

BROOKLINE

2023

A · N · N · U · A · L · R · E · P · O · R · T



**Monday March 4, 2024 • 6:00 PM
Town Meeting • Daycare Building
Voting from the floor**

Contents

Town General InformationInside Cover	Brookline Consolidated Balance Sheet
Warning for 2024 Brookline	FY 2023..... 14
Town Meeting..... 1	Brookline Estimated Tax Rates..... 15
Town Officers Elected 2	Selectboard Report 16
Town Officers Appointed..... 3	Brookline Meetinghouse Report..... 17
Auditors' Report..... 4	Building Comissioner's Report 18
2023 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes,	Vital Statistics 2023 19
March 6, 2023 5	Regulations Governing Dog
Town Operating/Highway Proposed	Ownership..... 20
2024 Budgets..... 11	Notice to Voters 21

Town of Brookline General Information

Town Office.....	P.O. Box 403 734 Grassy Brook Road Brookline, Vermont 05345 802-365-4648; FAX: 802-365-4092 Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. First Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Or by appointment www.brooklinevt.com
Selectboard.....	First and third Wednesday, 6:30 P.M., Town Office
Planning Commission	First Saturday, 8:30 A.M., Town Office
West River Modified Union Education District ..	Second Wednesday, 7:00 P.M., Leland & Gray
Riverside Cemetery.....	\$550 per space. Contact Cemetery Commission
Health & Sewage Disposal Ordinance	See Town Clerk
Highway Regulations	See Town Clerk
Landfill.....	Access permits available at District Scale House
Fire & Rescue Emergencies	9-1-1
Fish & Game License	See Town Clerk or online at http://vtfishandwildlife.com/

Warning for 2024 Brookline Town Meeting

The legal voters of the town of Brookline are hereby warned to meet in the multipurpose room of the former Brookline School Building in said Town of Brookline on Monday the 4th of March at 6:00 PM to transact the following business from the floor:

- ARTICLE 1 To elect a Town Moderator for a term of 1 year;
- ARTICLE 2 To elect all other Town Officers required by law;
 Town Clerk for a term of 1 year;
 Selectboard Member for a term of 2 years;
 Selectboard Member for a term of 3 years;
 Selectboard Member for 1 year (remainder of a 3 year term)
 Lister for 1 year (remainder of a 3 year term);
 Lister for 2 years (remainder of a 3 year term);
 Lister for a 3 year term;
 Auditor for a 3 year term;
 Auditor for a 3 year term;
 Cemetery Commissioner for a term of 5 years;
- ARTICLE 3 Shall the voters accept the Auditors Report?
- ARTICLE 4 Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$201,299.00 of which \$146,834.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$54,465.00 by non-tax revenues?
- ARTICLE 5 Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditures of \$327,418.00 of which \$271,318.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$56,100.00 by non-tax revenues?
- ARTICLE 6 Shall the voters authorize the collection of taxes in 4 installments with the due dates being: August 13, 2024, November 12, 2024, February 11, 2025 and May 13, 2025?
- ARTICLE 7 Shall the voters appropriate \$9,746.00 to be raised by taxes in support of the following organizations:
- | <u>Organization</u> | <u>FY24 Approved</u> | <u>FY25 Requested</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| American Red Cross | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Grace Cottage Foundation | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Green Up Vermont | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Groundworks Collaborative | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Historical Soc. of Windham | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| L&G Educational Foundation | 250.00 | -- |
| Moore Free Library | 1,100.00 | 1,100.00 |
| Newbrook PTO | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Newfane Anew | 1,000.00 | -- |
| Rural Fire Protection Prg | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Senior Solutions | 700.00 | 710.00 |
| SEVCA | 465.00 | 465.00 |
| Seveds | 500.00 | 1,590.00 |
| The Current -CRT/Moover | - | 125.00 |
| The Gathering Place | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| VABVI | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Valley Cares Inc | 821.00 | 821.00 |
| Vermont Family Network | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Visiting Nurse Alliance | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Vt Ctr Independent Living | 80.00 | 80.00 |
| Windham County Humane Soc. | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Winston Prouty Ctr | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Youth Services | 255.00 | 255.00 |
| Total All Appropriations Requests To Be Voted | \$9,771.00 | \$9,746.00 |
- ARTICLE 8 Shall the voters vote to have the current taxes collected by its Town Treasurer?
- ARTICLE 9 Shall the voters approve the expenditure of up to \$19,000 for recycling costs for fiscal year 2025?
- ARTICLE 10 Shall the voters appropriate \$4,000 to be placed into a dedicated account for the purpose of a future professional audit?
- ARTICLE 11 Shall the voters approve contributing \$10,000 from ARPA funds to the Newbrook Fire Department purchase of a new fire truck?
- ARTICLE 12 "Other Business" discussion which shall not be used for taking binding municipal action, and the Moderator shall so rule.

Dated this 24th day of January 2024.

By Selectboard Members:

Dorothy Maggio, Stanley Noga, Jr, Bruce Mello, Somara Zwick, Paul Madalinski

Town Officers Elected

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator	David Y. Parker, Jr.....	2024
Town Clerk	Guy Tanza.....	2024
Delinquent Tax Collector.....	Melissa Brown (appointed)	2024
Selectboard.....	Somara Zwick (appointed) 2 yr remaining of 3 yr term.....	2025
	Bruce Mello..... 3 yr term.....	2026
	Paul Madalinski (appointed) 1 yr term	2024
	Dorothy Maggio	2 yr term..... 2025
	Stanley Noga Jr	2 yr term..... 2024
Listers (3-year term)	Helen Holt (appointed) 1 year remaining of 3 yr term.....	2024
	Mike Bills (appointed)..... 2 years remaining of 3 yr term	2025
	Vacant..... 3 yr term.....	2026
Auditors (3-year term)	Heidi Nystrom	2024
	Frank Rucker	2024
	Kendra Brooks	2026
WRMUED School Director	LeeAnn Jillson.....	2026
	Sara Webb	2024
Cemetery Commissioners (5-year term) .	Michael W. Winot.....	2027
	Dorothy Maggio	2028
	Doug Wellman.....	2024
	Laiwe Nau Martocci.....	2028
	Howard Osgood.....	2026
Town State Representatives.....	Michelle Bos-Lun	2025
	Leslie Goldman.....	2025
Justices of the Peace	Marie Tattersall	2025
	Gwen Tanza.....	2025
	Dorothy Maggio	2025
	Stanley Noga Jr.	2025
	Guy Tanza.....	2025

★★★★ This Year's Town Meeting Is In Person ★★★★★
Monday March 4, 2023 • Multipurpose Room of the Daycare Building
5:00 pm - Pot Luck Supper
6:00 pm - Town Meeting

