as a liaison between the Select Board and the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) reviewing contracts and the performance of law enforcement services such as patrols.

Traffic Ordinance Revision- The committee updated the Brookfield Traffic Ordinance for Select Board approval in August and September to add a Stop sign and a Yield sign on Cram Hill Road in West Brookfield in response to a citizen concern. A copy of the ordinance was sent to the Orange County Sheriff's department to assist in their enforcement.

Speed Cart Deployments- The OCSD provided 4 deployments of the Speed cart at the Brookfield Elementary School, the Old Town Hall and near the Brookfield Post Office. This is a good reminder to motorists to observe the speed limit in critical spots where the speed cart can be safely deployed.

Reflective Vest Program- It is common practice for pedestrians in Brookfield to walk on the town highways in dark clothing. Even on a sunny day if they are in the shade, it can be hard to see them. During periods of darkness or reduced visibility it can be really dangerous. We applaud residents getting their exercise but wish it to be done more safely. The committee with the assistance of Michael Rutkosky is trying to encourage pedestrians of any age to wear reflective vests when they walk on town highways. It is also advisable to put reflective devices on dogs that accompany pedestrians.

911 House Number Signs Project- The vendor that has produced the reflective house number signs (Vermont Corrections Dept.) has stopped producing them. Dan Mason and Michael Rutkovsky have been working on finding a new vendor.

Traffic and Road Name Signs- Having legible traffic and road name signs posted in all of the places they are needed is a challenge. There is still a back log of signs needing to be installed and each year some more are stolen or damaged. The committee worked closely with Keith Sprague, the Road Commissioner.

Public Safety Messages and Tips- Each month the committee created a safety message applicable to the season and issues observed or learned of by the committee members. They were posted on the town website and the Randolph Front Porch Forum.

We look forward to another busy year.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stuart Edson

Michael Rutkovsky

Mike Stoddard

Dan Mason

Lew Stowell, Chair

BROOKFIELD TOWN CONSTABLE REPORT

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

Bicycle and pedestrian safety still remain serious concerns within this town, and society as a whole. Generally, it is best if cyclists are on the side of the road that corresponds to the flow of traffic, and pedestrians walk on the side of the road that has them facing traffic. Both cyclists and pedestrians should be aware that the use of bright clothing, reflective material, and conspicuity lighting are a huge benefit to being seen, and therefore hopefully being respected by the other road users. I know that some members of the Public Safety Advisory Committee have provided safety vests to some individuals encountered during our routine drives, and I suspect that practice will continue. (If you have a vest that you no longer use, please feel free to give it to any member of the Public Safety Advisory Committee so that it can be given to another townsperson.) As always, we ask all users of the roadway to be courteous.

In closing, people simply need to be reasonable neighbors and responsible pet owners, and we ask all of you to please be safe and civil to each other, and refrain from escalating any situation.

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

Be Safe,

Dan Mason - 1st Constable

Ed Neas - 2nd Constable

BROOKFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT 2023

The Staff and Board of Trustees of the Brookfield Free Public Library (the oldest continuously operating Public Library in the State of Vermont) are pleased to

offer our annual report to the Town of Brookfield. We are delighted to continue to offer our many services to citizens of all ages. All of our services are free of charge.

Here is what we offer: Our collection includes printed books and magazines. Don't see what you want? Laura can order it through Inter-Library Loan. Borrow from our in-house collection of books on tape or download your selection from Libby or Palace to your own device. We have an exceptional collection of picture books and early readers as well as graphic novels. Free Wi Fi is available.

Want to get out more? Your Library has passes to borrow, some get you in for free, some at a discount. Go visit a Vermont State Park and/or Historic Site, VINS in Hartford, ECHO Aquarium in Burlington, the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier and the Shelburne Museum. Check with Laura for more information.

Three years ago the scholarship fund set up by Anna Clark Jones to benefit students from Brookfield dissolved and that fund was turned over to the Library for its use. The Trustees of the Library made a decision to use the money in a manner consistent with the original scholarship fund. Each year the Library awards a scholarship to a graduating High School senior from Brookfield who is pursuing higher education. This year the award went to Logan Margison. We continue to offer on-demand service to West Brookfield and our adorable Little Libraries provide a changing selection of community and Library offerings. Find one in Pond Village across from the Old Town Hall and one in West Brookfield.

Other Library actions and activity this year are as follows:

- At the Pond Village Church in January, Brookfield native Katie Jickling talked about her Ful-bright research work in India on women's leadership and the movement for institutional change.
- Members of the Board met with the instructors and students of the Landscape Design Program at VTC. After a field trip to the building the students presented 5 possible landscape designs for outside the Town Hall and Library to the Board. Our decision was to have a stone patio built outside the Library this Spring, with steps leading down to the road. We will then be able to put our outside furniture on a friendlier flat surface. It will be a welcome place to sit, meet up, and have access to free Wi-Fi.
- MaryLou Maeder, our local knitting whisperer, is once again offering Winter knitting/fiber arts at the Library from 6:30-8pm on the first and third Sundays of the month. The children's after school knitting group at the Library took place earlier this Autumn.
- Deconstruction returned in September at the Old Town Hall. Thanks again to Bill Donnelly for his help with this event. 16 hands on children of varying ages promptly and efficiently happily returned various appliances and devices to their essential components. Come check us out! We can't wait to see you at the Library!

Library Address: 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield VT 05036

Library Phone: (802) 276-3358

Library e-mail: brookfieldpublic@gmail.com

Library Website: Brookfeldvt.org (then click on Library tab)

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

Find Us on Facebook!

Librarian: Laura Rochat

Assistant Librarian: Barb Schaedler

Board of Trustees: Amy Borgman, Dan Childs, Emily Noyes, Susan O'Brien, Starr Strong

BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

After two years of concerted effort, a major restoration project focused on the hall and four rooms in the historic Marvin Newton House reached completion. This project involved plaster repair, ceiling whitewashing, painting, and wall papering. The contents of these rooms were carefully stored in the kitchen ell while work was in progress. Exhibit rooms were reconfigured, and new displays were created throughout the house in time for the first public viewing of these improvements in August.

While much of the plaster work was carried out by a plaster restoration specialist, the other components of the project were accomplished by a team of hard-working volunteers. It was an impressive demonstration of cooperative effort. That effort was orchestrated by Rachel Andreyev who gratefully acknowledges the support of many including:

Greg Wight for his indefatigable painting of trims and mullions, measuring and cutting picture rails, and repairing windows. Charlie Ballou for single-handedly wallpapering three of the restored rooms. Alexis McLean for cleaning all the 12-over-12 sashes within her reach. Pat Mayer for washing old china, helping reassemble daunting glass shelves, and making all the old silver shine again. Lukina Andreyev for washing every item in the pantry, walk-through and dining room closets, for patient edits and a judicious eye on the exhibitions. Blake and Melanie Riddle, Jeremiah Kemberling, Dmitri Andreyev, Ilya Andreyev, and Rylee Langdon for moving cast iron stoves, organs, trunks and other very heavy furniture up and down stairs and through narrow doorways. Dmitri Andreyev for painting and hanging picture rails, hanging the pictures, scouring rust from ornate stoves, roping beds, and creating ingenious solutions for our displays. Samantha Flint, Charlie Ballou, Sarah Isham and Dmitri Andreyev for helping pull together an interesting farming exhibit (in a very short time). Amy Borgman for tireless work updating records with object locations and for choosing the children's clothing to display.

Special thanks are accorded to two summer interns: Samantha Flint, a student at Vermont State University, Castleton, who besides making crucial calls on items in our textile collections, made the final choices on toys and displays in the Bigelow Room, the farming exhibit, and cataloging. Rylee Langdon, a student at Warren Wilson College, who in addition to moving and scrubbing many pieces of furniture throughout the house, moved and scrubbed every piece in

the Jessie Fiske room, as well as the floor; repaired wallpaper, painted doors, not to mention diving deep into our Jessie Fiske archives, and refreshing our presentation of Jessie and Green Trails. These two interns have brought fresh eyes and great energy to the Society.

The Vermont Historical Society solicited historical societies and museums throughout the state for a unique story about their town that could be shared with other towns as part of the "History in the 252" project, named for the number of towns in Vermont. The Brookfield Historical Society responded by telling the story of the "Brookfield Public Library: Vermont's Oldest Lending Library in Continuous Operation." This segment can be viewed on the project's website; <https://vermonthistory.org/history-in-the-252> A special library exhibit curated by Rachel Andreyev for display at Brookfield's annual town meeting in March included the original Articles of Association signed by library subscribers in 1791.

Once again, the Society mounted a summer-long photographic exhibit on the fence bordering Hippo Park in Pond Village. The exhibit theme, "The History of Farming in Brookfield," featured photos from the Society's collections. The large-format reproductions of compelling and evocative photographs offered a sampling of Brookfield farm life from the last quarter of the 19th century through the mid-20th century. This project was organized by Rachel Andreyev with the assistance of Skip Buck and Elaine Manghi-Buck, Charlie Ballou and Sarah Isham, and Alexis McLean. The Society is grateful to fence owners Jessica Greenwood and Patrick Boyle for giving their permission to display the photographs.

Complementing the park display was an exhibit in the Marvin Newton House of agricultural implements drawn from the Society's collections. That exhibit was curated by Rachel Andreyev. The Society collaborated with the Brookfield Community Partnership in sponsoring a presen-

tation by Keith Sprague at the Old Town Hall on September 9th. Keith, a fifth-generation Brookfield farmer presented "A History of Dairy Farming in Brookfield, 1860's to the Present" before a full house.

