

BROOKLINE 2016

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B R O O K L I N E , V E R M O N T 0 5 3 4 5

Town of Brookline General Information

Town Office	P.O. Box 403 736 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
Selectboard	First and third Wednesday, 7:00 P.M., Town Office www.brooklinevt.com/selectboard
Planning Commission	First Thursday, 7:30 P.M., Town Office
Brookline Elementary School Board.....	Third Tuesday, 6:30 P.M.
Leland & Gray School Board	Second and fourth Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.
Riverside Cemetery	\$200 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.....	9-1-1 or 1-603-352-1100
Fish & Game License.....	See Town Clerk or online at http://vtfishandwildlife.com/

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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 Town Clerk.

Warning for 2017 Brookline Town Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of Brookline are hereby warned to meet in the Multipurpose Room at the Brookline School building in the said Town of Brookline on Tuesday, the 7th day of March at 10:00 in the forenoon to transact the following business:

- ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.
- ARTICLE 2. To elect a Town Clerk.
- ARTICLE 3. To elect a Town Treasurer.
- ARTICLE 4. To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes.
- ARTICLE 5. To elect all other officers required by law.
- ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town accept the Auditor's Report?
- ARTICLE 7. Shall the town vote to approve the General and Highway Fund expenditures, net of non-Tax budgeted revenues, for the town as follows:

Total Municipal Taxes to be raised \$290,222
- ARTICLE 8. To see what dates the Town will vote to collect taxes?
- ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town voters appropriate \$6,306.00 to be raised by taxes in continuing support of the following organizations?

<u>Organization</u>	<u>FY 2017 Approved</u>	<u>FY 2018 Requested</u>
American Red Cross.....	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
CRT-The Current Ct River Transit.....	250.00	250.00
Grace Cottage Foundation.....	300.00	300.00
Green-Up Vermont	50.00.....	50.00
Groundworks Collaborative: (Formerly Brattleboro Drop in Center & Morningside Shelter)	300.00.....	300.00
Historical Society of Windham County.....	250.00.....	250.00
Leland & Gray Education Foundation.....	250.00.....	250.00
Moore Free Library.....	200.00.....	225.00
Project Feed the Thousands.....	100.00.....	100.00
Senior Solutions.....	650.00.....	500.00
SEVA.....	465.00.....	465.00
VABVI-VT Assoc. for the Blind	100.00.....	100.00
Valley Cares, Inc.....	821.00.....	821.00
Vermont Center Independent Living.....	80.00.....	80.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance.....	1,000.00.....	1,000.00
West River Watershed Alliance.....	110.00.....	110.00
Windham County Humane Society.....	500.00.....	500.00
Women's Freedom Center.....	650.00.....	500.00
<u>Youth Services.....</u>	<u>255.00.....</u>	<u>255.00</u>
 <u>Total All Appropriations Requests To Be Voted</u>	 <u>\$6,581.00</u>	 <u>\$6,306.00</u>

- ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Brookline vote to collect its current taxes by its Town Treasurer pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791?
- ARTICLE 11. Shall the town voters approve the appropriation of up to \$11,000.00 for recycling costs for fiscal year 2018.
- ARTICLE 12. Shall the town voters approve re-consideration of the name of the Brookline Meeting House.
- ARTICLE 13. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2017
 Bernardine Hoard, Dorothy Maggio, Bruce Mello, Stanley E. Noga, Jr., Gwendolyn Tanza

Warning for 2017 Brookline and Newfane School District Meeting

2017 ANNUAL JOINT MEETING

The legal voters of the town of Brookline and the legal voters of the town of Newfane are hereby notified and warned to meet at a joint meeting of both school districts, pursuant to the Joint School Board Agreement between the Brookline and Newfane School Districts, at the NewBrook Elementary School in Newfane, Vermont on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. for the 2017 Annual Meeting and to act upon the following articles pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement:

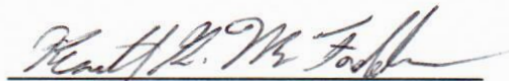
Article I: To elect a Moderator for a one year term.

Article II: "Shall the voters of the Brookline School District and Newfane School District approve the Joint Contract School Board to expend \$2,171,336 which is the amount the 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 \$15,134 per equalized pupil for Brookline and \$15,134 for Newfane. For Brookline this projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.20% higher than spending for the current year. For Newfane this projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.20% higher than spending for the current year.

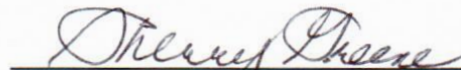
Article III: To set the date of the Joint-Board Annual Meeting of the Brookline School District and the Newfane School District to vote on the Joint School Budget and related matters regarding operating the Joint School, for Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

Article IV: To transact any other business that may legally come before the Joint-Board Annual Meeting of the Brookline and Newfane School Districts.

Dated at NewBrook Elementary School, Vermont this 5th day of January in the year 2017.