Town Officers Appointed

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Assistant Town Clerk.....	Gwendolyn Tanza	2024
Treasurer	Melissa Brown.....	2024
Assistant Treasurer	Judy Acampora	2024
	David Jones.....	2024
Road Commissioner	Archie Clark.....	2024
Building Commissioner	Bruce Mello.....	2024
Trustee of Public Funds.....	Melissa Brown.....	2024
Forest Fire Warden.....	Lester D. Rink.....	2025
Deputy Forest Fire Warden	Michael W. Winot.....	2025
Windham Regional Commissioners	Stanley Noga Jr	2024
	Vacant.....	2024
Tree Warden.....	E. Mark Bills	2024
Pound Keeper.....	Windham County Humane Society	2024
Animal Control Officer	Dorothy Maggio	2024
Round Schoolhouse Committee	Dorothy Maggio	2024
	Kerry Bourne.....	2024
	Laurie Nau-Martocci	2024
	Julia Duke.....	2024
Rescue, Inc Representative.....	Stanley Noga Jr	2024
Town 911 Coordinator	Paul Madalinski	2024
SEVCA.....	Vacant.....	2024
WSWMD (Landfill)	Daniel Towler	2024
Planning Commission (5-year term)	Barbara Bourne	2027
	Charlie Ezequelle	2025
	Somara Zwick.....	2024
	Oliver Ames	2026
	Leah Daley.....	2026
	Stanley Noga, Jr	2024
Brookline Meetinghouse Committee.....	Lee Anne Parker.....	2024
	Kerry Bourne.....	2024
	Daniel Towler	2024
	Julia Duke.....	2024
	Stuart Duke.....	2024
	Jon Ballou	2024
Selectboard Recording Clerk.....	Vanessa Ballou	2024
Highway Grants Coordinator	Stanley Noga, Jr.	2024
Property Manager (624 GBR).....	E. Mark Bills	2024
Emergency Management Coordinator	Dorothy Maggio	2024

Auditors' Report

This auditor's report is provided in connection with our audit of the financial statements of the Town of Brookline, which comprise the respective financial position of the governmental Funds as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended. In our opinion, the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

We have followed auditing procedures as recommended by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and as required by Vermont Law. Our opinion included the following considerations:

1) The financial statements include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the Town and all component units required by generally accepted accounting principles. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

2) Expenses have been appropriately classified and allocated to Funds, Functions and Programs in the financial statements. We have reviewed salary expenses reported in the financial statements to the IRS 941 report and confirmed tax deposits have been remitted on time. We have reconciled the General Ledger to the IRS 941 statements.

3) Revenues are appropriately classified within general revenues and contributions to restricted funds.

4) All bank accounts have been reconciled to the Town's General Ledger accounting system and inter-fund activity balances have been appropriately classified, reported, and reconciled.

5) We are in agreement with the adjusting journal entries that the Treasurer proposed and confirmed that they have been posted to the General Ledger.

6) We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments or unasserted claims or assessments that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements. There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices that are currently pending.

7) To comply with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles that apply to Government Wide Activities and the Statement of Net Position, the Auditors have asked the Treasurer to provide a statement of fixed assets with related information on depreciation, book value, and long-term debt. We have also shared Audit Findings and recommendations with Town Officials in a separate letter.

We would like to thank Melissa Brown for serving as Appointed Treasurer, she has provided essential fiscal services to the town. The Town is very fortunate to have the capable administrative services of our elected Town Officials.

Respectfully submitted by elected auditors:
Heidi Nystrom, Kendra Brooks and Frank Rucker
Dated: January 27, 2024.

Our Brookline e-mail list currently includes over 180 people. This is one of the ways in which we communicate news and announcements of local interest to our community. If you would like to be added to the list, please e-mail Julie Lavorgna at julielavorgna@gmail.com. (And, please, if your e-mail address has changed, let Julie know.)

March 6, 2023 Town Meeting Minutes

After a two year hiatus, and the expiration of the Vermont Declared Emergency due to the Covid 19 Virus and its variants, the Brookline Selectboard voted unanimously at their December 21, 2022 meeting to resume holding The Brookline Annual Town Meeting in person. Of the 459 legally registered voters of Brookline, 55 participated in this event.

Town Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023

On Monday, **March 6, 2023** at 6:00 PM Town Moderator David Y. Parker Jr. called The Brookline Annual Town Meeting to order. Mr. Parker welcomed everyone back after the long absence of in person meetings. First order of business was to explain to the public, the rules of procedure. Mr. Parker continued with asking everyone to please sign the attendance sheet and made note of the binders located in the back of the room containing the request and information sheets sent by those organizations seeking appropriations. Mr. Parker also pointed out that the Brookline Meetinghouse Committee had a survey for those wishing to fill it out and by doing so, it would be much appreciated. Mr. Parker mentioned this survey could also be accessed on line. One last note, Mr. Parker reminds folks that Julie Lavorgna continues to host the town list serve and gave Ms. Lavorgna the opportunity to explain this town service and instructions on how to get on that list.

Article 1

First order of business will be to **elect a Town Moderator. For a term of one year.** Guy Tanza nominates David Parker Jr. No other nominations received. David Y. Parker, Jr elected Town Moderator.

Article 2

Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a town treasurer as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2651f(a) for a term of one year.

Dot Maggio, Selectboard Chair, explains that due to a lack of candidates from town residents, the board has the authority to appoint a treasurer. This would allow a person other than a town resident be appointed by the Selectboard to fill this position. Ms. Maggio continues to explain that the Selectboard has checked with Vermont League of Cities and Towns and was informed this was a legal course of action according to Vermont State Statutes. It is also noted that many Vermont Towns have had to take this action to fill vacancies in their local government. No further comment by anyone. A vote is called for and the article is passed.

Article 3

Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Collector of Delinquent Taxes as provided in 17 V.S.A. §2651(d) for a term of one year.

Dot Maggio, Selectboard Chair explains that the same set of circumstances exist for Collector of Delinquent Taxes, with no candidates from town residents for this position and ask the voters to vote for this article. Marie Tattersall seconds the motion and a vote is called for. The article passes.

March 6, 2023 Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Article 4

To elect all other Town Officers required by law.

- **Town Clerk** for a term of one year. Bruce Mello and Archie Clark nominate Guy Tanza. No further nominations – Guy Tanza elected Town Clerk.
- **Town Treasurer** for a term of one year. Only if appointment vote in Article 2 above is not approved

Delinquent Tax Collector. Only if appointment vote in Article 3 above is not approved.