The annual Helen Daly & Margaret Stone Ice Cream Social in August drew a record attendance on a perfect summer day. The event, organized by Pat Mayer, featured music by Jennings & McComber (stage names of Andy and Kara Lake of Brookfield) and offered an opportunity to showcase recent improvements in the Marvin Newton House. The house grounds were in peak condition thanks to the efforts of Master Gardener Sid McLam and his crew of volunteers, including Nicole Conte, Holly Dustin, Sterling Giles, Sarah Isham, Linnea and Ron Laperle, Elaine Manghi-Buck, Liz Parker, and Barbara Paulson.

The annual meeting of the Society took place at the Pond Village Church on Sunday, October 15th. The guest speaker was Amanda Gustin, Director of Collections & Access at the Vermont Historical Society. Her presentation, "Justin Morgan's Horse: The Making of an American Myth," was of special interest because of the celebrated race that the famed stallion ran on Brookfield's "Morgan Mile" in 1796. The presentation drew a large and appreciative audience.

Current Trustees:

- Gary Lord, President
- Pat Mayer, Secretary
- Greg Wight, Treasurer
- Rachel Andreyev, Curator
- Greg Sauer, Blog Editor
- Perry Kacik, Membership Director
- Elaine Manghi-Buck, Program Chair
- Sid McLam, Master Gardener
- Barbara Daly
- Sarah Isham
- Alexis McLean

Emerita

- Elinor Gray, Historian & Genealogist

Submitted by Gary Lord

BROOKFIELD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Greetings from Brookfield's Old Town Hall and the members of the Board of Directors of the Brookfield Community Partnership, Inc. 2023 was a very active year at the OTH, with enormous thanks to the members of our hard-working and creative Events Committee who delivered another full season of over 20 entertaining and enriching events to the community and greater region. We are thankful that a small-town, all-volunteer nonprofit organization like the BCP can host a spring, summer, and fall array of activities including family gatherings, public presentations, educational workshops, and kid-centered gatherings. And, for another year, we could enjoy a community Oktoberfest celebration, kicked off by a 5K race through Pond Village. This all reflects our town's sense of community and neighborliness that Brookfield holds dear. So, we offer our thanks to our Committee members, Board members, visitors, volunteers, community supporters, and generous donors who contribute to the OTH's support. This collective effort

keeps the building maintained, the lights on, and the taxes paid each year. Please invite your friends to return for our 2024 season of events and to consider the OTH for gatherings, family celebrations, and reasonably priced rentals. See you at the Old Town Hall in 2024! - Perry Kacik, BCP Interim Board Chair

Perry Kacik
2408 West Street
Brookfield, VT 05036
=====
Email: pkacik@gmail.com
802-276-2143 home
724-612-7360 cell and text

**GREEN-UP DAY REPORT
GREEN-UP DAY ON MAY 6, 2023**

Green Up Day, continued to grow with 23,500 volunteers statewide who cleaned up nearly 348 tons of litter and 15,000 tires. We saw 23% more volunteers lend a hand and heard in many cases there was less litter (30%) to be cleaned up. Tire collection saw a 4.8% increase. The statistics show that the hard work to beautify Vermont is still needed but also that our efforts for awareness are paying off. As one of Vermont’s favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2024. Mark your calendar for Green up Day 2024, May 4th.

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

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

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

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

DOG LICENSES SOLD 2023

The registration of dogs has declined over the last several years. Only 154 dogs were registered for 2023. Only 156 were sold in 2022. 162 were sold in 2021. For every license sold, \$5.00 is paid to the State of Vermont for rabies control and spay/neuter programs. Some of the money goes towards the purchase of tags and registration forms.

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

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

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

The Rabies Clinic for 2024 will be held Saturday, March 23rd, 9-11 a.m. at the Brookfield Elementary School.

ECFIBER AND THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD

Brookfield VT is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide worldclass fiber-optic based internet service to all on-grid homes and businesses in its member towns. The District consists of 31 member towns, and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber.

The business added over 800 new customers despite critical labor shortages, and now serves over 8,500 customer locations via 1,700 miles of network, which, when fully built out, will bring fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) to about 32,000 premises over more than 2,000 miles network.

In June, ECFiber celebrated the completion of its original 23 town network when it activated its operation center in White River Junction. In August, the District was awarded a \$13 million construction grant that will support the first three or four stages of its \$30 million, nine stage, network completion plan. In November, its Series 2023A municipal revenue bond received a "BB" rating from Standard & Poor's Global Credit arm, a historic moment in US financial history: the first time a municipal revenue bond not backed by taxes, and not for a regulated utility or exclusive service territory, received a rating. This was extended to the six earlier bonds as well.

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

The District contracts with Great Works Internet (GWI) of Vermont to operate the business. The biggest challenges we face now are not funding, but rather finding enough folks to construct the networks – people who know how to operate bucket trucks, splice fiber while 40 feet above the ground, and be willing to work outside in difficult weather. ECFiber is actively participating in state and regional workforce development efforts. If you are or know of someone who may be interested in these well-paid jobs, please let us know!

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

Delegates:

Dan OBrien dbobrien143@gmail.com 802.522.3909

Bryce Batchman bryce@batchman.me 802.424.8868

brookfield@ecfiber.net | www.ecfiber.net | 802-ECFiber

415 Waterman Rd Unit 2, South Royalton, Vermont 05068-5418 (802)-ECFIBER
(802-323-4327) YOUR COMMUNITY-OWNED CONNECTION TO THE WORLD

BROOKFIELD ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT 2023

Brookfield Town Bylaw Purpose:

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

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

Development in 2023 A total of thirty-seven building and subdivision permits were issued to town residents this past year. Below is a listing of the numbers and types of permits that were issued.

Permits Issued in 2023			
Category	Number	Category	Number
Residential Structures	5	Additions	12
Outbuildings	10	Miscellaneous	0
Subdivisions	5	Agriculture	5

The Permitting Process:

All new residential and commercial structures, outbuildings, additions to existing structures and subdivisions with certain exceptions must comply with the bylaw and require a permit. Variances and conditional uses can be requested but must be approved by the Board of Adjustment and/or Planning Commission. If you have a state approved farm, agricultural structures do not need permitting but must meet the town's setback and road frontage requirements. You are required to inform the town of your intent to build and variances to local zoning restrictions must be granted through the Department of Agriculture.

Residents can access the bylaw, subdivision and building permit applications, and the permit fee schedule via The Town of Brookfield's website (www.brookfieldvt.org). Applications can be submitted at the Town Clerk's office or to the Zoning Administrator directly via email at zoning@brookfieldvt.org. Upon approval of the application and a completion of a site visit the permit is issued. Any questions can be directed to the Zoning Administrator via email or by phone at 276-3382.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Fiorillo, Brookfield Zoning Administrator

E-911 NUMBER REPORT

Do you have an E911 Number?

The E911 number is used to identify your home to first responders so they know where to go when responding to an emergency. If you don't know your E911 or don't think you have been supplied one, please email E911brookfieldvt@yahoo.com.

Have one but not displayed?

Is your property one of the many throughout Brookfield that does not display their E911 address? Emergency responders such as the fire department or emergency medical services (EMS) may not be able to locate you. Your mailbox and your house (or driveway if single dwelling) should have reflective E911 green signs attached to them so it is clear where first responders should go. Lookout for news on our website, www.brookfieldvt.org, for when we will have a new vendor to order E911 signs if you don't already have them.

Resident with a disability?

Is there someone residing in your household that has a physical disability or chronic conditions such as blindness, hearing loss, diabetes, or seizures? There is an E911 Disability Designation form found on our website www.brookfieldvt.org under Forms. This will enable emergency responders to identify any potential issues in providing care. This form gives the emergency services to understand specific hurdles for care or rescue (i.e. No flashing lights for seizure patients or more lights for hearing loss patients, whatever might be required.) This information stays with first responders and is cared for by the Vermont State E911 Program.

TOWN OF BARRE DEPARTMENT OF EMS 2023

Over the past year Barre Town EMS has increased its full-time staff by 32%. We now staff 3 Paramedic level Ambulances 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, we are currently staffing a 4th ambulance on our statistically busiest days, Monday and Friday. Our primary service area covers the towns of Barre Town, Berlin, Orange, Topsham, Washington, Williamstown and Northern Brookfield. We also provide the largest number of Paramedic intercepts and back up aid service for Washington County, as well as the primary agency that transports patients in and out of Central Vermont Medical Center.

Barre Town EMS staff size ranges from 40-50 employees (19 full time). We currently have 21 Paramedics on the roster, seven of which are Board

certified as Critical Care Paramedics. Over the past year we have had 2 retirements and added 6 full-time positions. We were able to promote all 8 new staff from within our per diem ranks and we continue to grow our per diem roster to ensure we have qualified staff to fill our full-time ranks to which we have added 13 per diem staff this past year.

Barre Town EMS had a very busy year. Our call volume decreased due to COVID it has rebounded and is significantly higher now. We ended the year with 4376 calls for service. This is a 2% increase over the previous year and an 8% increase over 2022. With the addition of the Town of Williamstown to our response area we will see an increase in call volume in the coming year, which is part of the reason we expanded to 3 staff Paramedic Ambulances 24/7.

We have expanded our fleet to six (6) Critical Care Ambulances to ensure we can continue to provide timely high quality pre-hospital care to the communities we serve. This past year we took delivery of two (2) new ambulances and are scheduled to take delivery of three (3) more in 2024. All our ambulances are equipped with power-load systems and power stretchers that assist our crews in keeping our patients safe.

Below you will find a chart of our responses broken down by community and the type of response needed. Note that not all calls for service end up being a transport, over 25% of our calls result in a cancellation, non-transport or refusal of care.