Kenneth McFadden, Chairperson



Sherry Greene, Member



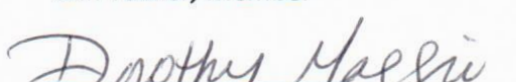
Alecia O'Donnell, Vice-Chair



Brin Tucker, Member



Luke Stafford, Clerk



Dorothy Maggio, Member

Town Officers Elected

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator.....	David Y. Parker, Jr.....	2017
Town Clerk.....	Guy Tanza.....	2017
Treasurer.....	Somara Zwick.....	2017
Delinquent Tax Collector.....	Guy Tanza.....	2017
Selectboard.....	Stanley E. Noga, Jr.....elected to 2 yr term	2017
	Gwendolyn Tanza... elected to 2 yr term.....	2018
	Dorothy Maggio.....elected to 3 yr term.....	2019
	Bernardine Hoard ..elected to 3 yr term	2018
	Bruce Mello.....elected to 3 yr term.....	2017
Listers.....	Donald Gokey.....	2018
	Sheila Gokey.....	2019
	Marsha Omand.....	2017
Auditors.....	Heidi Nystrom.....	2018
	Frank Rucker.....	2019
	Kendra Brooks.....	2017
School Directors.....	Sharon Greene.....	2018
	Dorothy Maggio.....	2017
	Alecia O'Donnell.....	2019
School District Treasurer.....	Samantha Bovat.....	2018
LGHUS School Director.....	Vacant.....	2017
Cemetery Commissioners.....	Mike Winot elected to finish 5 yr term.....	2017
	Dorothy Maggio (Appointed).....	2018
	Doug Wellman.....	2019
	Cynthia Nau.....	2020
	Howard Osgood.....	2021
First Constable.....	(Selectboard)	
Second Constable.....	(Selectboard)	
Trustee of Public Funds.....	Guy Tanza.....	2017
Town Agent.....	Guy Tanza.....	2017
Town Grand Juror.....	David Y. Parker Jr.....	2017
Town State Representatives.....	Carolyn Partridge.....	2017
	Matthew Trieber.....	2017
Justice of the Peace.....	Marsha Omand.....	2019
	Cynthia Nau.....	2019
	Gwen Tanza.....	2019
	Guy Tanza.....	2019
	Marji Wellman.....	2017

Town Officers Appointed

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Assistant Town Clerk	Gwendolyn Tanza.....	2017
Assistant Treasurer	Louise Sirois.....	2017
	Guy Tanza.....	2017
	Marie F. Tattersall.....	2017
Road Commissioners	Archie Clark.....	2017
Highway Foreman.....	Mark Bills.....	2017
Health Officer.....	Dorothy Maggio	01/01/2018
Assistant Health Officer	Gwendolyn Tanza	01/01/2018
Forest Fire Warden.....	Lester D. Rink.....	2017
Deputy Forest Fire Warden.....	Michael W. Winot	2017
Town Service Officer.....	Cynthia Nau.....	2017
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber.....	Lester D. Rink.....	2017
Tree Warden.....	Mark Bills.....	2017
Windham Regional Commissioners....	Cynthia Nau.....	2017
	Guy Tanza.....	2017
Pound Keeper.....	Windham County Humane Society.....	2017
Animal Control Officer.....	Nancy Libby.....	2017
Historical Society.....	Cynthia Nau.....	2017
	Doug Wellman.....	2017
	Jack Greene.....	2017
Emergency Mgmt Coordinator.....	Vacant.....	2017
Rescue, Inc.....	Vacant	2017
Town 911 Coordinator.....	Guy Tanza.....	2017
SEVCA.....	Vacant.....	2017
WCSWMD (Landfill).....	David Jones.....	2017
Planning Commission.....	Barbara Bourne.....	2017
	Suzanne d' Corsey.....	2018
	CharlieEzequelle, Chairman.....	2020
	Tom Kavet.....	2019
	Vacant.....	2019
Brookline Meeting House Committee	Peter Meyer, Chairman.....	2017
	Bruce Mello.....	2017
	Helen Samuels.....	2017
	Kerry Bourne.....	2017
	Mark Bills.....	2017
	Lee Anne Parker.....	2017

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, 2016, 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 functions and programs in the financial statements. We have reconciled salary expenses reported in the statements to the IRS 941 report and confirmed tax deposits have been remitted on time.

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 expect to have this information available in the near term and will include in next year's Town Report.

In our opinion the Treasurer has suitable skill, knowledge, and experience to maintain and administer the accounting and related fiduciary functions of the Town. The Town is very fortunate to have the capable administrative services of our elected Treasurer and Clerk.

Respectfully submitted by elected auditors: Heidi Nystrom, Kendra Brooks and Frank Rucker

Dated: January 22, 2017

Our Brookline E-mail list includes more than one hundred 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.)

2016 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes, March 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Moderator David Y. Parker, Jr. Moderator Parker reads the preamble to the meeting.

Article 1. To Elect a Moderator

Sherry Greene nominates David Y. Parker, Jr. No other nominations submitted. David Y. Parker, Jr. elected Moderator.

Moderator Parker announces it would be appropriate to entertain a motion to suspend the rules of the town meeting so that Vermont State Representatives Carolyn Partridge and Matt Trieber may speak. A motion is made and seconded by Bruce Mello to suspend the rules of town meeting.