At this point Moderator Parker mentions that the Brookline Selectboard has been operating with a three member board as opposed to the five member board authorized and that this has put stress on the serving members. He is asking for some new members to join the Selectboard team. While it is somewhat demanding it is also rewarding to help govern your town.

- **Selectboard Member for a term of 3 years.** Bruce Mello Is nominated, no further nominations. A vote is called for, Bruce Mello elected to a 3 year seat on the Selectboard.
- **Selectboard Member for a term of 2 years.** Marie Tattersall nominates Dot Maggio, no further nominations. Dot Maggio elected to a 2 year seat on the Selectboard.
- **Selectboard Member 2 years (remainder of a 3 year term).** No nominations received, therefore this seat remains empty.

Again it is emphasized the importance of having a full 5 member board, by Selectboard Chairperson Dot Maggio. Ms. Maggio explains some of the duties and responsibilities along with some of the helpful qualifications required.

- **Selectboard Member for 1 year (remainder of a 3 year term).** No nominations received, therefore this seat remains empty.
- **Lister for 1 year (remainder of a 3 year term)** No nominations received.
- **Lister for 2 years (remainder of a 3 year term)** No nominations received.
- **Lister for a 3 year term** No nominations received.
- **Auditor for a term of 3 years.** Dot Maggio nominates Kendra Brooks. No further nominations. A vote is called for. Kendra Brooks elected Auditor for a 3 year term.
- **Cemetery Commissioner for a term of 5 years** Dot Maggio nominates Laurie Nau Martocci .No further nominations received, a vote is called for. Laurie Nau Martocci elected Cemetery Commissioner for a 5 year term.
- **Cemetery Commissioner for 2 years (remainder of a 5 year term).** Bruce Mello nominates Dot Maggio. No further nominations received. A vote is called for. Dot Maggio elected Cemetery Commissioner for 2 years.
- **Trustee of Public Funds for a 1 year term.** No nominations received.

Article 5

Shall the voters accept the Auditors Report? Marie Tattersall makes the motion and it is seconded by Gary Lavorgna. No discussion, a vote is called for and the article is passed.

March 6, 2023 Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Article 6

Shall the voters authorize general fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$179,262.00 of which \$133,438.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$45,824.00 by non-tax revenues? Moved by Stuart Duke and seconded by Mirian Allbee. Someone asked to explain School house revenues and expenses. Selectboard members Dot Maggio and Bruce Mello reflect on the problems and issues when the town first acquired the building. They reiterated that of the almost \$120,000 spent on repairs, heating and water supply issues, painting and necessary carpenter work along with permit requirements, that none of that has been town tax money but is money generated by the rent paid to the town for the use of the building .Doug Wellman asked what the expenses for town administrator were for. Ms. Maggio explains the need for the selectboard in securing grants, filing necessary documents, recording meetings and so on. The selectboard position has become extremely complex with many new rules and requirements and as such require more administrative help to fulfill those obligations properly and in a timely order. Selectman Stan Noga goes on to explain that the administrative person will also do the necessary research required for many of the town projects as well as general help for the Selectboard. Marie Tattersall calls the question. A vote is called for and the article is passed.

Article 7

Shall the voters authorize highway fund expenditures of \$409,520.00 of which \$355,722.00 shall be raised by taxes and \$53,798.00 by non-tax revenue? Moved by Sally Fegley and seconded by Joseph Slater. Discussion- Gary Lavorgna thanks E. Mark Bills for all his efforts throughout the year as our town highway supervisor. Stan Noga acknowledges all of E.Mark Bills expertise in all of the town's culverts and all things highway in our town. Doug Wellman asks for an explanation of increased highway expenses. Selectboard Chair Dot Maggio explains that the rainstorm of July 29, 2021 caused incredible amounts of damage to our towns highway structure. Roads were washed out, culverts destroyed, fallen trees on all of our town roads. The State of Vermont was declared a disaster area and became available for FEMA Funding/reimbursement. Unfortunately our town had to pay out almost \$190,000.00 in repairs to get our roads and culverts back in shape. The paperwork is overwhelming and time consuming to say the least. As of today's date (March 6,2023) our town has not received any FEMA funds yet, **but is entitled** to a substantial amount of what has been paid out (90%) . Our town has received an extension to complete this necessary work. Our town had to move monies around to satisfy payments of what has been done by local vendors. Next year's budget will reflect payments made by FEMA thereby lowering the budget request. Doug Wellman request an amendment to the proposed article stating that all FEMA funds received to the town be returned to the tax payers. Julie Lavorgna states that she trust our selectboard and feels that an amendment is not necessary. Moderator Parker asks those who are in favor of the amendment stand on one side of the room and those opposed to the amendment stand on the other side. A count is taken and the amendment is defeated. The original article is voted on and passed.

Article 8

Shall the voters authorize the collection of taxes in 4 installments, with the due dates being: August 15, 2023; November 14, 2023; February 13, 2024; May 14, 2024? Moved by Gary Lavorgna, seconded by Jean Allbee, no discussion- A vote is taken and the article is passed.

March 6, 2023 Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Article 9

Shall the voters appropriate \$7661.00 to be raised by taxes in support of the following organizations? Stuart Duke moved the motion and it was seconded by Marie Tattersall Discussion-Bruce Mello expressed his concern about the amount requested by the organization SeVEDS. A spokesperson was in the audience and requested to speak. She said that SeVEDS was an economic arm for Windham County and could be helpful to anyone who ask. Guy Tanza expressed his concerns for the requested \$1590 and offered an amendment to the proposed article by reducing the requested \$1590 to \$500 . A vote for the amendment was taken and passed. Article 9 was amended to reflect the reduced amount. The voters approved an amended appropriation request of \$6571.00

<u>Organization</u>	<u>FY23 Approved</u>	<u>FY24 Requested</u>	<u>Approved By Vote</u>
Visiting Nurse Alliance.....	\$1,000.....	\$1,000	\$1,000
VT Center Independent Living.....	80.....	80	80
Youth Services.....	255.....	255	255
Valley Cares, Inc.	821.....	821	821
American Red Cross.....	250.....	250	250
Historical Society of Windham County.....	250.....	250	250
Grace Cottage Foundation.....	300.....	500	500
Senior Solutions.....	700.....	700	700
SEVCA.....	465.....	465	465
Rural Fire Protection Program.....	100.....	100	100
Green Up Vermont.	50.....	50	50
Windham County Humane Society.....	500.....	500	500
VABVI.....	100.....	100	100
L & G Educational Foundation.....	250.....	250	250
SeVEDS.....	1,590.....	1,590	500
Vermont Family Network.....	250.....	250	250
Gathering Place.....	500.....	500	500
Moore Free Library.....	700.....		
Total All Appropriations Requested	\$8,161.00	\$7,661.00	\$6,571.00

Article 10

Shall the voters appropriate \$300 to be raised by taxes in support of The Winston Prouty Center? The motion is moved by _____? and seconded by Julie Lavorgna. No discussion. A vote is taken and the article is passed.