We would like to thank you for trusting us to care for your family, community and visitors. We look forward to the year ahead and are excited to continue to provide timely high quality pre-hospital care to all of those we serve.

Respectfully submitted,
 David Danforth, NRP, FP-C
 Director
 Town of Barre
 Department of Emergency Medical Services

Barre Town EMS	
2023	
911 Response(s)	
Barre Town	812
Berlin	1057
Brookfield	28
Orange	91
Topsham	83
Washington	63
Other Calls	
Mutual Aid	306
Paramedic Intercepts	286
Transfers	1650

TRI-TOWN EMERGENCY SHELTER GROUP

The Tri-Town Emergency Shelter Group is ready to open a temporary shelter during a natural emergency. Tri-Town stands for Brookfield, Randolph, and Braintree.

If there is a significant winter storm that may knock out power or flooding like we had July 2023, Brookfield’s Emergency Management Coordinator is on top of the event and keeps the Tri-Town Group up to date on the situation.

Our shelters consist of the Randolph Senior Center as a warming center. Should the event be a day or longer than the Brookfield Elementary School or Vermont Technical College of Vermont University in Randolph Center will be setup. These shelters are staffed by volunteers. The group currently has about 15 – 20 volunteers, however, more volunteers are needed.

The Randolph Senior Center has been gracious enough to allow us to hold our meetings the last Thursday of the month from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. If you think you may be interested, please attend one of our monthly meetings. Everyone is welcome.

SAFELINE, INC.

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

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

In 2023, Safeline provided 2,325 services for 262 victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual abuse. 44 services were provided for 5 victims who identified themselves as residents of Brookfield. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety. 5 females received services. These services included 2 domestic violence situations, 2 stalking and 1 child physical abuse.

Safeline provided free and confidential services including: crisis support (8), safety planning (4), protection orders (7), emotional support (11), case management (6), information and referral (5).

Safeline provided free and confidential services including: crisis support (8), safety planning (4), protection orders (7), emotional support (11), case management (6), information and referral (5). We met with survivors multiple times to provide the services they requested.

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

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

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

CENTRAL VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

59 N. Main St., Suite 200, Barre, VT 05641-4121
Phone: 802-479-0531 Fax: 802-479-4235
info@cvcoa.org www.cvcoa.org

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of supporting Central Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. For over 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters age 60 and up to remain independent and in their homes for as long as possible. CVCOA supports caregivers and families as they help loved ones navigate aging. CVCOA connects aging persons in our communities to the network of benefit programs and services they need to thrive and implements special projects and programs to alleviate social isolation and loneliness. All services are made available to our clients at no charge without regard to health, income, or resources.

Services include:

- CVCOA Helpline – 1-800-642-5119 (toll free) or (802) 477-1364 (local) - has the answers to hundreds of common questions for older Vermonters, their families, and caregivers.
- Information & Assistance staff counsels older Vermonters and families on the many available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, housing, mental health, legal assistance, support groups, healthy aging resources, and more.
- Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.
- Nutrition Services oversees the menu development and technical assistance for home-delivered, grab and go, and congregate meals, and provides the largest source of funding for the 13 meal sites that prepare and deliver these meals. Nutrition education and counseling services are available for older adults at high risk of malnutrition or in need of managing chronic conditions.
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, Medicare & You workshops (now on Zoom), and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Program promotes the well-being of the family members serving as caregivers to loved ones, including administration of respite funding, training to help caregivers manage stress, and social activities including Memorable Times Café/Memorable Times Online.
- Volunteer Programs provide direct service to community members. Volunteers offer companionship, transportation, assistance with technology, organizing, wellness classes, meal delivery, special event support, errands and grocery shopping, yardwork and gardening help, creative guidance, and more.
- Special Projects and Programs are designed to help alleviate social isolation and loneliness, addressing the accessibility gap for homebound older adults and enhancing social connection through arts and technology opportunities.

The need for aging services continues to increase in Vermont. During the last fiscal year (7/1/22-6/30/23), Central Vermont Council on Aging provided one or more services to **32 (unduplicated) Brookfield residents**. In FY23, CVCOA case manager Brenda Traegde worked directly with clients in Brookfield.

Data by Type of Service: Brookfield	# Residents*
Case Management	12
Information and Assistance	1
Nutrition Program[1]	19
Family Caregiver Services	0
Self-Neglect	0
Other Services	1
(Wellness, Outreach, Socialization, etc.)	

**Each unduplicated resident may receive more than one type of service in the categories above.*

Additionally, CVCOA provided nutrition counseling and education, caregiver training and respite funding, access to technology and resources, and opportunities to connect with volunteers for direct service, creativity, and technology assistance. CVCOA's case managers, options counselors, and outreach team provide information on a variety of topics, including elder abuse.

CVCOA served 4,040 unduplicated clients from 07/01/2022 through 06/30/2023. CVCOA mobilized 497 volunteers through our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP and general volunteer programs. These volunteers served over 40,000 hours, providing direct service, delivering meals on wheels, supporting nutrition sites, leading wellness classes, offering companionship and creative encouragement, and more.

Over the past year, CVCOA has continued to develop opportunities to enhance social connection through creative aging opportunities and technology training. CVCOA continues to expand our wellness offerings and develop new initiatives that focus on healthy aging.

All staff, board members, and volunteers at Central Vermont Council on Aging extend our gratitude to the residents of Brookfield City for their ongoing commitment to the health, independence, and dignity of older adults in Central Vermont.

[1] Central Vermont Council on Aging does *not* directly operate a nutrition site. The CVCOA Nutrition and Wellness Program provides federal funding, technical assistance and nutrition counseling/education to 13 nutrition sites including Meals on Wheels of Central Vermont (formerly City Café) in Barre City. This program supports home-delivered Meals on Wheels, congregate meals, and grab and go meals, a new offering that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

GREATER RANDOLPH SENIOR CENTER

6 Hale Street, Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-9324 randolphsc@gmail.com

The senior center is open for congregate dining and grab & go meals and in-house activities. We continue to deliver hot meals at home in our service area, approximately 50 meals Monday-Thursday, plus 65 frozen weekend meals for people who request them.

During the fiscal year 2023 (Oct 1, 2022-Sept 30, 2023), the Center provided approximately 17,749 meals (partially funded through Central VT Council on Aging and the VT Center for Independent Living); 13,112 meals were delivered to people through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program, which helps older adults and the disabled to live independently in their own homes and continue to participate in their communities. In Brookfield we delivered MOW to 9 clients during this past year. The Center prepared 788 Grab & Go meals as well as served 3,849 meals for lunch (to include for volunteers and guests under 60). Our MOW drivers logged in 12,000 miles and 3,568 hours was logged in by all volunteers.

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

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

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

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

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

We provide rewarding opportunities for volunteers. Volunteers help in the kitchen, serve meals and set and bus lunch tables, deliver MOW, lead exercise classes, bake goods for fundraisers, fold and label the monthly newsletters, provide computer and AARP tax assistance, host educational programs, decorate the dining hall for the seasons, and, in general, make the Center a welcoming place to spend time. Our nine-member Board of Directors is composed of volunteers and each member serves a three-year term.

We want to thank everyone for supporting the Center as we continue to provide the meals programs and activities. We have a lively group that plays cribbage on Mondays and Mahjongg played the other mornings, as well as exercise classes such as Lift for Life and Tai Chi. A congregate lunch is served at Noon. We are working on expanding our monthly events.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Emilie P. Daniel
Executive Director

CLARA MARTIN CENTER

Child and Family Services
35 Ayers Brook, Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-4466

Community Support Services
24 South Main St, Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-6000

Adult and Children Outpatient Services
1483 Lower Plain Rd., Bradford, VT 05033
(802) 222-4477

Farmhouse
P. O. Box 278, Bradford, VT 05033
(802) 222-4477

East Valley Academy
579 VT RT 14 S., E. Randolph, VT
(802) 728-3896 05041

Safe Haven
4 Highland Ave., Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-5233

Regional Alternative Program
Norwich Avenue, Wilder, VT 05088
(802) 295-8628

Wilder
P.O. Box 816, Wilder, VT 05088
(802) 295-1311

Clara Martin Center provides a multitude of services throughout greater Orange County to best meet the needs of community members in a holistic approach. These include individual, couples, and group therapy and services for co-occurring mental health and substance use. We also offer psychiatric consultations and evaluations and medication management services. Services are confidential and include:

- Outpatient Counseling
- Psychiatric Services
- Short-term crisis intervention
- School and Home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Hospital Diversion
- Walk-in Clinic
- Vocational Services
- Alcohol and other drug treatment
- Respite Care
- 24-hour emergency system

Clara Martin Center is your local community mental health agency, providing behavioral health and substance use services to the greater Orange County and the greater Upper Valley area for the last 57 years.

Clara Martin Center’s broad range of programs serve children, families, couples, and individuals. Services are confidential and include counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short term crisis intervention, school and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, alternatives to hospital care, respite care, housing, vocational services, substance use treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services. We strive to meet the care needs of the communities we serve, and provide services that meet the needs of the individuals that have entrusted their care to us.