Town Meeting Suspended:

Carolyn Partridge speaks. She introduces herself and Matt and points out that in the back of the room there are handouts containing their contact information. She states they are now in the midst of a multi-year process to bring structural stability to Vermont's budget while preserving the central functions of government. She talked about their priorities, funding, core values and the success the Agriculture and Forest Products Committee has had with their Farm to School, Farm to Plates and working Lands programs. She further states her committee has passed a bill which calls for the creation of a Pollinating Protection Committee and discussed this program and how it would encompass many of our environmental concerns like water quality, etc. At this point Carolyn turns the floor over to Matt Trieber who serves on the Appropriations Committee. Matt indicates that it is the job of this committee to formulate a budget after the governor gives his budget address and pass that on to the House Committee for approval. He talked about the difficulty of this process due to the growing effort to make government more effective and responsive to Vermonters' current needs and the goal is to improve program quality and efficiency, as well as prioritize programs for investment so that our budget can truly reflect what our state needs the most. Matt also states that while last year's budget had many successes one drawback was that of Medicaid and how to correctly fund it. HealthCare and the ability to properly fund it are challenging issues and they will continue to analyze and evaluate that issue to come up with the proper mix. In conclusion both Matt and Carolyn are aware of some problems with the Vermont Health Connect plan and offer their help to those who may require it. Before leaving they ask for any concerns or questions. Lyndall Boal asks if there will be any additional funding and staffing for The Department of Children and Families. Matt replies that the budget is facing significant pressure from opiate addiction. He further states that budget proposals will help address the backlog in our judicial system and protect children by expanding funding for social workers who work with struggling families. Pat Noga asks whether farmers will have an alternative to pesticides, herbicides. Caroline indicated that as they took testimony on the Pollinator Protection Committee bill they learned that there were a number of different stretchers on the pollinator population and they include urbanization, loss of foliage and pressures because of volamites and other pests. She indicated that the Pollinator Protection Committee has been asked to study and determine steps forward. At the same time, there is a bill on our wall which would basically ban Neonics or Neonicotinoids. She talked about the problems with an out and out ban and this class of pesticides which are less harmful on animals and shift away from the organic phosphates because they are very damaging to humans. The Neo-Neonicotinoids Bill hopefully will pass from their committee, possibly giving the authority to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to regulate neo-nematodes. She went into more details regarding treated articles, i.e. treated seeds, and how the Providence of Ontario has determined that they are going to limit the use of treated seed to those people that can prove that they actually need it. She said this is part of the thought process and where they are going but they don't want to create a situation where the farmers are at a disadvantage.

2016 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Pat then again said that was what she was asking, are there alternatives. Caroline indicated right now Neonicotinoids are the best alternative for farmers and if it were used with great discretion and care harm might be reduced and they are thinking about it. Somara Zwick asks that as Treasurer and Tax Collector and looking at the tax rate and she knows the biggest impact on our town is the education tax and as she tries to understand how it is calculated and finding it fairly complex she was wondering two things. How that base rate is determined and who would she address those questions to? Somara indicates she has heard different answers in relation to how it is determined but thought she would go right to the sources. Caroline suggested that she put this in an e-mail to her and copy Matt and she would forward it to David Sharp. Somara said even with her years of experience and looking at the formula she finds it muddling and she appreciates Vermont's attempt at transparency, but she finds it less than transparent. Caroline indicated to put this in e-mail to David and he would get back to her. Bruce Mello then asked about the rumor of a carbon tax or gas tax going up astronomically. Matt indicated that any representative or senator can introduce any bill that they want. What was introduced and looked at was a carbon tax model and part of that was a reduction of income taxes built in, help for rural communities, help for poor Vermonters who would be affected by the tax. He thought this was a conversation starter bill that got introduced. It is dead and won't be moving this year and what you heard about in the news was sort of the ten year plan. If implanted there would be an 88 cent increase in gas tax and what wasn't mentioned was the items that would be taken away in other taxes. Stan Noga then spoke and wanted to thank them for their efforts that was put into the school issue last year in trying to determine whether or not the town would be subject to paying the penalty involved in transferring the school back to the town. Stan indicated Caroline did a lot of work on that, contacting a number of people and it was very comforting to see that assistance come to the town. Caroline indicated that constituent help is one of her favorite things to do and even though they can't always solve all the problems they can at least try and that gives them great pleasure. They then thanked everyone and left for their next meeting.

Moderator Parker then goes over some housekeeping rules, to please sign in on the sheet going around and mentions handouts on the back table, and to take a planning commission survey if they need an extra one, materials regarding historic church project and the community center and directly involving himself in a Kiss the Pig Contest, etc. There is also a handout that was on your seat that didn't make the annual report publication that should be for the school board portion of the meeting.

Town Meeting Resumed

Article 2. To elect a Town Clerk.

Sherry Greene nominates Guy Tanza. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. Guy Tanza elected Town Clerk

Article 3. To elect a Town Treasurer.

Sherry Greene nominates Somara Zwick. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. Somara Zwick is elected Town Treasurer.

Article 4. To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Sherry Greene nominates Guy Tanza. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. Guy Tanza elected Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

Article 5. To elect all other officers required by law

Regarding the two Select board positions open, asked by Town Clerk to vote on the 3 year term first, and then the two year term. Was indicated that Dorothy Maggio was interested in the 3 year selectboard position.