March 6, 2023 Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Article 11

Shall the voters appropriate \$500 to be raised by taxes in support of Newbrook PTO?

The motion is moved by Jean Allbee and seconded by Lee Anne Parker. Discussion-none

A vote is taken and the article is passed.

Article 12

Shall the voters appropriate \$1,000 to be raised by taxes in support of Newfane Anew? Guy Tanza

moves the question and it is seconded by Gary Lavorgna. Discussion – Someone in the audience asks

what Newfane Anew is all about. Dot Maggio reads from the informational letter submitted by the

organization. Gary Lavorgna and Dan Towler also explain some of the benefits and why this

appropriation was important to our community. A vote is called for and the article is passed.

Article 13

Shall the voters appropriate \$1,100 to be raised by taxes in support of Moore Free Library? Gary

Lavorgna moves the question and it is seconded by Julie Lavorgna. Discussion- Bruce Mello asks for an

explanation of the increased amount of the appropriation request from \$700 to \$1,100. Librarian Beckley

Gaudette is given the opportunity (although not a registered voter of Brookline) to address those concerns.

She points out that the library had many structural challenges this year and had a \$22,000 deficit. She also

explains all the many wonderful benefits and programs of our local library. Marie Tattersall a Brookline

resident and also a member of the Moore Free Library Board mentions how fortunate we are to have a

local library and points out that Brookline has at least 120 Moore Free Library card holders. Marie goes

on to explain that the Library survives totally on contributions. A vote is called for and the article is

passed.

Article 14

Shall the voters vote to have its current taxes collected by the Town Treasurer? Guy Tanza moves

the question and is seconded by _____? Discussion. Someone asks why the tax payments

were quarterly. Guy Tanza, Town Clerk, explains the reason was to spread the payments out so as not to

cause a burden on tax payers and that schedule seemed to work for all concerned. Marie Tattersall calls

the question and a vote is called for. The article is passed.

Article 15

Shall the voters approve the appropriation of up to \$18,000 for recycling costs for fiscal year 2024?

Guy Tanza Moves the question and it is seconded by Julie Lavorgna Discussion- Dot Maggio –

Selectboard Chair, points out the pros and cons of having the recycling dumpsters for Brookline residents.

Dan Towler, Windham Solid Waste Management Town Representative, gives a brief explanation of what

should be placed in the dumpsters for recycling. Gwen Tanza expresses her concerns that if the recycle

bins are removed people will still dump their recycles there because the bins have been there for so many

years. Betty Horton is also concerned that if the bins are removed more dumping would occur around

town. A vote is called for and the article is passed.

March 6, 2023 Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Article 16

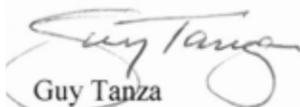
To elect one (1) West River Modified Union Education District school director, who is a resident of Brookline, for a 3- year term? Guy Tanza nominates Leeann Jillson – no further nominations. Leeann Jillson is elected WRMUED school director to a 3 year term.

Article 17

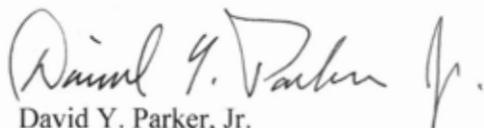
Discussion or “other business” which shall not be used for taking binding municipal action, and the Moderator shall so rule. Guy Tanza starts the conversation of the town needing a piece of equipment to respond to emergencies, town highway maintenance and general work of highway repairs. Dot Maggio (Selectperson) mentions that the town has been exploring ways of funding equipment for our town. The town may be able to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for offsetting some expanses for town equipment. Dot passes the conversation on to Stan Noga (Selectman) who explains the town may also be able to get a 2% loan from the State Treasurers Associations (5yr term) and that the town has been actively looking for a piece of equipment that servers our needs. E. Mark Bills, town Highway Supervisor explains his need for equipment. He relates to the fact that after a rainfall the culverts and road ditches fill up with debris and there is only so much one can do with a shovel. He believes a piece of equipment with the ability to attach accessories to, would be extremely helpful. Doug Wellman mentions that a few years ago a committee was formed of which he served on, and it was determined not to pursue the purchase of a piece of equipment due to a number of issues, one being, cost saving. He also felt that the voters should have a say in this type of purchase. Joseph Dutton, who also served on that committee concurs with Doug’s findings. After a number of folks expressed their opinions Moderator Parker suggested that a non-binding showing of hands be taken to see if the selectboard has the support of the town in regard to this issue. The results of that showing of hands suggest that there is interest/support in the town pursuing this purchase.

Gary Lavorgna makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. A vote is taken, and meeting is adjourned at 8:32 PM.

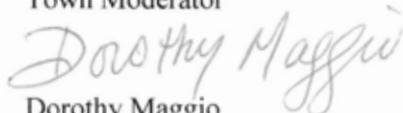
Respectfully Submitted,



Guy Tanza
Town Clerk



David Y. Parker, Jr.
Town Moderator



Dorothy Maggio
Selectboard Chair

Town Operating/Highway Proposed 2024 Budget

Town Operating Proposed Budget

Town Operating Revenues	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Current FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	+Increase -Decrease
Current Taxes-Town Operations	\$ 145,667.00	\$ 119,599.75	\$ 133,438.00	\$ 146,834.00	\$ 13,396.00
Interest on Taxes	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,042.99	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Delinquent Taxes	\$ -	\$ 31,182.61	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Penalties on Delinq Taxes	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,184.18	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
Birth & Death Certif. Rev	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Clerk Fees Revenue	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 5,767.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,600.00
Copier Revenue	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 737.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 800.00	\$ (450.00)
Dog License Revenue	\$ 500.00	\$ 484.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 450.00	\$ (50.00)
Marriage/Civil Union Revenue	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 35.00
Fishing/Hunting License Revenue	\$ -	\$ 26.50	\$ -	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Current Use Revenue	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 9,463.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
State Per Parcels - GF	\$ 340.00	\$ 337.00	\$ 324.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 1.00
Animal Impound Revenue	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ (10.00)
School Building Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,400.00	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 2,400.00
US Refuge Rev Sharing	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Refunds/Misc/Other Rev	\$ -	\$ 28.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Interest On Investments	\$ -	\$ 673.45	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Total Town Operating Fees & Tax Revenue	\$ 167,107.00	\$ 172,526.08	\$ 179,262.00	\$ 201,299.00	\$ 22,037.00