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

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

FY23 TOTAL SERVED AT CMC	
Children & Family Services	463
School Services	102
JOBS	71
Adult Services	677
CSP Services	160
Supportive & Transitional Housing	15
Substance Abuse Services	284
Corrections Services	94
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	293
Access	662
CCBHC Services	1,081
Total Served-unduplicated	2,191
CVSAS	258

TOTAL SERVED Brookfield	
Children & Family Services	8
School Services	0
JOBS	0
Adult Services	10
CSP Services	0
Supportive & Transitional Housing	0
Substance Abuse Services	0
Corrections Services	0
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	0
Access	12
CCBHC Services	11
Total Seen:	22
CVSAS	0

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

For over 44 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'23 (10/2022-9/2023) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **140** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **4** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **178** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **115** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **73** individuals with information on assistive technology; **41** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **379** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **17** people and provided **7** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier (although we are working from home as our office (along with so many others) was devastated in the July flood and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'23, VCIL provided direct services to Vermont residents utilizing the following programs/services:

- Information, Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)
- Home Access Program (HAP)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling (PAC)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
- VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:

1-800-639-1522, or, visit our web site at www.vcil.org

VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VT AND NH

Home Health, Hospice and Pediatric Services

As an integral part of the community healthcare system in Brookfield, VNH serves to breach an otherwise significant gap in the community's continuum of care. Last year, VNH provided 314 visits to 23 residents of all ages and at all stages of life. VNH is also the foremost team of hospice and home health experts for over 140 communities in Vermont and New Hampshire. We deliver nursing, hospice and rehabilitation services at home with proven effectiveness, integrity and compassion. Just as local families have counted on us since 1907, you can count on us today.

Having our patients maintain their independence is key. Our nurses, therapists and social workers provide assessments, medical care and education to assist people in leading a more self-sufficient life. This includes patients who are frail, elderly and disabled, people with terminal illness, those recovering from major surgery or illness and children with chronic medical needs. They all benefit by receiving the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home.

Town funding is what allows us to bring down the cost of services provided to those in need. With adequate town funding, we are able to provide an affordable option for home healthcare in the community. To continue meeting these needs, we urge the Town of Brookfield to budget continued financial support of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire.

On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

With kind regards,

Anthony Knox
Community Relations Manager
aknox@vnhcare.org, (603) 790-3172

TRORC 2023 YEAR-END REPORT

The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2023.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues

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

Economy and Public Health

This year, TRORC supported the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid-19, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC also helps identify and clean contaminated parcels of land for reuse.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

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

Energy/Climate Change

TRORC assisted towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support member towns through assessing town buildings for energy conservation upgrades. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation

TRORC also worked with towns to get funding to implement road improvement projects. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Brookfield this past year, TRORC assisted the town with updating its Local Emergency Management Plan. Staff also assisted the Town in a Bylaw Modernization project to facilitate new housing. For transportation, TRORC has been the project manager for the design of a new culvert on Halfway Brook. Staff also assisted the town with applying for energy assessment grants for the Town Garage, Fire Station, and Town Office.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

William B. Emmons III, Chairperson, Pomfret

GREEN MOUNTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



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

In FY2023, dues from member towns contributed \$19,273 of our annual operating budget of \$220,183. Town dues are assessed at \$0.50/resident, as determined by population data from the VT Department of Health and the U.S. Census Bureau. Further operating revenue comes from business memberships and federal, state, and other funding sources. ***Your support helps provide client-specific economic development services free of charge and available to municipalities, new entrepreneurs, established and expanding businesses.*** Services include business development guidance, relocation support, and project development; for requests that are beyond our level of expertise, GMEDC has a ready referral network to meet client needs. Additionally, the RDCs work collectively throughout the legislative session to promote the needs and interests of the business community across the state. GMEDC and our local partners have assisted 100+ businesses and municipalities seeking additional information on economic development activities, local business projects, funding opportunities, legislative action and more.

FY2023 activities included:

- ◀ Supporting numerous funding applications for capital investment, brownfield assessment and redevelopment, project planning and pre-development, totaling **over \$5 million in funding to our service area.**
- ◀ Securing state funding to implement a third round of the successful small business technical assistance program, providing small grants and administrative support to match specific business needs with service providers.
- ◀ Leveraging a \$1.5 million Economic Development Administration partnership for the Randolph Innovation Hub to hire staff and rebrand as Cultivator: Where Community Collaborates, gathering community input to map the way forward.
- ◀ Continued support of the \$300,000 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Working Communities Challenge White River Valley Consortium project, working to improve housing opportunities in 14 towns in the White River Valley.
- ◀ Ongoing partnership with Orange County Parent and Child Center to develop a new, \$6 million childcare facility offering 88 new seats in the Randolph region.
- ◀ Closeout of \$500,000+ Environmental Protection Agency-funded brownfield clean-up of former Valley Motors site in Bethel.

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

Erika C. Hoffman-Kiess, Executive Director

RANDOLPH AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (RACDC)

Delivering our Mission of "Cultivating Community" through our Strategic Goals

Healthy Communities: Funding from the State's 2022 housing bills signed by Governor Scott at RACDC's Salisbury Square site have been awarded to Salisbury Square Phase 2! It is scheduled to break ground mid-2024. The project will create 12 rental units and 9 single-family homes, all affordable, solar-powered, Zero Energy and connected together in a neighborhood DC microgrid to enable storage of solar energy as backup power during grid outages.

Our Randolph House expansion and upgrade project is now complete, improving life for over 50 senior residents. Currently, RACDC provides safe and affordable homes for about 250 people of all ages and is working to improve and create more. We've also begun funding requests to upgrade 25 existing units, and create 28 new apartments in downtown Randolph.

Economic Opportunity: Properties owned and developed by RACDC paid over \$225,000 in property taxes this past year alone. At our annual meeting we honored Carol Bushey with the Hutchinson Award for selfless service, and the Gray family and the three anchor business owners at 15 Main Street (formerly Belmains) with the "Energy Rising" awards. We helped several potential new business owners with technical support and referrals, including a grant request with the Friends of the Historic Playhouse.

Community Connections: RACDC's Downtown Program worked with local businesses and organizations again to sponsor "First Friday" events in downtown Randolph on the first Friday evenings of every summer month, and into the fall. Hundreds of people of all ages enjoyed the events.

Collaboration: RACDC is a founding participant of the White River Valley Consortium, a group representing 14 communities surrounding Randolph and Royalton, working together to find ways to spur diverse workforce housing options and to strengthen regional ties and collaboration. One such effort is an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) project to increase understanding and spur new unit development. Anyone interested in learning more about how to create an ADU should contact our office to be on a list to receive more information, including several planned in-person sessions sponsored by the group.

Capacity-Building: We are so grateful for the dedicated community members that support their neighbors and friends by volunteering for RACDC events and programs, and contributing to fundraising and community-building activities. To view our 2023 Annual Report or sign up to volunteer and learn more, visit www.racdc.com.

Thank you! Julie Iffland, Executive Director

ORANGE COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER INC.

One of 15 parent child centers in Vermont, the Orange County Parent Child Center strengthens families with young children and connects them to their communities. We accomplish this through an array of different support including in home, community and center based. We serve families regardless of income.

OCPCC's programs include: Children's Integrated Services Family Support and Family Support Nursing, Welcome Baby visits, free community playgroups, Early Care & Education, parent education, concrete supports and resource & referral services. We are a public pre-k partner under Act 166. You can learn more at www.orangecountypcc.org.

Last year, with the continued support of your community, we were able to provide 104 services to Brookfield residents.

Lindsey Trombley
Executive Director

ORANGE COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

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

We offer 11 programs to Orange County residents: Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA), Community Restorative Practices training, Court Diversion, Driver's License Reinstatement, Pre-Trial Services, Reparative Panels, Restorative Re-entry after Incarceration, Safe Driver Education, Transitional Housing, Victim Assistance and the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, 289 people were referred to us for services. Local volunteers provided 1,203 hours of their time to support 272 Restorative Meetings. We served

62 harmed parties (victims) and distributed \$9,107 in restitution to those who experienced losses due to crime. OCRJC helped: 53 people connect with counseling services, 17 people access our emergency support fund, and 22 people reinstate their driver's license. We secured 4 apartments for transitional housing and had 70 people in our Safe Driver program.

In FY23, OCRJC worked with 7 people who live in or whose incidents took place in Brookfield. For each incident referred to OCRJC, the person responsible and the individuals impacted by the crime are offered services.

OCRJC's FY23 operating budget was \$534,247. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. The Town of Brookfield appropriated \$350 for FY23 to support our work. OCRJC requests \$350 in 2024 to support ongoing programs.

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

THE ARTS BUS

2023 Brookfield Township Essay & 2024 Appropriations Request

With a mission of empowering children to find joy & authentic self-expression through the arts, The Arts Bus has a never-ending journey of creative exploration. In 2023, the big green bus headed into new horizons with a charge to 'Go & Grow', expanding our service area from Central Vermont to statewide with a huge & colorful variety of art enrichment programs for classrooms, in & after school, summer camps, public libraries, facilities, town events, maple houses & farms! We continued with our award-winning Ever After Kids Program, Art from the Start (for pre-K children) and New RouTEEN (for 12-16 year olds), while providing free art supplies like paints, brushes, markers, crayons, paper, glue, and 3D building pieces through our Go Big & Go Home initiative. And, we were positively thrilled to receive a grant from Vermont Children's Trust Foundation to purchase & custom wrap a new minibus for all-weather, year-round access to young artists.

Throughout the year, The Arts Bus took over 1,500 children statewide on artistic adventures through time with S.T.E.A.M. based art from the Vikings in the form of rune & zodiac resins; showed how to glow with the flow of acrylic painting; traveled the world with crafts from every continent; used wood based forms to paint fairy & furry forests, wax wooden snakes, and scorch mushrooms & chests; deployed the Puppet Factory to make 100 sock puppets in 3 days; created characters with elves, sprites, egg folk, gems and fuzzy socks; created music with Ida Mae Specker; and made wearable art with bandanas, hair clips, t-shirts, hats, gloves & backpacks. At every stop, we gave away free art supplies including wooden figurines, markers, paints, brushes, paper, crayons, finger puppets, costumes, masks and what we had to give to empower each child's creative exploration.