2016 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Selectboard – 3 year term

Marcia Omand nominates Dorothy Maggio. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. Dorothy Maggio elected.

Selectboard – 2 year term

Currently held by Michael O'Donnell. Bruce Mello spoke and asked for any persons interested to serve on selectboard. Moderator Parker asked if Michael O'Donnell was still interested, it was indicated that he would not be interested. Moderator Parker indicated that if no one is elected it would be appointed by the selectboard. Bernardine Hoard indicated she had a person willing to serve. Bruce then asked Tom Kavet if he would be interested, it was then pointed out that a person needs to be nominated. Bernardine Hoard nominates Gwen Tanza. Asked if there are any other nominations. Bruce Mello nominates Thomas Kavet. Moderator Parker asked Tom Kavet if he would like a moment to think about it, but he indicates he is going to defer to Gwen. Moderator Parker indicates Tom Kavet has withdrawn his name and asked if there were any other nominations. Calls the nomination to a vote. All in favor. Gwen Tanza elected.

Listers

Marsha Omand nominates Sheila Gokey. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. Sheila Gokey elected.

Auditors

Sherry Greene nominates Frank Rucker. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. Frank Rucker elected.

Cemetery Commissioners

Lyndall Boal nominates Howard Osgood. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. Howard Osgood elected. Noted a vacancy – asked for nominations. None, so left vacant.

First Constable & Second Constable

In the past we have chosen to have the selectboard serve in that capacity and was indicated that this would stay the same.

Trustee of Public Funds

Sherry Greene nominates Guy Tanza. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. Guy Tanza elected.

Town Agent

Stan Noga nominates Guy Tanza. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. Guy Tanza elected.

Town Grand Juror

Guy Tanza nominates David Y. Parker, Jr. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor. David Y. Parker, Jr. elected.

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

Archie Clark motions to accept the Auditor's Report. Sherry Greene seconds. No discussion. Voice vote to accept as written. Auditor's Report accepted.

Article 7. Shall the Town vote to approve the General and Highway Fund Expenditures, net of non-tax budgeted revenues, for the town as follows: Total Municipal Taxes to be raised \$267,840.00

2016 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Moderator Parker asked a selectboard member to make a motion on this and speak. Bruce Mello motioned to approve the amount of \$267,840.00. Seconded by Guy Tanza. Open to discussion. Lee Anne Parker asked about what are records restorations revenue. Somara indicates that records restoration revenue is a state mandated amount of clerk fees that have to do with setting aside 20% of recording fees or other such fees of that nature to properly archive town records and update to whatever suitable media is around at the time. It is a restricted revenue to be budgeted because it can only be used for records restoration. No other comments. All in favor. Approved the amount of \$267,840.00 for Article 7.

Article 8. To see what dates the Town will vote to collect taxes?

Bernardine Hoard makes a motion to continue existing dates of Feb. 15th, May 15th, Aug. 15th and November 15th. with the stipulation that if the 15th falls on a Holiday, it would revert to the next day. Seconded by Archie Clark. No discussion. All in favor. Tax collection to continue on same schedule as has been done in the past.

Article 9. Shall the Town voters appropriate \$6,331.00 to be raised by taxes in continuing support of the following organizations?

<u>Organization</u>	<u>FY 17 Requested</u>
American Red Cross	\$ 250.00
CRT, The Current Ct River Transit.....	250.00
Grace Cottage Foundation.....	300.00
Green Mtn RSVP.....	150.00
Green-Up Vermont	50.00
Groundworks Collaborative: a merge of Brattleboro	
Area Drop In Center & Morningside Shelter.....	200.00
Historical Society of Windham County.....	250.00
Leland & Gray Education Foundation.....	250.00
Project Feed the Thousands.....	100.00
Senior Solutions.....	350.00
SEVCA.....	465.00
Townshend Food Bank.....	100.00
VABVI-VT Assoc. for the Blind.....	100.00
VACD	100.00
Valley Cares Inc.	821.00
Vermont Center Independent Living.....	80.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance.....	1,000.00
West River Watershed Alliance	110.00
Windham County Humane Society.....	500.00
Women's Freedom Center.....	650.00
Youth Services	<u>255.00</u>
Total Requested FY 2016.....	\$6,331.00

Sherry Greene moves to appropriate \$6,331.00 to the organizations we currently support. Guy Tanza seconded. Lyndall Boal asked doesn't Connecticut River Transit collect fees, so why do we contribute to them? Somara Zwick indicates that the amounts listed in the grand total are amounts that have been approved in years past, so the position for this year by the Selectboard is to approve the amounts previously funded and The Current is part of the total. These organizations all send in letters or requests for appropriations and The Current submitted their request. Yes they collect fees, but they also rely on voluntary support and other grants. The approach we took this year was to choose to keep that format and include past, approved organizations and with that being said,

2016 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

during the budgeting process the Selectboard all agreed that for future years we will be sending out a letter to all agencies that have been granted that they need to provide demonstrable evidence of how our town benefits from their programs. The law states that towns can voluntarily support programs that benefit their community, so we are going to take a note from some of our neighboring towns and ask these organizations to provide demonstrable benefit either numerically or however they choose to provide it and if not, we will consider dropping them from our appropriations. Additionally, if people ask different amounts or new increased amounts, they will be separately voted on. Peter Meyer asked if we received individual requests from all of these. Somara indicated yes and that if we did not, they were not included. No further discussions. All in favor, Article 9 passed.