Town Operating Expenditures (Excluding separately warned articles)

Selectboard	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 4,150.00	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 7,050.00	\$ 500.00
Selectboard Clerk	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,175.00	\$ 375.00
Road Commissioner	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 100.00
Highway Grants & Contracts Mgr	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Building Commissioner	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 100.00
Animal Control Officer	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 100.00
Auditors	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -
Election Officials	\$ 400.00	\$ 490.75	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Selectboard Admin Assistant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 700.00
Town Clerk	\$ 24,795.00	\$ 22,946.25	\$ 25,944.00	\$ 27,072.00	\$ 1,128.00
Assistant Town Clerk	\$ 6,656.00	\$ 6,448.00	\$ 6,760.00	\$ 6,906.00	\$ 146.00
Treasurer	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 3,187.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 500.00
Assistant Treasurer	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,318.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 500.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,130.00	\$ 130.00
Listers	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 3,503.85	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,906.00	\$ 1,906.00
Record Restoration (in Separate fund)	\$ 1,664.00	\$ -	\$ 1,690.00	\$ -	\$ (1,690.00)
Employer Payroll Tax – Fica/Med/VT Child Care	\$ 5,650.00	\$ 2,776.23	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 4,250.00
VT SUTA	\$ -	\$ (22.08)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (500.00)
Payroll Service Fees	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,055.09	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 300.00
Town Office Supplies/Postage	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,099.32	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,250.00
Town Office Electric	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,151.80	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Town Office Heat/Fuel	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,474.21	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Town Office Telephone	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 2,487.24	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ -
Town Office Computer Services	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,568.48	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 50.00
Town Office Copier Contract	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,119.06	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 60.00
Town Office Mileage	\$ 100.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00
Town Office Prof Dev. (Seminars)	\$ 300.00	\$ 409.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 100.00
Town Office Trash Removal	\$ 500.00	\$ 88.30	\$ 550.00	\$ 250.00	\$ (300.00)
Town Office Property/Grounds Maintenance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 551.00	\$ 4,650.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 50.00
Legal Services	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 108.85	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
Legal Notices	\$ 600.00	\$ 3,117.70	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00
Fire Alarm Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 250.00
Brookline Meetinghouse – Electric	\$ 300.00	\$ 318.73	\$ 300.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 50.00
Brookline Meetinghouse - fuel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
NEMRC - license & support	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,796.68	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 100.00
Dues-VLCT	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ 1,810.00	\$ 1,864.00	\$ 54.00
Landfill Fees-WSWMD	\$ 3,388.00	\$ 3,387.60	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,870.00	\$ 70.00
Dues-WRC	\$ 1,301.00	\$ 1,298.35	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,440.00	\$ 40.00
Windham County Tax	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 2,881.50	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -
FACT TV Broadcast Fees	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ (1,800.00)

Town Operating/Highway Proposed 2024 Budget(cont'd)

Town Operating Proposed Budget

Town Operating Expenditures	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Current FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	+Increase -Decrease
Insurance/Bonds	\$ 4,904.00	\$ 8,815.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (1,500.00)
Misc Bank Fees	\$ -	\$ 262.20	\$ 60.00	\$ 270.00	\$ 210.00
Abatements	\$ 500.00	\$ 7.17	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Town Report Book	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 841.83	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Animal Impound Expense	\$ 300.00	\$ 770.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -
NEW: Regional ACO Windham Cnty Sheriff	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Law Enforcement	\$ 510.00	\$ -	\$ 510.00	\$ 640.00	\$ 130.00
Fire Department Services	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -
Fire Dept - Mutual Aid Dues	\$ 10,729.00	\$ 10,729.00	\$ 10,943.00	\$ 11,326.00	\$ 383.00
Fire permits/other misc	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Rescue Services	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,930.00	\$ 15,655.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 345.00
Old Cemeterys – Lawn maintenance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
Planning Commission Exp	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Transfer out to School Building	\$ -	\$ 16,585.57	\$ -	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 8,800.00
Total Town Budgeted Operating Expenses	\$ 168,707.00	\$ 156,331.68	\$ 179,262.00	\$ 201,299.00	\$ 22,037.00
Recycling Expenditures		16,439.26			
Appropriations Expenditures		9,366.00			
Total General Operating Fund Expenditures		182,136.94			
General Operating Fund Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>(9,610.86)</u>			

	(included above)				
Recycling Revenue	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Current FY24	Proposed FY25	+Increase -
Current Taxes	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Recycling Collection (Warned as a separate article)					
Expenditures	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 16,439.26	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Audit Reserve (Warned as a separate article)					
Current Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00

The Town of Brookline owes so much to the many volunteers who have given of themselves over the years. If you are interested in participating in any of the local groups, serving on a board, or helping out at events, please attend meetings, contact the groups directly, or talk with the Selectboard.

Town Operating/Highway Proposed 2024 Budget(cont'd)

Total Highway Fund Budget

	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Current FY24 Budget	Proposed FY25 Budget	+Increase - Decrease
Town Highway Revenues					
Current Taxes	\$ 232,367.00	\$ 232,367.00	\$ 355,722.00	\$ 271,318.00	\$ (84,404.00)
State Aid	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 41,147.24	\$ 41,148.00	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 4,852.00
Highway Grants BBR	\$ -	\$ 12,300.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ -	\$ (12,500.00)
Highway Grants GIA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Highway Grants - FEMA	\$ -	\$ 11,675.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Highway Salt Shed Grant	\$ -	\$ 311.31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Permits Revenue	\$ 50.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ (50.00)
Interest on Investment	\$ 100.00	\$ 126.65	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
TOTAL Highway Revenues	\$ 272,517.00	\$ 298,037.34	\$ 409,520.00	\$ 327,418.00	\$ (82,102.00)
Town Highway Expenditures					
Summer & Winter Salaries	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 34,105.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ -
Winter & Summer Payroll Taxes	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 2,628.49	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 100.00
Hwy Vacation Wages	\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Summer& Winter Hwy mileage	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,880.06	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 750.00	\$ (1,300.00)
Salaries- Aug 2021 Flood	\$ -	\$ 165.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Employer IRA Contribution	\$ -	\$ 398.50	\$ -	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,700.00
Winter Materials	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 13,747.92	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
Town Shed-Electric	\$ 450.00	\$ 435.18	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00	\$ -
Highway-Seminars	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Small Tools & Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Town Shed Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00
Bond Principle	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Bond interest	\$ 2,891.00	\$ 3,034.73	\$ 2,520.00	\$ 2,368.00	\$ (152.00)
Excavator Loan Installment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,760.00	\$ 23,760.00
Hwy Stormwater Mgt Perm	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 1,713.34	\$ 500.00	\$ 640.00	\$ 140.00
Hwy - Insurance Exp	\$ 4,436.00	\$ 2,098.25	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 500.00
Misc Bank Fees	\$ -	\$ (9.66)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HWY Salt Shed Exp	\$ -	\$ 2,718.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WRC & BBR Grants Exp	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)
Highway Grant-Bric Exp	\$ -	\$ 301.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Summer Contractor Svcs/Equipment	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 64,691.38	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ (11,000.00)
Winter Contractor Services	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 43,519.64	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 43,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Culverts	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,475.70	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Hwy Equipment Rental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -	\$ (16,000.00)
Paving Retreatment/Lines	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 63,490.75	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Road signs/Misc	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 250.00
Bridge Maintenance	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
Diesel/fuel/oil/DEF	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,402.96	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (500.00)
JCB Excavator Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Ford F550 Dump Truck Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Grader Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Aug2021Flood - Contrct Sv	\$ -	\$ 36,315.50	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ (30,000.00)
Aug2021 Flood Materials	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ (40,000.00)
Summer Hwy Material	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 2,746.85	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 41,000.00	\$ -
WRC Commission Grant liability	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer Out	\$ -	\$ 23,639.00	\$ 32,500.00	\$ -	\$ (32,500.00)
Total Expenditures	\$ 272,517.00	\$ 321,398.76	\$ 409,520.00	\$ 327,418.00	\$ (82,102.00)
Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>\$ (23,361.42)</u>			