In and around Brookfield, The Arts Bus had another joyous year of art adventure in the after-school program at Brookfield Elementary School with over 20 visits and 10 new mediums, celebrated Art on the Farm at Sprague Ranch with a bevy of local artists in the Artists' Bazaar, co-hosted local camps & public activities, plus celebrated several artists that entered and won our Original Art Contest with creative characters that now adorn our new minibus!

As ever, there is no charge to climb aboard The Arts Bus and we are driven to provide a creative resource right where our communities need it. As we have for several years, we are requesting \$1,200.00 in town appropriations from Brookfield for the 2024 fiscal year to support The Arts Bus, though we continually increase our program and quality. We remain committed to finding ways to safely bridge the gap between the future artists, inventors & creators and the cost of guides & tools they need to realize their dreams. To learn more and see pictures of the young artists' creations you make happen, we invite you to our Facebook page @artsbusvt or to visit our website www.artsbusvt.org.

RANDOLPH AREA FOOD SHELF

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

In 2023 we provided food to 544 households in our service area, representing 1,509 individuals. Of these 544 households, 16 are in Brookfield, representing 49 individuals. Of these 1,509 individuals served, 480 were below the age of 18, and 135 were above the age of 65.

In addition to our regular food pantry, the Food Shelf administers two USDA federal nutrition programs: The Commodity Supplemental Food Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Also in 2023, the Food Shelf's School Kids' Program (SKiP) served thousands of meals to area children during its February, April, and summer school vacation periods. These nutritious meals are so important to students who normally receive free breakfasts and lunches at their schools. Finally, during the 2023 holiday season, we distributed 157 Thanksgiving turkeys and 208 Holiday Bags, which contained all the ingredients for a complete and healthy holiday meal.

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

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

VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION (RFP) PROGRAM

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)
170 Lower Sumner Hill Road, Sumner, ME 04292 (802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com
| www.vacd.org

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

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

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

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

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

Enclosed please find a summary report for the Rural Water Supply Grant Program, as well as an invoice and W-9 from VACD in case they are required. VACD's tax form 990 is also available upon request. Please feel free to contact me, Troy Dare, or Jill Arace, Executive Director of VACD, with any questions you may have. Our contact information is provided below. If you would like to receive this appropriation request by mail instead of by email, please contact Troy Dare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Maclay, Chair Rural Fire Protection Task Force (802) 426-3265 | 83creameryst@fairpoint.net

Troy Dare, Program Manager & contact person for Town Appropriation business
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program (802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com

Jill Arace, Executive Director Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)
(802) 496-5162 | jill.arace@vacd.org

Rural Fire Protection Task Force Members:

Tom Maclay, Chair, Marshfield Volunteer Fire Department

Bill Sanborn, Vice-Chair, Town of Maidstone

Walter Bothfeld, Jr., Cabot Volunteer Fire Department

Tyler Hermanson, VT Enhanced 9-1-1

Mike Greenia, Vermont Division of Fire Safety, Department of Public Safety

Christine Kaiser, Stowe, VT

Lars Lund, VT Department of Forest Parks & Recreation

Haley Pero, Senator Bernie Sanders Office

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Local Partnerships in Learning

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

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

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

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

Last year 1 Brookfield resident enrolled with CVABE, and on average, 3 Brookfield residents enroll. One resident volunteered last year. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving a job, earning a high school credential, helping one’s children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more.

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

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

CVABE provided free instruction to 446 people in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVABE \$3,726 per student to provide a full year of instruction. *Nearly all students are low income.* Over 70 community volunteers work with CVABE’s professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We deeply appreciate Brookfield’s voter-approved *past* support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVABE’s free, local education services. Only a portion of CVABE’s budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, to ensure we can help the neighbors who need education for a better life.

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

Randolph Learning Center
10 S. Main St. - PO Box 84
Randolph VT 05060
(802) 728-4492
www.cvabe.org

Barre Learning Center
46 Washington Street – Suite 100
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 476-4588

Montpelier Learning Center
100 State Street, Suite 3
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-3403

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. The Barre Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Washington and northeast Orange counties. Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/barre

Central Vermont Flood Response

The historic flooding of 2023 devastated many of our central Vermont communities. We disseminated hundreds of free water test kits for central Vermont homeowners, critical health and safety information and protective equipment for cleanup. We collaborated with community partners including Montpelier Alive, Rainbow Bridge Community Center, Central Vermont Medical Center and People’s Health and Wellness Center to provide tetanus and wound care clinics and participated in multiple local initiatives to address the public health concerns of immediate flood response and long-term flood recovery.

Nutrition Support for Families

The Barre Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program serves pregnant Vermonters, parents, and caregivers with children under 5 with healthy food benefits, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and counseling. In 2023, we were given a Premiere Level Breastfeeding Award of Excellence by the Federal Food and Nutrition Service. Notably, 83% of pregnant WIC participants breastfed, with 63% continuing beyond 6 months—surpassing the 25% national rate.

Protecting Central Vermonters

Our team of epidemiologists, public health nurses and public health specialists act every day to prevent the spread of disease. In 2023, we conducted nearly 200 reportable disease case investigations. With the help of community partners, we organized 23 vaccine clinics in locations such as farms, community events and flood recovery centers. In total, we provided 311 vaccines including COVID-19, flu, tetanus and Mpox.

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

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

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

Licensing a dog:

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

For a VSNIP Application and a List of Participating Offices, send a 10" SASE: Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if your request is for a cat, dog or both. Once fully completed, please mail it back. If approved, you will receive a Voucher and instructions.

The cost for the surgery to you is only \$27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pays the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog licensing. Please be **SURE** your cat or dog is completely flea and tick free **before** the visit, or you will be charged for treatment. Pain medication is highly recommended **after** the surgery, but would be your responsibility. It is also wise to buy an "E" collar to avoid having sutures pulled out. These are the right choices!

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

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

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

Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program

Helps eligible Vermonters afford to have their dogs and cats spayed or neutered.

SPECIAL NOTE: VSNIP is funded by a \$4 fee added to the cost of getting a dog license in Vermont. It is the program's only source of funding. Available funds are therefore limited by

the number of dogs licensed each year. Dogs are legally required to be licensed by the age of 6 months. They must have a rabies vaccine to get a license. They should get their first rabies vaccine between the age of 12 weeks and 6 months.

Who Is Eligible

To be eligible, you must:

- Live in Vermont.
- Have acquired your pet for free or just a small fee.
- Get certain public benefits or have household income at or below 185% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT (TVT) SERVICES 2023

(Formerly Stagecoach)

Thank you for the Town of Brookfield's generous support last year. During the past four years, your support helped us provide an annual average of 104 free Dial-A-Ride trips for Brookfield residents either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles. TVT's Dial-A-Ride and Public Bus Systems provided a total of 180,335 rides for the year. All of TVT's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment, and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

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

Bus System – Promotes economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence and quality of life. Brookfield residents can access the 89'er Commuter Route to the Upper Valley from nearby Randolph.

The state and local grants through which we provide these services require us to raise up to 20% "local match" dollars. TVT's requests from towns account for approximately 5% of the match requirement using a "Fair Share" formula based on each town's population and level of service available.

WHITE RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE

Thank you, neighbors, for your continued support of White River Valley Ambulance. We are a non-profit, professional emergency medical service and ambulance transport agency serving the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Randolph, Rochester and Stockbridge, an area of over 500 square miles with numerous hiking and biking trails. We are designated as a Vermont Critical Care Paramedic service, the highest licensed skill level that the state recognizes. With our 14 full-time staff and several part-time staff we

maintain two ALS level staffed ambulances 24/7, 365 days a year. From January 1, 2023, through November 15th, 2024, White River Valley Ambulance responded to 1,411 emergency calls and transfers.

Training in emergency medical response is also an important part of our mission. We are a regional American Heart Association Training Center, providing CPR and First Aid courses to community members across central Vermont. WRVA is proud to be celebrating 50 years of service in 2024, this would not be possible without support from our community partners like yourself.

Funding for WRVA comes from billed insurance and budget allocations from the towns we serve. Every town pays the same amount per capita. In 2024, the per capita amount will increase from \$72.00 to \$79.00 (increase of 9.72%). Town contributions pay for about 54% of the cost of ambulance activities. I, and the Board of Directors have tried to keep the cost increase to a minimum, however with inflation and an overall pay scale change across the profession; an increase in per capita is needed.

Looking back on 2023 and ahead to 2024, we are ever grateful for the numerous first responders and fire departments with whom we work with and who volunteer their time to help a neighbor in need. Your dedication and commitment to serve makes a difference in the lives of those who call for help. For that, we can never thank you enough.