Article 10. Shall the Town voters approve a new appropriation in the amount of \$200 for The Moore Free Library?

Pat Ballou moves the motion. Johnny Swing seconds. Helen Samuels asked if there was support for this in the past. Moderator Parker indicated that if he is wrong he needs to be corrected but he believes these articles are new requests and that is why they are listed separately from the other appropriations. Was this a request from the library to the town? Somara answers yes and indicated that upon request she can e-mail anyone the exact amount of people that use the library. No further discussion. All in favor, \$200.00 has been appropriated.

Article 11. Shall the Town voters approve an increase of \$100.00 in appropriation for Groundworks Collaborative which merged with Brattleboro Area Drop In Center & Morningside Shelter?

Pat Ballou moves the motion. Lyndall Boal seconded. Open for discussion. Pat Noga asked if this was \$100.00 over the \$200.00, so that would make it \$300.00? Indicated, yes it would be adding to it. How does it benefit the town? Somara indicates this is something we have not asked for in the past, they requested \$300, since we had given them \$200. She believes they help homeless people, but she isn't sure because she can't remember all programs that they provide that was on the list. It was indicated they also help a shelter for battered woman and their children. Somara indicates they do not have a report who specifically benefits from it in Brookline. Stan indicates in one of their budget meetings someone in the room did provide us with some basic numbers as they have helped some of our families in town, provide food, clothing and redistribute that to those that need it. They try to help people negotiate social services where appropriate. The word that we got is they have helped Brookline residents, certainly not a significant percent relative to other towns, such as Brattleboro specifically, and that is why we put it on the agenda. Lyndall Boal wanted to add that what they have been doing is to help the homeless and food insecure and to make communities aware of the new programs and to raise the image of Vermont and the common sense and concern in Vermont. She thought it has helped raise the status of Brookline. David Parker indicated in his own experience that working through the school system and that the services they provide have changed drastically sometimes overnight and it is sometimes hard to say how many people in Brookline would benefit. Pat Ballou indicated that you never knew that this might happen in your own community and she recommend we help them. Archie Clark wanted to clarify that for years every one of these organizations were asked to submit a letter that was included in the town report and I think over the years it has been the trend to make the town report smaller and easier to read so hence those reports were omitted but believes they are available at the town office. These do come before the Selectboard, though the letter may not say Brookline specifically, as some of them are generic. Somara indicated last year and she didn't think the Auditors did it this year, they made separate copies of the request letters and a lot do provide information on all the programs they provide. We could scan them and put on the website. No further discussion. All in favor. Article 11 passed.

Alecia O'Donnell motioned to suspend town portion of meeting and to go to the school portion. Seconded by Sherry Green. No discussion. All in favor to suspend town meeting and go to the school portion.

TOWN MEETING SUSPENDED

2016 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

Moderator Parker reads the preamble to the School Board Portion of Town Meeting.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator for one year term.

Wayne Winot nominates David Parker, Jr. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor.

Article 2. To elect all Brookline School District Officers as required by law for the ensuing year.

Brookline School District Treasurer - 1 year term (2017) Sherry Greene nominates Samantha Bovat. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor.

Brookline School District Director - 3 year term (2019) Sherry Greene nominates Alecia O'Donnell. There are no further nominations. A voice vote is called. All in favor.

Leland and Gray School District Director - 3 year term (2019) Helen Samuels nominates Lyndall Boal. Lyndall Boal indicates she has enjoyed working with the school board over the last 3 years, but due to her involvement in guardian et litem program and her not being good with numbers, she feels that someone else would be better qualified to represent Brookline. Bruce Mello asks for volunteers to step forth and represent our town. Lyndall was asked to explain a little more about the position. She indicated they meet once a month at Leland & Gray High School responsible for the middle and high school. The principal Mrs. Dorfman works very closely with the board as well as Superintendent Bill Anton at the Dover school, since Steven John is retiring. She thinks it is going to be an exciting year, but a difficult year and that is why Brookline needs to be represented, especially since the state passed Act 46 which means the consolidation of districts by the year 2020 at the latest, so Brookline really needs to be involved and what that means as far as tax dollars and education for children...that is the bottom line, dollar education for children. Five towns are represented by the board and get to understand the whole regional aspect. Three student members are also on the board which is unusual and they are very active. It is a very interesting position to fill. She said she also represents the career center in Brattleboro and that is fascinating to see the programs that are available to the kids. This is an interesting way to get to know your community. Moderator Parker asked for nominations... Alecia O'Donnell spoke of Lyndall's mention of Act 46 and she said she wanted to take a moment to talk to them about it. She felt it was very important that the town has representation to this process and right now is not a time for apathy and to do nothing. Right now, even though our town is small, we need to make sure it doesn't get hit with some additional funding problems. She wants to make sure that the town is watching and paying attention and that someone on the board needs to watch out for us. Even if you're thinking about it, maybe we can appoint you later. If anyone can think of anyone interested, maybe approach them and get back to the powers that be. No nominations. Position left Vacant

Moderator Parker at this point asked to entertain a motion to suspend the rules of the meeting to let the principal of the NewBrook School talk to us and answer any questions. Bruce Mello makes the motion and Sherry Green seconded. All in favor.