Brookline Consolidated Balance Sheet FY 2023

Town of Brookline Consolidated Balance Sheet For the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General Fund	Highway	Cemetery	Record Restoration	Historical - Round Schoolhouse	Capital Improvement
Assets						
Cash held Bank Accounts	66,144	152,724	2,541			
Cash Money Mk-Multi Funds	206,810	-		13,978	2,612	2,153
Town Office Cash Drawer	32					
Taxes Receivable	19,628					
Total Assets	292,614	152,724	2,541	13,978	2,612	2,153
Liabilities						
Accts Payable	39,987	(166)				
License fees to State	179					
Deferrered Revenue						
Due to Other Funds	217,406	33,725				
Total Liabilities	257,571	33,559	-	-	-	-
Fund Balances						
Unreserved/Unrestricted		111,164		-	-	-
Reserved/Restricted	35,043	8,000	2,541	13,978	2,612	2,153
Total Fund Balances	35,043	119,164	2,541	13,978	2,612	2,153
Total Liability and Fund Balances	292,614	152,724	2,541	13,978	2,612	2,153
Fund % of Total	42%	22%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Fund Balances as of June 30,'22	44,655	142,526	1,314	-	2,522	-
Plus Annual Revenues	172,526	298,037	2,352	16,090	91	2,153
Less Annual Expenses	(182,138)	(321,399)	(1,125)	(2,112)	-	-
Change in Fund Balance	(9,612)	(23,362)	1,227	13,978	91	2,153
Fund Balances as of June 30, 2023	35,043	119,164	2,541	13,978	2,612	2,153

Notes to Balance Sheet:

- All amounts are rounded to the nearest \$1.00
- Interest income earned on Money Market account - Multi funds is allocated to each fund based on its pro-rata share of monthly balance
- Reserved and/or Restricted fund amounts in the General Fund are for restoration of records, state funds received for listers education and reserves established by town vote.
- Reserved and/or Restricted fund amounts in the Highway Fund includes bond revenues received for bridge reconstruction and special amounts voted by town.
- All Highway Funds are restricted to use of Highway operations. See additional report of Highway Fund Detail
- Community Group funds are available for community projects. Application for funds are reviewed by Selectboard
- All Brookline Meeting House (BMH) funds are reserved for BMH only. Donor restrictions for specific BMH use or projects may also apply.
- All Cemetery Funds are restricted to that fund.
- All other Town Funds allocated are reserved for use in respective fund as specified either by State law/rule or by Selectboard/Town vote.

Brookline Consolidated Balance Sheet FY 2023 (cont'd)

Town of Brookline Consolidated E

as of 6/30/23

	Reappraisal	Brookline Meetinghouse	Rainy Day	School Building	Community Fund	ARPA Grant	Total All Funds
Assets							
Cash held Bank Accounts							221,409
Cash Money Mk-Multi Funds	43,938	35,103	20,000	22,546	2,978	109,909	460,025
Town Office Cash Drawer							32
Taxes Receivable							19,628
Total Assets	43,938	35,103	20,000	22,546	2,978	109,909	701,094
Liabilities							
Accts Payable			-	-	-		39,821
License fees to State							179
Deferrered Revenue							-
Due to Other Funds							251,131
Total Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	291,130
Fund Balances							
Unreserved/Unrestricted							111,164
Reserved/Restricted	43,938	35,103	20,000	22,546	2,978	109,909	298,800
Total Fund Balances	43,938	35,103	20,000	22,546	2,978	109,909	409,964
Total Liability and Fund Balances							
	43,938	35,103	20,000	22,546	2,978	109,909	701,094
Fund % of Total	6%	5%	3%	3%	0%		
Fund Balances as of June 30,'22	41,073	29,977	-	4,756	2,877	52,219	321,918
Plus Annual Revenues	2,865	15,071	20,000	63,662	100	111,337	704,283
Less Annual Expenses	-	(9,945)	-	(45,871)	-	(53,647)	(616,237)
Change in Fund Balance	2,865	5,126	20,000	17,790	100	57,690	88,046
Fund Balances as of June 30, 2023	43,938	35,103	20,000	22,546	2,977	109,909	409,964

Brookline Estimated Tax Rates (2024-2025)