3190 Pleasant St., Bethel, VT 05032 802-234-6800 www.wrva.org

**Matthew Parrish,
Executive Director**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NOTICE

Dear Veteran,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WARNING

**Orange Southwest Unified Union School District
(Orange Southwest School District)
For Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
Monday, March 4, 2024**

TO THE LEGAL VOTERS OF RANDOLPH, BRAINTREE, and BROOKFIELD

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the voters of Randolph, Braintree & Brookfield will be held in the Auditorium at the Randolph Union High School in the Town of Randolph on Monday, March 4, 2024 commencing at 6:00 p.m. Following updated guidance from state agencies and in order to comply with those directives, this meeting will be also be available remotely. Members of the public wishing to join the meeting remotely, please use the following link:

meet.google.com/yhw-hpba-say

Phone Numbers

(US) +1 419-945-6075

PIN: 360 692 067#

**NOTICE TO VOTERS: ARTICLES I, II, III, IV, V, and VI will be voted
on the Floor on Monday, March 4, 2024.**

Polls for voting on Articles VII, VIII, IX, X & XI will be open on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at the following locations and at the following times in each town:

Braintree:	Braintree Town Hall from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Brookfield:	Brookfield Elementary School from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Randolph:	Randolph Town Hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for a one year term beginning July 1, 2024.
- ARTICLE II: To elect a Clerk for a one year term beginning July 1, 2024.
- ARTICLE III: To elect a School District Treasurer for a one year term beginning July 1, 2024.
- ARTICLE IV: To fill any vacancies existing or occurring on March 4, 2024.
- ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon recommendations contained in the reports of the officers of the school district.
- ARTICLE VI: To see whether the school district will authorize the School Board to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the member towns, by the issuance of notes or orders payable not later than one year from the date thereof.
- ARTICLE VII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:
 1. One School Director from the residents of Randolph, VT for a term of three years.
- ARTICLE VIII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:
 1. One School Director from the residents of Braintree, VT for a term of three years.
- ARTICLE IX: To vote by Australian ballot on the following Orange Southwest School District Officer:
 1. One School Director from the residents of Brookfield, VT for a term of three years.
- ARTICLE X: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:
 1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the school board to expend **\$26,728,789**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year.
- ARTICLE XI: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:
 1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of **\$1,111,283** in surplus funds from the 2022-2023 school year to the Operational Reserve Fund?

DATED at Braintree in the County of Orange and State of Vermont, this _12th day of January 2024.

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

OSSD School Board Directors
 Received and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Orange Southwest School District, in Randolph on January 29th, 2024 before being posted.

ATTEST: Linda Lubold, Clerk

NOTICE TO VOTERS

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

Braintree Town Clerk - 728-9787

Brookfield Town Clerk - 276-3352

Randolph Town Clerk - 728-5682

MINUTES

**Orange Southwest Unified Union District
(Orange Southwest School District)**

**For Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING**

Monday, March 6, 2023

**Randolph Union High School Auditorium @ 6 p.m. &
Remote access due to COVID**

Minutes to be approved at the OSSD Meeting on March 16, 2023

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

Board Members present: Anne Kaplan, Sam Hooper, and Katja Evans @ 6:10 p.m.

Administrators present: Layne Millington & Heather Lawler

Moderator: Peter Nowlan Treasurer: Teresa Godfrey (not in attendance as has resigned)

Clerk: Linda Lubold

Guests: ORCA Media Video Taping

The meeting was called to order by Peter Nowlan at 6:01 p.m.

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

Peter Nowlan reminded everyone that at this meeting Articles I, II, III, IV, V & VI of the warning will be voted on the Floor & reminded everyone of the polls being open on the following day, March 7, in each of the three towns for voting on Articles VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII & XIV.

ARTICLE I: To elect a Moderator for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2023.
Anne Kaplan nominated Peter Nowlan for Moderator which was seconded by Layne Millington. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE II: To elect a Clerk for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2023.
Layne Millington nominated Linda Lubold for Clerk which was seconded by Sam Hooper. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE III: To elect a School District Treasurer for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2023. Layne Millington nominated Linda Lubold for School District Treasurer which was seconded by Sam Hooper. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE IV: To fill any vacancies existing or occurring on March 6, 2023. No vacancies were existing or occurring.

ARTICLE V: To hear and act upon the reports of the officers of the school district. The moderator asked if there were any questions as each report was voted on.

Anne Kaplan made the motion to accept the report of the Officers of the school district which was seconded by Sam Hooper. The motion passed by voice vote.

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

Linda Lubold made the motion to accept the report of the Elementary Principals of the school district which was seconded by Sam Hooper. The motion passed by voice vote.

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

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

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

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

Peter Nowlan reminded everyone again about the remaining articles that will be voted on tomorrow, March 7, and listed each of the three town's polling places and hours for voting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. was made by Anne Kaplan and seconded by Linda Lubold.

Peter Nowlan, Moderator
Linda Lubold, Clerk

**ORANGE SOUTHWEST UNIFIED UNION DISTRICT
(ORANGE SOUTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT)**

RESULTS OF BUDGET VOTE - TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

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

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

Hannah Arias 838 Undervotes (Blank) 248 Overvotes (Spoiled) 1

Write In: Martha Hafner- 4 votes Cathy Ingalls

Sadie Lyford	Charlie Russell
Chris Villandry	John Klar
Joe Voci	Lindsey Choiniere
Erika Graham	Joylynn Jones
Ashlee Taylor	Paula Russell
Megan Kelly	Janet Angell
Wayne Townsend	

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

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

Katja Evans 792 Undervotes (Blank) 303 Overvotes (Spoiled) 1

Write In: Melissa Hurley Roger Farmer

Joylynn Jones	Chris Hurley
Mike Ferris	Megan Kelly
Martha Hafner - 2 votes	

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

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

Al Hermsen 141 Undervotes (Blank) 219 Overvotes (Spoiled) 6

Sam Hooper 729 Teresa Voci

Write In: Josh Kelly Jessica Allen

Joylynn Jones	John Klar
Megan Kelly	Corey Haggett - 2 votes

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

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

YES 710 NO 361 Undervotes (Blank) 33

ARTICLE XI: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:
1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of \$760,439 in surplus funds from the 2021-2022 school year to the Operational Reserve Fund?

YES 871 NO 200 Undervotes (Blank) 33

ARTICLE XII: To vote by Australian ballot on the following monetary item:
1. Shall the voters of the Orange Southwest School District approve the transfer of \$100,000 in surplus funds from the 2021-2022 school year to the Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund?

YES 903 NO 165 Undervotes (Blank) 36

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

YES 783 NO 280 Undervotes (Blank) 41

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

YES 882 NO 191 Undervotes (Blank) 31

OSSD ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Preamble

The driving force behind this year’s budget planning season relates to ACT 127, which focuses on, “improving student equity by adjusting the school funding formula.” The impact of this legislation is exceptionally wide, and it is the controlling factor behind the major rate changes every taxpayer in Vermont will contend with this year and every year going forward.

The law seeks to address educational equity by recognizing that some students, depending on their circumstances, need more resources in order to receive an equitable education. To create this equity, the law weights students depending upon their needs and provides additional funding to support them. For instance, the law recognizes that students from impoverished households need additional resources if they are to receive an equitable education, and therefore provides additional funding for these students. That additional funding needs to come from somewhere; and this is accomplished by raising the tax rate for all Vermonters. This tax rate reset, which is required to fund the new legislation is immense.

This past November, the Vermont Department of Taxes projected that this reset would increase residents’ property taxes by 18.5 percent. In addition, there are two other stressors that will impact budget planning and tax rates for 2024-25: property values, and the end of the COVID era grants.

There has been an unprecedented rise in Vermont property values. This is fantastic for property owners in terms of return on investment, but the downside is that the state requires residents to pay taxes on that gain in value. All three of our towns have seen increases in their property values over the past year, meaning a further rise in tax rates – with Brookfield and Braintree seeing the largest increase and Randolph following close behind.

Lastly, districts are contending with the loss of the COVID era grants. These were federal monies provided to schools to help students recover from the learning losses caused by the pandemic. Much of the money was used to staff academic recovery and mental health programming. Many of the problems caused by COVID still remain, and without the grants, districts are seeking to move that programming into their regular budgets to make sure students continue to receive needed support.

Given all of this, our focus in terms of the 2024-25 budget was a simple one: maintain the programs and systems we’ve built to support students and staff while minimizing, as much as we can, the impact of ACT 127 and the huge increase in property values on our local taxpayers.

The Bottom Line: Your Tax Rates

We are looking at an increase of \$2,107,309 in district expenses for next year, which will be offset by \$1,033,333 in subsidies. This means that the district is requesting \$1,073,976 more from the taxpayers than last year. In terms of the increased expenses, approximately \$1,492,711 (seventy-one percent) is mandatory; meaning, it is required to meet our legal and contractual obligations due to ACT 127 and under the master agreements with our staff including a significant increase in health insurance premiums.

The discretionary increases (twenty-nine percent), support the continuation of our full day pre-school program, staff needed to better support student mental health challenges, a human resources director to serve the district’s 262 employees, and a small increase to offset the cost of supplies due to inflation.

The table below shows the expected tax rate for each of our towns taking all the impacts discussed above into account.

Town	*2023-24 Tax Rate	CLA	*2024-25 Tax Rate	Annual Impact**	Monthly Impact**
Braintree	\$1.5709	79.57%	\$1.7082	\$343.00	\$28.58
Brookfield	\$1.2724	95.21%	\$1.4276	\$388.00	\$32.33
Randolph	\$1.6484	78.71%	\$1.7268	\$196.00	\$16.33

***Per \$100 of assessed value**

****Based upon a \$250,000 property value**

Note: At the time of this writing, the projected property yield was \$9,452.00

Surplus and Reserve Funds

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

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

Surplus Amount and Proposed Allocations

Article XI asks voters to transfer \$1,111,283 in surplus money to the operations reserve fund. A vote of yes on this Article, would...

- Set aside \$51,283 to support unexpected operational needs within the district. These funds could only be accessed via approval of the School Board.
- Allow the remaining \$1,060,000 to be used to reduce your taxes over three future fiscal years: \$353,333 in 2025-26, \$353,333 in 2026-27, and \$353,333 in 2027-28.

In Closing

Our staff have provided exceptional service to the district's students and have used the resources provided by the taxpayers to exceptional effect. Our academic performance continues to rise over time, and this is the second year in a row that we have received national recognition by Newsweek, with two of our schools earning Best School awards. The budget we have created for 2024-25 serves to continue these good works.