Scotty Tabachnick, School Principal of NewBrook Elementary School mentions that this is his second year and that he is very proud to say everything is going very well and that it is a representation of the communities that they serve, their staff and the students and that they have had a great year.. He wants to call the attention to a couple of things. They have 131 students at NewBrook. One of the things that he can do is to look out for the taxpayers and try to publish as much as possible as to what they are doing. They have great programs and he thinks that we need to attract new families. He thinks one of the ways to do this is to keep his Facebook very, very current. If you haven't visited Facebook he encourages you to go and look at it. He tries to post 3-5 things each week. He has been updating the web page as well. Scotty talked about the new H-Vac system and how it is now much more efficient and now the whole building is now warm and quiet and not having to rely on natural gas or home heating fuel prices which fluctuate quite regularly. He indicated they are in contract with a company

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called Sun Edison. The way the contract works is we do not own any part of the solar project, we would just lease them a chunk of land and they will be putting in 4 acres of solar panels, therefore we not only get a large payment from them for the lease, but we can buy electricity at 85 cents on the dollar. Mr. Tabachnick called it very smart of the town as there is no liability. It is all about buying cheap electricity and leasing the land. He indicated they hope to start in the spring and he is hoping there will be some big press as he wants people to know what we are doing in these two towns. He would like his predecessor, friends, the energy committee (which some of you folks worked on) to come and break ground. He said he thought it was mostly Chris' work, as he had come in on it right at the end and he feels lucky about it. He also wants to make mention of Pat Mace who really did just prod along and prod along with all the vendors all these collaborators and he made sure that it all got done. He talked about some of the great school programs and it really is about education and bringing kids to a place and making sure they understand about the town they live in and that we all come together to make the communities what they are. Another aspect of the program is about farming and gardening and how to bring that stuff into our kitchen and make food that is edible. He encourages everyone to come and visit and that right now it isn't much of a kitchen so that is the next project. He is thankful that the board is so supportive. Cotton Design has made a rough design at no charge. The rough designs includes removing some walls that are not load bearing. They plan on leasing a dish washer so they no longer will have to use paper and plastic. There is a new law that passed that we have to recycle and compose and they have that in place and are saving a half trash can a day that goes to the landfill and he is very proud. He indicated that hopefully next year they are going to do that one better and actually prepare foods at school. Our school staff is who we really are and he loves working at NewBrook Elementary School. He loves who he works with and the children he works for. He would like to mention that by state law that as a new elementary school administrator he has been mentored for the last two years. He was assigned the mentor by Superintendent Dr. Steven John and his mentor has been Bill Anton, he is the acting Principal at Dover. He is amazing and is always right there whenever he calls and he has been fantastic. Bill Anton is going to be his new boss starting in July and if you are thinking of being on the board he wants to say they are in a really great position at the Windham Regional Supervisory Union. If you haven't met him stop by his school in Dover and see what they have accomplished. If you are interest about anything they are doing at the Newbrook Elementary School he would love you to stop by and see him at any time, loves the idea of getting any volunteers and getting the kids in tune with the elders, so if you are at all interested in volunteering please call any time...he always has time for you. He thanked us for thinking of him and left as he had to get to Dummerston and vote.

Article 3. To compensate the Directors and Treasurer of the Brookline School District \$200.00 each.

Bruce Mellow so motioned. Pat Noga second. Open for discussion. There was none, so put to vote. All in favor

Article 4. To authorize the School District to accept any donations of land, gifts, or Monies for school use.

Pat Ballou so motioned. Sherry Greene second. Open for discussion. There was none so put to vote. All in favor.

Article 5. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Moderator Parker reminded everyone that anything discussed would be non-binding.

Alecia McDonnell gave her presentation, made a comment about the handout that everyone had at their seats and that was missed in the annual report. She made a brief comment that the sale of Brookline Elementary School was finalized and is now owned by the Town of Brookline. She made comments about the new faces that were coming in to the schoolboard. Bill Anton coming in as the new Superintendent. Made further comments about Act 46. She wanted to get a feeling about what our town thought of it and asked for a quick show of hands. She said the town is in a unique position and this area is also in a unique position with its diversity to the southern end of the state and it has drawn some concern. She has been on the exploratory committee and have been at meetings and how they are going to handle it. Ultimately it comes down to the School Board on how it is going to be handled. It has been directed by the state that all school boards must make some decision on what is going to be done. The schools and school boards and towns like ourselves who are ahead of the game, thanks to the predecessors who worked very hard to save money and still provide a high level of education and she does not