	Proposed Budget FY25	Estimated Rates FY25	Adopted Budget FY24	Adopted Rates FY24	Net Increase (Decrease)	
Municipal Grand List (as billed FY23-24 Grand List) / FY25 Estimated	\$ 716,727.00		\$ 716,719.00		\$ 8.00	n/a
Operations To Be Voted - Proposed FY2025 Budget						
Town office operations (General Fund)	\$ 146,834.00	0.2049	\$ 133,452.84	\$0.1862	\$ 13,381.16	\$0.0187
Adjust 2023 surplus or deficit - if any	\$ -	0.0000	\$ -	\$0.0000	\$ -	\$0.0000
Highway fund operations	\$ 271,318.00	0.3786	\$ 355,722.00	\$0.4963	\$ (84,404.00)	-\$0.1178
Total annual operations taxes to warned & voted	\$ 418,152.00	0.5834	\$ 489,174.84	\$0.6825	\$ (71,022.84)	
Special Articles to be voted - FY2025						
Appropriations						
Gen. Fd - Appropriations	\$ 9,746.00	0.0136	\$ 9,771.00	\$0.0136	\$ (25.00)	-\$0.0000
Gen. Fd - New Appropriations	\$ -	0.0000	\$ -	\$0.0000	\$ -	\$0.0000
Subtotal - All Appropriations to be voted	\$ 9,746.00	0.0136	\$ 9,771.00	\$0.0136	\$ (25.00)	-\$0.0000
Other Special Articles						
Recycling Services	\$ 19,000.00	0.0265	\$ 18,000.00	\$0.0251	\$ 1,000.00	\$0.0014
Audit reserve appropriation	\$ 4,000.00	0.0056	\$ -	\$0.0000	\$ 4,000.00	\$0.0056
Total all Special Articles	\$ 32,746.00	0.0457	\$ 27,771.00	\$0.0387	\$ 4,975.00	\$0.0069
Total Municipal taxes to be voted including special articles excluding Veterans exemption	\$ 450,898.00	0.6291	\$ 516,945.84	\$0.7213	\$ (66,047.84)	-\$0.0922
					\$ -	

Selectboard Report

It's time for our in-person Town Meeting! Your participation at this meeting is one of the most important duties you can take on. We hold our meeting in the evening on the Monday before official Town Meeting Day so that residents who work can attend. The Town Meeting will be recorded but, unlike our regular selectboard meetings, it will not be live on Zoom. Light potluck fare will be available before the meeting in the multipurpose room of the daycare building starting around 5 p.m., an hour before our meeting which begins at 6 p.m.

As elected terms expire and vacant committee appointments arise, please consider where you can assist the town in the coming years. This annual report has the positions listed for you to review. Please contact me or any of the other selectboard members (Stan Noga, Bruce Mello, Somara Zwick or Paul Madalinski) if you would like to discuss the roles and responsibilities associated with any of the positions.

This has been a busy and productive year. In December 2023 the town submitted the final workbook to FEMA for the storm damage we received in the summer of 2021. To bring our roads back to pre-storm condition or better over the past two-and-a-half years, Brookline had to stretch its budget due to the scarcity of materials, the Covid-19 pandemic and inflation pricing. Where we could improve culverts and drainage we did. Unfortunately, before we could complete fixing the 2021 storm damage, we had a major storm, Sage, in March and then a second flood disaster on July 10, 2023. We are very fortunate to have Everett Mark Bills, our highway supervisor, living in town. He has been a valuable asset to the emergency management team as we worked our way through to getting our roads back to a safe and reliable condition. Having a few new tools to work with certainly has helped Mark with his efforts. Using the budgeted funds for renting a wheeled excavator, ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act grant) rental income from the daycare building along with a \$110,000 two percent simple interest five-year loan from the Vermont State Treasurer's Municipal Equipment Loan Fund, we converted the lease to a purchase of a 2022 wheeled excavator that is still under warranty. We also used ARPA funds to fully fund the purchase of a new mower attachment

for the excavator as well as a used low mileage Ford F550 dump truck.

The discussion at the end of last year's town meeting indicated that there was interest and support in the town to pursue these types of purchases. This will change how we formulate future highway budgets knowing that much of the work needed to be done in town can be done with force account labor (town employee) and town equipment rather than 100% outsourcing with contracted vendors.

This year the town has also invested in new technology with the purchase of the OWL camera system. We no longer have to hire a camera operator to record our meetings. The new OWL camera system allows us to set up Zoom meetings live for each of our regular and special meetings. The website WWW.BrooklineVT.com has also been revamped and reorganized this year to be a source of current and historical information. There is also an unofficial Facebook page for Brookline as well as the email list-serv that Julie Lavorgna manages for us. Please sign up to stay "in the loop."

After last year's meeting when no one rose to fill two vacant board seats, the Brattleboro Reformer ran a story about "Crickets in Brookline." Later in April, with the three board members stretched beyond capacity, I sent out an SOS letter: Save Our Selectboard. Your response was outstanding. Not only did we fill the two vacant selectboard seats, but the community stepped up and filled committee seats as well:

- The planning commission is updating the town plan;
- The energy committee is researching resilience projects;
- The Municipal Technology Assistance Program (MTAP) team has been brainstorming with Windham Regional Commission (WRC) to get funding for projects through grants;
- The Round School House committee has created a garden in memory of Cynthia Nau;
- The Building Resilient Infrastructure committee obtained a grant that allowed Brookline to contract with the Windham Regional Commission to improve the emergency preparedness and infrastructure analysis as we rewrite our Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for FEMA;

Selectboard Report (cont'd)

- Brookline now has two DV Fiber representatives signed up to help plan for adding high speed internet access in town; and
- The Brookline Meeting House committee has shown the kind of dedication and planning necessary to preserve our 1836 historic church building as well as investing in the social economy of Brookline. Get-togethers, sing-alongs, plant sales and of course this summer's Town Party is but the tip of the iceberg. The committee's leadership has organized and implemented priority lists, fundraising ideas and procured grants to support the physical structure of the building and the social aspect of having a community center.

As we move forward with such important town projects, do not hesitate to share your ideas, your concerns, your compliments and your complaints. Join us. Your involvement is what makes the town what it is --- a haven for young families with children, a comfortable community for enjoying retirement, a safe place to live and work. I believe that our town is a good example of a local governing body that understands the need for responsible budgeting and spending, planning and improving the physical and social aspects of rural living. You can make a difference if you try.

Sincerely,
Dot Maggio
Selectboard Chair

Brookline Meetinghouse Report

It has been 10 years since the Town of Brookline took stewardship of the Historic Baptist Church, changed its name to the Brookline Meetinghouse, and appointed an advisory committee to transform it into a viable community center for the town. Since then work has been done to stabilize and protect the building so that it will remain an asset to the town. In 2023, a major structural repair to the foundation under the 1895 addition was completed, financed with help of a matching grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Additionally, in partnership with the Preservation Trust of Vermont, we commissioned a Conditions Assessment of the building to identify current building conditions and guide us in the next phase of renovations.

Fundraising and applying for grants is a large part of the Committee's work. The BMH current bank balance is \$45,000 however painting the bell tower and front doors this summer will lower that to around \$28,000. Mold remediation, insulation, exterior painting and clapboard repair on the addition and numerous other projects await. We continue to look to our State Agencies for expert advice and financial help. We also look to the citizenry of Brookline and private sources with interest in historic preservation for support..