On behalf of all the staff and students across the OSSD, we thank you for your support as we look forward to another year working together in the service of your children, our students.

Sincerely,

Layne W. Millington

OSSD Superintendent

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It has been a busy year at OSSD, and it is my pleasure and privilege to report on the Board's activities and priorities over the past year.

At the beginning of the last school year, your Board made a commitment to strengthen its connections with the communities it serves, both within and outside of the district. We endeavored to make our meetings as accessible as possible; be responsive to requests for agendas, minutes, and information; provide that information - and any explanations that needed to accompany it - in a timely manner; and project an overall sense of transparency in our decisions and undertakings. Through this commitment, it was our desire to bring our entire community together in support of our children.

Putting together this year's budget has been a bit of a challenge, especially given the changes that have come down from the state level, including the recently implemented Act 127, that seeks to improve student equity by adjusting school funding formulas. Fortunately, your district is in good shape financially, and with the strong foundation Superintendent Layne Millington has

provided, we see no major hurdles to settling on a budget that will best serve the students in our charge, while not presenting undue hardship to the taxpayers.

As a board, we continue to look to the future, and over the coming year we will be researching the possibilities around updating, renovating, or constructing new school facilities; as well as what the steps (permitting, financing, etc.) would be to get there. We will be initiating a search for a new superintendent with the help of the Vermont School Boards Association, who will guide us through the hiring process. It will be a somewhat tight schedule, but I have full confidence that the board, working with the VSBA and a yet-to-be-formed advisory screening committee, will attract a candidate who will continue to build upon Layne's solid foundation. Our end goal in this process is to hire a superintendent who will make our district an economically stable and socially responsible example to other districts across the state.

We are grateful for Layne's tireless leadership over the past seven years, especially given the unprecedented times during which he served. He has continuously passed budgets that allowed the district to provide for all students, while remaining mindful of the ever-increasing financial burdens faced by taxpayers. Under his leadership, and despite a pandemic that closed our school buildings and upended our day-to-day instruction and activities, our test scores have improved tremendously and we have recovered much of the ground that was lost during those difficult months. He has also kept our district on a steady course during a time of extreme social tension, both locally and nationally. We are grateful for his service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Finally, we are profoundly thankful for the support our communities have given us over the years, and for the trust you have placed in us to oversee your schools. It is a trust we do not take lightly.

Hannah Arias
Board Chair – OSSD

RTCC DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Randolph Technical Career Center (RTCC) is ahead of the curve in meeting the workforce needs of the State of Vermont. It is an exciting time to be a Career Technical Education (CTE) student as the job market opens up and welcomes newly graduated students into their chosen fields. Now, more than ever, the demands of our state are being met by CTE students who become hard workers, business owners, and entrepreneurs.

Current CTE Programs offered at RTCC

- Automotive Technology
- Construction Trades & Management
- Criminal Justice and Cybersecurity
- Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management
- Dental Assisting
- Diesel Technology
- Digital Filmmaking & Media Arts
- Diversified Agriculture
- Education Services
- Electrical Technology
- Health Careers
- Manufacturing & Fabrication
- Pre-Technical Foundations

An RTCC education takes perseverance and grit. It is not the easy way out. Rather, it shows an exemplary commitment to both academics and tradesmanship. It is a calling, a craft, and a lifestyle. CTE is high-quality education in the state of Vermont.

Here at RTCC, we focus on small class sizes for Math and English, leading to more one-on-one focused instruction and outstanding relationships between students and teachers. Our school has a family atmosphere where all adults in the building are trusted members of a student's team. We share responsibility for our students' learning, behavior, and overall satisfaction with their experience.

Our teachers have been hand-selected from industry and come from an array of highly skilled careers to mentor and educate our students. We each bring a unique perspective just as each student brings their own life experience and expertise. Together, we are a strongly-woven community of continuous learners with an emphasis on safety and support.

RTCC is unique in its ability to offer extremely small conference-style academic classes and program classes led by experts in their field; several of whom graduated from RTCC in the past. We offer a truly personalized learning experience for students that prepares them for college and career and we are proud of our RTCC community of current students, graduates, and employees.

In addition to our small class sizes and personalized academic plans, our students have the opportunity to participate in Work-Based Learning. This could be either a paid or unpaid internship and/or job shadow that can be completed during the school day and even outside of school during summers and vacations. This offering provides students with the chance to build their resumes, earn credit, make money, and gain real-world experience. Work-Based Learning, aka Co-op, is a great way to build your resume and to make yourself more attractive to employers and colleges. It also builds work ethic and helps students develop a sense of personal responsibility.

Working hard in one's chosen career path also helps to build character and define interests. Students who take on a Co-op will also build their capacity for learning and leadership, making them more likely to succeed in college and career, down the line.

In addition to all these positive benefits of an RTCC education, students earn Industry Recognized Credentials (IRCs) through their program. These are qualifications that employers are looking for and applicants who possess them are far more likely to be hired. RTCC also offers a number of ways for students to earn college credit through their program. Our connections with colleges, employers, and industry professionals makes an RTCC education unique, valuable, and a staple in our community and throughout the state.

We would like to thank everyone who has chosen RTCC from community members to sending schools. We are proud to be your chosen educational institution. We look forward to bringing new technology, learning experiences, college and career connections, and a plethora of programs to choose from in the coming years.

Stay tuned! We have more in store!

With gratitude and sincerity,

Nika Oakes
RTCC Director

RANDOLPH UNION ANNUAL REPORT 2023

December 20, 2023

Dear Randolph Union Middle/High School Community,

It is our honor to be able to share with all of you the positive things that have been happening at our school. Earlier this school year we polled staff and adults at our Advisory Board meeting to learn more about community perceptions of our school. We learned that there are positive perceptions about students being seen and heard by caring staff, and also negative perceptions about substance use among the student population, concern about low academic standards and achievement, and concerns about behavior. Perhaps our biggest take away was the need to communicate clearly and frequently the things that are, in reality, happening at our school.

Student achievement continues to improve. The numbers of students taking Advanced Placement classes, as well as the number of students receiving credit for AP tests is improving. And, through our Student Engagement Survey we can see that students are feeling more interested in their classes than they were last spring. In the spring 61% of students reported feeling interested in their classes; this fall that number has jumped to 68.7%. We know we have work to do, but we know we have the right staff to do the work.

Additionally, we have added significant after school supports and activities for students, augmented by a late bus that helps ensure that any student who wants to engage in activities or after school learning opportunities can access them. We offer after school tutoring (targeted around specific subject areas), homework support (more general), and classes such as theater and dance. These opportunities allow our students to access learning beyond the school day in order to maximize their access to education and resources provided by the school. This year also marks the return to eligibility requirements in athletics. Students must show strong Habits of Work and Heart in order to remain eligible to access co-curricular activities. Our Athletics and Activities Director, Nick Bent, uses this data to stay in communication with students to help them meet and exceed expectations.

We have also seen tremendous growth in our flexible pathways programming. Students in both the Project Based Learning led by Beverly Taft, and Innovation Center programs, led by Nasser Abdel Fatah have been engaging in hands-on, deep learning. Students have provided professional development for teachers within the OSSD and other Vermont school districts and they have also worked together to create community and prepare for a service trip to Peru. The Innovation Center and Robotics Lab have hosted students who are able to 3D print a variety of items, and build robots which will compete against robotics teams from around Vermont, New York, and the broader New England area. Tim Moynihan leads our robotics team, and Tom Zani teaches middle level robotics and STEM classes. Zani and Abdel Fatah have also teamed up to offer after school STEM programming to students in grades 5 - 8 on Thursday and Friday afternoons. All of this helps our students find a sense of belonging and apply what they learn in our core academic programs.

We have also increased learning opportunities that get students outside. Our Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, Mitch Wenz brings with him a great depth of knowledge related to outdoor survival which he is passing on to our students. We have run a section of this class for 7th graders which began in late November and we will offer a section for 9th graders beginning in January.

We have begun offering dance classes after school and our theater program now is credit bearing. Moving these classes outside of the school day has allowed students who fill their schedules completely to access these fine arts classes. The late bus has really allowed these programs to flourish.

Kara Merrill, our Director of Student Services, I has also been hard at work this past year after winning a grant from the McClure Foundation. Merrill has long been a champion of flexible pathways for students and post secondary planning. When she noticed that many students were struggling to adjust to life outside of our supportive, close knit community, she wrote a grant that would allow her to offer training and stipends to people to support first year college students. The goal of the program is for students to feel an increased level of confidence as first year college students in order to increase the rates of students who are staying in college. So far, we are seeing a lot of success in the program.

Another part of our school culture that we are immensely proud of is the travel that our students have access to. Students are able to apply to be a part of these programs and regardless of their family's income they are able to travel if they are accepted into the programs. Students have traveled to Japan, Germany, Morocco, the Bahamas, and Marine Lab in Key Largo, Florida. Additionally, last summer 13 students were able to become certified SCUBA divers.

We focus, as a school community, on knowing all of our students well, while pushing them to set goals that they can work toward and grow to meet. Over the past several years we have continued to refine our focus to strengthen our academic program. As a staff, we are continuously learning ourselves, in order to serve our students and their families better. We are grateful for the support that this community provides. We know that the level of support that we receive is not something to be take for granted. We appreciate all of you!