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want our school to be penalized because we were ahead of the game. She does not want to cause alarm or stress but she would like to stir up interest because we have to do it now, we were almost penalized for spending by the cap set by the government, but it was changed at the last minute. We had the lowest spending per pupil in the whole WCSU, but were almost penalized about \$425.00 per kid. She is thankful for Somara for bringing up an excellent point and she will try and get the e-mails out. The spending formula, a reoccurring theme, is to reorganize, but the money aspect hasn't changed yet. We've already made changes, we have consolidated, saved money for our town, given kids more opportunities and met the requirements of the law. We want equitable, sustainable education but because we were early, if we don't do anything now we could still be penalized. So the town needs to come to some decisions on what we can do now. One option is a K-6 grade district, group with other towns and the least likely option, but it is being discussed, is to make one giant school district with some choice or no choice. Towns around have been having discussions regarding leaving the district, which would put more taxes on the town. Would love to have a rep for Leland & Gray and one of the reasons she took the position again was because of this Act 46, so again asked for a volunteer. The last thing she wants to bring up so that no one is surprised with the Act 46 item, is that once the schools enters a Study Committee for an option, that Study Committee is the legal entity that will decide to bring it to a vote, it will no longer be your little school board, so when that comes down the pike she wanted us to understand the policies. She tried to print up a little survey, but no electricity, printer wouldn't work. Is there a few items that you want to see protected, acknowledged, values we want sustained for our school, school district? 3 or 4 items, or even 3 or 4 items of achievement. State has left us room for discussion, solutions. Working with other schools. Someone in the back indicated she was very interested in working with the NewBrook Elementary School Board, but not Leland & Gray at this point. Alecia indicated she would talk to her about this. There are a lot of options, but right now stepping forward we need options. Lyndall Boal indicated there was a study group at Leland & Gray and paid \$5,000 to the state for a consultant for the high school aspect and one from the supervisory union. They are doing a lot of work and a lot is going on all around. Lyndall indicates they are actively discussing merging high schools, but nothing has been being decided yet. Sherry Greene said the primary driver of Act 46 is declining student enrollment in the state of Vermont. Pupil's enrollments are declining and small community schools are driving/drove Act 46, so what Alecia said is totally, absolutely correct, we are head of the game, we merged our two schools, and we want to keep the school the way it is, so we do want to keep Brookline Elementary School Board. We have a study committee and brain storming sessions, etc. to figure out what are the options. The study committee will be done in May and there will be recommendations coming out of the study committee as to what we do and how we go forward. They are looking for people to work with as they have a deadline in June 2017. Alecia indicates again that the exploratory study committee has been awarded to the Supervisory Union and they are exploring the options. But when it comes down to it the Town of Brookline will have to make the decision, and the Town of Brookline will have to either (a) benefit or (b) could be penalized. The Town of Brookline School and Newfane School does not have an active study committee. One could be formed if so desired, or continue trucking along as a school board. Sherry Greene indicates tax rates are affected by this, if you do this you save so many cents, and the faster you do it the more you would save. Alecia indicates the numbers need to be watched very carefully. Bruce Mello asked is this a mandate for the towns to change before they change us. Alecia indicates this is our opportunity that we must do something or that by July 2018 the state will decide on how it is going to revamp the school structure. Bruce Mello asked do we have final word to make the changes or do they say you did good, this is the change, see you later. Alecia indicates things change all the time and things are constantly in flux. Format will be the Exploratory Committee asking the Town of Brookline School Board and working in conjunction with Town of Newfane School Board looking at and studying the options for our school board, where we can be the most benefit for our community both educationally for our kids and financially tax friendly for the taxpayer. We then bring our values and concerns to the committee, along with all the other towns, and together we come up with the most beneficial ideas. She then gives a simple sample: the study committee's recommendations of those group of towns will then be brought to the towns for a final vote. It will not just be one little school board voice, but by all. Again she indicated this was a very simple example. Stan Noga asked if the committee would meet with the school board or a separate meeting. It probably will be separate, because all towns need to be involved, but that could be changed to a normal meeting. Somara suggested that she leave

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information on how to get in touch with her or the school board. Alecia indicated the board meets on 2nd Thurs of the month at 6:30 NewBrook Library, and they can either call her, Sherry Greene, or Dot Maggio and at that time thanked Sherry and Dot for all of their help. She gave her number as 365-7972 and that other contact numbers and e-mails can be located on the WCSU Website or the Town Website. Please contact her with anything, whether positive or negative and she then thanks everyone. Sherry Greene then indicated her phone number was 365-5085. Moderator Parker then calls Alecia's power point helpers up and thanked them and gave them a little pay.

Moderator Parker asked for motion to adjourn school portion of meeting. Bernardine Hoard motions to adjourn. Sherry Green Seconded. A voice vote was called. All in favor.

Moderator Parker asked about the time, which was 11:49. Discussion about making a motion to take a break. Still no power. Bruce Mello made a motion to break for lunch. Seconded by Guy Tanza. All in favor.

TOWN MEETING PORTION RESUMED

Article 12. Shall the Town voters approve an increase of \$300.00 in appropriation for Senior Solutions?

Pat Ballou moves the motion and is seconded by Lee Anne Parker. Someone in the audience asks "what is it for". Moderator Parker gives a brief answer. Discussion is closed and a vote is taken. All in favor. Article 12 is approved

Article 13. Shall the Town voters re-appropriate the \$8,000.00 from the previous town meeting (Article 10 from meeting of last year) to be used for a new salt/sand shed?