In response to the Town Survey asking for more public engagement several events took place this past year. The Memorial Day plant sale was quite popular with the area gardeners who chose their plants off the front steps and the rows of pews inside and returned over \$1900 in contributions. In July we hosted a Town party complete with music and food. This is an event made possible by a generous benefactor whose ancestor helped construct the church almost 200 years ago. A second Town party is planned for August 3rd, 2024. In December over 40 carolers braved the cold church to sing holiday music in seasonal celebration. Songs were accompanied by organist Amy Carr on our own 1895 Western Cottage pump organ. We hope events such as these strengthens our community and joins neighbor to neighbor in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Anne Parker
Chair, Brookline Meetinghouse Advisory Committee

Building Commissioner's Report

It's now been ten years since our town voted to buy back our former Brookline Elementary School from the WCSU and our Brookline Baptist church from the Ladies Benevolent Society. A very good move but it opened up a set of challenges which I don't believe anyone saw.

The original school which was built in 1927 and added on to in 1989 was in complete disrepair. There had been countless examples of shoddy work and little maintenance.

Well, the good news is it's done and is in great shape. The countless things that were done to the former school, now daycare, have been challenging. Now we are completing work on the grounds, getting rid of an old jungle gym and opening up and cleaning the area. Saying that, our former school is being leased by our second daycare. They are doing a great service to our community. They are doing a wonderful job taking care of our children.

It's my ambition to have the Round Schoolhouse work that's needed such as carpentry in the out-buildings etc., done this year as well as the town office which needs better rodent control and some painting and drainage to the north side. All very nominal work especially since we have our road foreman/maintenance manager Mark Bills capable of doing this work saving the town money. We now have the equipment to do all of this. The Round School House committee has made a memorial garden in front dedicated to Cynthia Nau who loved this building and our town.

We are also developing an economical plan to either rebuild, replace or add on to our salt and sand shed.

We are waiting for energy assessments that are being monitored by the great people on our energy

committee to get the town office and daycare additional funds to lower our energy footprint on these two buildings. I invite you to check out ACT 172 which was from the Inflation Reduction Act passed a year ago. An easy read.

Now my FAVORITE subject is our former Brookline Baptist Church now Meetinghouse. I volunteered in July of 2014 to restart the former committee. I think the current advisory committee has done a wonderful job in all facets that were needed right up to finally getting to use our great building. We have a lot left to do and we will need your continued support to do the things we need to do to bring the building up to 2024 standards and building codes to complete and make safe into the future. Don't forget this is an 1836 building and it has its own challenges. We can do this and it's not going to cause an increase in our current taxes.

We've come a long way with our buildings and with our Meetinghouse. When it's up and running we will finally have a town center for future generations. Brookline needs the connection with each-other and our former church does just that.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has supported me in the work that I shepherded that has been done these ten years. Special thanks to the strong continued effort from our Meetinghouse committee and Lee Anne Parker, our chair and everyone who supported my endeavors.

It's been a long road and success didn't come easy but seeing the fruits of our labor makes it worth it.

Bruce Mello
Building Commissioner

★★★★ **This Year's Town Meeting Is In Person** ★★★★★

Monday March 4, 2023 • Multipurpose Room of the Daycare Building

5:00 pm - Pot Luck Supper

6:00 pm - Town Meeting

Vital Records

BIRTHS/ADOPTIONS

DATE	NAME OF CHILD	SEX	PARENTS
December 19, 2023	Elias Isaiah LeBlanc	M	Carly Judith LeBlanc David Charles LeBlanc

MARRIAGES

DATE	BRIDE	GROOM	PLACE
March 24, 2023	Tammy Grigsby	Jeffrey E. Austin	Brattleboro, VT
May 13, 2023	Carly Ann Beckstrom	Corey Joseph Nystrom	Brookline, VT
May 27, 2023	Misty Dawn Phillips	Toby Joseph Pagach	Marlboro, VT
June 18, 2023	Kestrel Rose Osman	Wilson Ellsworth Church	Brookline, VT
July 1, 2023	Olivia Rose Nye Chabot	Ryan Paul Dunn	Brookline, VT
August 26, 2023	Julia Elizabeth Garabedian	Weston Lee Cutts	Windham, VT
September 16, 2023	Jenna Ashley Dickerman	Charles Robert Scott	Brookline, VT
September 23, 2023	Lauren Taylor Berkman	Kyle A. Schirhofer	Brookline, VT

DEATHS

DATE	NAME	AGE
February 10, 2023	Norma Grace Bloom	78
May 24, 2023	Philip C. Lehar	73
August 31, 2023	Otis Kenneth Kingsbury	64
September 7, 2023	Scott C. Bovat	53
December 19, 2023	David L. Joseph	68

Regulations Governing Dog Ownership

All dogs or wolf-hybrids six (6) months or older must be licensed by April 1, 2024.

Fees are as follows:

<u>Before April 1, 2024</u>	<u>After April 1, 2024</u>
Spayed/Neutered or wolf-hybrid.....9.00	Spayed/Neutered or wolf-hybrid..... 13.00
Unneutered dog or wolf-hybrid 13.00	Unneutered dog or wolf-hybrid 17.00

These fees include \$5.00 that is sent to the State: \$1.00 goes to the State Rabies Program and \$4.00 goes to the State’s Spay/Neutering Program.

For any dog not licensed by May 30, 2024 the owner will be charged a \$50.00 fine per animal, according to the Brookline Dog Ordinance. A copy of the ordinance is on file at the Town Office.

Dogs or wolf-hybrids over 3 months of age shall be vaccinated against rabies. The initial vaccination shall be valid for 12 months. Within 9-12 months of the initial vaccination the animal shall receive a booster that will be valid for 36 months. A copy of the rabies certificate will be given to the Town Clerk upon licensing the animal.

The following is a summary of the fees collected in 2022 by the Town of Brookline.

	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Late Fees</u>	<u>Total</u>
Spayed	45	180.00	225.00	0.00	405.00
Neutered	35	140.00	175.00	0.00	315.00
Female	5	40.00	25.00	0.00	65.00
Male	5	40.00	25.00	0.00	65.00
Total	90	\$400.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$850.00

RABIES ALERT

Rabies is a disease that can kill animals and people.

- Vermont law requires rabies shots for all CATS and DOGS
- Rabies shots help protect pets and pet owners from rabies.
- Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance. Remember, rabid animals have been found in all Vermont counties.

Questions?

Call the Vermont Rabies Hotline: 1.800.472.2437

NOTICE TO VOTERS

For Local Floor Annual or Special Meetings

BEFORE MEETING DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by February 4, 2024. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to olvr.vermont.gov.

ON MEETING DAY:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error, or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

! If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- ! Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- ! Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- ! Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- ! Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- ! Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683).
(Accessible by TDD)

Town of Brookline
P.O. Box 403
734 Grassy Brook Road
Brookline, Vermont 05345