Sincerely, Lisa Floyd, Principal

Jason Finley, Associate Principal

ANNUAL REPORT FOR BRAINTREE ELEMENTARY, BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY, AND RANDLOPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The elementary schools of the OSSD work closely together to ensure equitable access across the district. This year we added stipend positions for teacher leaders at each grade level to facilitate work within our professional learning communities (or PLCs). In our PLC meetings, teacher leaders work with grade-level colleagues to analyze assessment data from math and reading. Observations and conclusions drawn from the data are used to adjust instructional strategies to benefit all students in the classroom. Routinely engaging in these conversations helps teachers share resources, strategies, and best practices to support all of our students across the district. This year we also implemented building-level professional learning communities to ensure intervention and enrichment is in place for students who are in need of those supports.

While our primary focus is on the academic success of our students, we know the social and emotional development of our children is crucial as well. This year, we have implemented a social emotional screener to help us better serve the needs of students in the elementary schools. This assessment collects information on students' self-management, social awareness, and responsible decision-making skills. Analyzing the information from this screener allows teachers and our social emotional team to home in on particular skills that classes or groups of students need to bolster their overall growth. It also helps the teachers and administrators gauge the effectiveness of professional development training to support the needs of behavior we have seen recently.

The three elementary schools work to support one another, and each school has its own personality as well. Each building has areas of specific focus - please read further to see what each of our schools is focusing on.

RANDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Student Leaders: We are continuing a focus that we have been working on for three years in our school, around increasing students' ability to set goals for themselves and to take leadership in the school. All students in third through sixth grade learn about the Habits of Highly Effective people and how they can take ownership of their own lives. They learn how to set goals, make an action plan to reach their goals, and celebrate success. We give our students the chance to demonstrate their proactive behaviors by taking on leadership roles in the school. This year, we are giving the older students the opportunity to take on mentorship roles with younger students. They are supporting students and demonstrating to that younger student what it means to be in charge of their own learning. The focus on leadership has been a big success at RES. We have students proposing ways that they can be a leader in the building and we have created applications for those roles.

ECO/STEM: We are in our second year of increasing our eco classroom and STEM work at RES. We have our outdoor classroom space that is utilized and an eco space that has been recently updated. We have kindergarten, several first grade classrooms, and several 3rd/4th grade classrooms that have regularly scheduled outdoor education times during the week. Our school also has a STEM teacher that comes in three times a week to support our science curriculum in classrooms throughout the building.

Emotional Learning: Our school has been working hard to meet the emotional needs of all of our students. We have learning that happens for all of our students using PBIS and Responsive Classroom. We also have the Second Step program in kindergarten through 2nd grade and Leader in Me program in the 3rd-6th grade. These programs are universal classroom programs that help our students to set goals for themselves and understand the control they have over their own actions and choices.

The staff has also been working diligently to create clear expectations for our students and protocols for how we are helping our students that are struggling. Our school has worked in professional committees to work on areas of concern. Specifically, we have tightened up what are minor vs. major behaviors and what steps will be taken for both of those. The teachers are working on what needs to be done to improve a universal approach to PBIS in the building. There is a group working on alternative spaces for students that are struggling in the general education classroom for periods of time. The group has created a structure that allows these students to be able to continue their education while they are in a safe environment for a short period of time. Another committee is focusing on helping our teachers who are feeling anxiety around some of the behavioral issues that they have been managing. This gives them a protocol for unpacking these stressors with a trusted colleague. Finally, we have a committee that has worked on creating a mentor program with the older students supporting our younger students. This allows for leadership opportunities for the older students, and it provides supports and targeted times for our younger students. Our teachers have taken the emotional needs of our students and staff very seriously this year and are working hard to meet everyone's needs.

Randolph Elementary has a lot of wonderful community support. We have a strong Parent Teacher Organization, that is creating wonderful opportunities for families to become more engaged in the school. We have volunteers who regularly help to support our school and we have an amazing staff who create an exciting environment for our children.

BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Farm to School:

This year, Brookfield Elementary School received the Farm to School and Early Childhood Education grant, and we decided to expand our program in a few different ways. Students receive monthly lessons from the Harvest of the Month curriculum which are taught by our nurse, Mrs. Brooke. The harvest food from these monthly lessons is then utilized to conduct a cooking lesson and taste test with classes. At the beginning of the school year, with Mrs. Ferris's direction, the fourth-grade class created a robust composting program for our entire school. The class put together a thorough presentation about the benefits of composting and how it impacts our environment and our school garden. Through these lessons, children learn about where our local food comes from, the sustainability of farms and our land, and local economies. Funds from the grant have been used to purchase a food chart for easy classroom cooking experiments. We also hope to use the funds to build more garden beds, add fruit trees to the school property, market our harvests to the school and community, and possibly create our own farmstand.

STEM:

We are excited to continue our second year with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education at Brookfield. Students work with our STEM teacher, Ms. Conte, and in their grade level science units which are taught by their classroom teachers. Students engage in a variety of STEM-related experiences such as outdoor learning, robotics, coding, engineering experiments, and more. This kind of learning provides students with early exposure to STEM concepts, with hands-on learning in real-world applications, and it nurtures creativity as students explore new ideas and find innovative solutions to problems. Through our STEM program, students are preparing for a technological future and building a range of communication, collaboration and analytical skills. As our program continues, we hope to build in more opportunities for project-based learning, integrate STEM activities into other content areas, and expand our partnerships within the community to illustrate the variety of STEM-related careers to our students.

After School Program:

At Brookfield, our after-school program includes a variety of activities, such as arts, sports, STEM and tutoring in order to foster the holistic development of our children. Some teachers provide opportunities beyond the regular classroom hours for academic enrichment and tutoring to reinforce learning. We have contracted with Arts Bus to provide fun projects for our students once a week. Our PE teacher taught students how to disc golf in the fall and will teach students to cross country ski on our property this winter. STEM and Farm to School also extend into our after-school program. For example, a few classes picked apples at Liberty Orchard for a field trip this fall and the kids in after school used some of these apples to make dehydrated apple snacks. For two months, a group of students worked with Linking Engineering to Life and participated in weekly virtual STEM challenges and visited Beta Technologies to see electric airplane engineering and production for a field trip. We hope to continue to build our program to support our students and the families we serve after school hours.

School Club:

Our School Club is our parent teacher organization which works to connect and build relationships between families to create a cohesive school community. The School Club works to support and facilitate communication between school and families and our team plans and organizes fun events for all to enjoy. This year, we are working on growing our membership and increasing participation in a wide variety of events. So far, the School Club organized a Halloween event where parent and family volunteers ran stations for our classes to rotate through; for example, students made Trick or Treat bags and played exciting Halloween games in some of the stations. In early December, we also held a family movie night where more than 80 people enjoyed pizza and a movie. We look forward to holding an afternoon event with a bonfire and sledding, and then a Community Variety Show for kids to show off their skills along with a silent auction during the intermission to raise funds for the School Club to continue to put on these types of events. As we work to increase membership, we hope we can continue to build more opportunities for community members to present their skills to our students and incorporate a range of learning experiences from local businesses. We look forward to more of our work building a collaborative group of staff, parents, and families who actively support our children's education.

BRAINTREE ELEMENTARY

Academic Excellence & Outdoor Learning

We were proudly named the #5 elementary school in the state of Vermont, based on performance on state assessments. Our teachers are dedicated to the academic and social/emotional development of each and every student. With engaging and differentiated lessons and a cohesive team of classroom teachers, interventionists, and other staff, students receive a rigorous, holistic education at Braintree Elementary.

We make the most of our beautiful 17-acre campus. Each classroom has a dedicated outdoor classroom available to them. On a typical day at Braintree, you may see the preschoolers playing in their mud kitchen, primary students measuring the results of experiments, and older children drawing the abundant wildlife on campus and making scientific observations and hypotheses. Incorporating the natural world in order to connect students with their environment and community is of utmost importance at our school. Ground will break this year on an ADA-accessible trail that will connect outdoor classrooms and provide the most access for our community members.

Our Farm to School program provides students with hands-on experiences growing, harvesting, cooking, and eating fresh produce. Braintree Blossoms, our school farmstand, provides additional real-life learning. Students in all grades have made items to sell at the farmstand, including apple sauce and pies, granola, and potpourri. Intermediate students are learning firsthand how to operate a small business. They set prices, create advertisements, organize inventory, engage with customers, and complete financial analyses. We have also been fortunate to partner with local farmers and families who have donated items to support the farmstand. Last year, RTCC students in the electrical and construction trades installed solar panels on the farmstand. We are grateful for the community support of this endeavor!

STEM

Braintree continues our focus on helping students prepare for the future. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) is now a permanent part of our specials rotation. In the STEM lab, students learn the process of design thinking and the importance of testing and revision of projects. They learn how to collaborate and communicate with peers and leaders in the field. For our recent celebration of National STEM Day, Braintree students created a school-wide marble run, with each grade having a particular role in the building and assembly. We are proud to partner with community organizations for material and financial support of these exciting projects.

Enrichment Opportunities

We strive to make Braintree a place students want to return to every day. Exciting field trips and visitors to our building allow us to enrich day-to-day instruction. Farmer Anne comes monthly to cook with local produce and provide a taste test for all students in conjunction with our Farm to School program. We welcome artists in residence throughout the year, including Bread & Puppet Circus, Guinean singer Sayon Camara, and a weeklong drumming residency in the spring. Deonne Myrick comes for monthly yoga instruction for all grade-levels. There are opportunities for students to increase their capacity for leadership; 4H visited this fall to facilitate leadership activities for intermediate students, and our Student Council meets biweekly to identify and address areas for growth within our school. After-school academic tutoring, band, and physical activity clubs are also available. We are proud to offer these opportunities for Braintree students to deepen their learning and find success in and out of the classroom.

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Return Receipt Requested