Archie Clark talks about a grant for salt/sand shed. He doesn't feel the shed is going to fall down in the next year. They missed the deadline to apply for a grant this year and hopes to apply for next year and then go back to the town. He indicated that the selectboard maybe thought the cement slab wasn't necessary so brought up the possibility of putting the \$8,000 toward the new salt/sand shed. There was further discussion, but the understanding is that Article 10 last year gave the board the authority to install the slab and it seems like it was their decision that it was not the most pressing issue. Bruce Mello said that there were several discussions by the board and others that maybe there was more important priorities than the slab. Archie then asked if was up to the selectboard. Samara spoke and indicted it was not up to the selectboard and that state law requires that if voters vote to reserve money for a particular purpose and if you are going to change that purpose you have to go back to the voters and ask them if they are going to reallocate the funds and that is where they are right now. Archie Clark gives a brief presentation in considering a new salt shed and why it may be needed. He goes on to say the State has some grant money possibly for this project. Lee Anne Parker asked does it have to be allocated to a specific job or can you just put it into a general fund or maintenance. Somara indicated she is not sure about the legality of changing the warning, but to unreserved it, there has to be a vote. Can you amend the article? You can vote it the way it is, but Moderator Parker said it is getting to far away from the warning. Can you word it to be used for those two purposes? Again changing the intent. Lee Anne Parker said that if we are going to apply for a grant and that isn't going to be known until next October, then it would come back to us next March and this is how much we have. Can we leave the \$8,000 where it is right now and just decide that it won't be applied until next year and see how much comes in on the grant. Archie indicates that it was going to cost \$200,000 at the very least and what he was trying to do was to reduce it down by \$8,000 and then by next year we would have better knowledge. Again further discussion and it was asked why wasn't it done and why are we extending it. A lot of discussions last year about contamination, etc. It just needs to be clarified that if you want both, vote No and if you want to reallocate, vote yes. Bruce said can we revisit it next year when we know where we stand and get both. Asked for further discussion. Hearing none, put to a vote. Voting yes, takes the money away from

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slab, voting no means the \$8,000 would stay with slab. All in favor, to re-appropriate said yes, and the ayes have it and it has been re-designated to use for the new salt shed.

Article 14. Shall the Town voters approve raising \$2,000.00 in reserve per year in anticipation of an outside audit of all town financial records every 4 years?

Stan Noga so motioned. Archie Clark seconded. Discussion Archie asked if as written the \$2,000 would be an on line item every year. Somara indicated that she thought she should talk about it and that it should be \$2,000 for four years up to the point of the audit. She indicated that there was no statute that requires an independent audit. Even though we don't have a particularly large budget as budgets go, she was hopeful that they could start setting aside money for an outside independent audit. We have been fortunate that we have auditors that have financial backgrounds, at least two out of three, but they all have full-time jobs and have limited time and resources in spending time on actually auditing the work. She indicated she had been here for five years and that there have been things brought up in the past that were brought to light by an outside auditor that then had to be amended and corrected. As a citizen she personally would feel better to periodically have an outside audit. Whether or not we need to raise additional funds or budget it, the responsible thing to do is to budget for it and rather than budget for it all up front, thought we could budget for it over a four year period, anyway that is the thinking behind it. Moderator Parker then said he thought it would have to be amended as it seems deceptive and open to interpretation. The estimated tax rate indicates that it is less than .0028 to add \$2,000 to the budget per year. Committing the town on voting for funds outside of the coming year and voting for it during those years may be problematic. We need to make sure it is under the parameters of the law. Do we need to do it every year? No, we are asking to create a reserve. Best suited to look at the \$2,000 for the upcoming year leaving the word reserve. Somara asked what about striking the words every four years. Changing the wording would work but keep in mind it would have to be done every year and think about the wording each year. Stan asked when the green bridge was discussed, was money put aside annually. Guy indicated no that it was warned each year, same thing with paving that it was warned each year.

Somara motioned that the article be amended to: Article 14. Shall the Town voters approve raising \$2,000.00 in reserve in anticipation of an outside audit of all town financial records? Bernardine seconded. Open for discussion. Archie asked if it mattered that Bernardine made the original motion, but after discussion she did not make the first motion. Called to vote to amend Article 14 to read: **Shall the Town voters approve raising \$2,000.00 in reserve in anticipation of an outside audit of all town financial records?** All in favor as amended. A vote was taken now to vote on the amended article. All in favor and Article 14 passed as amended.

Article 15. Shall the Town voters approve \$8,734 for the NewBrook Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Dues?

Tom Brooks moved the motion. Seconded by Archie Clark. Tom Brooks speaks and indicated his beeper just went off and reminded everyone that they are 100% volunteers and when a beeper goes off a dozen guys drop everything and go. The first two questions that arise are: How did they come up with this number? Why did they come up with this number? Volunteering is becoming harder and harder with training, aging equipment, fund raising, bingo and this comes down to about 30-35 people in the department. To back up a little, they (Southwestern Mutual Aide) are a mutual aid for the whole area and when 911 is called this goes to Keene and they dispatch the call to the beepers. Ten years ago they responded to 100 calls, last year it was 236 calls. The problem is time. Always trying to raise funds and that is where this article comes in. This article is the dues to belong to the mutual aide system and they have a formula on how they arrive at the formula. Newfane has the same article in front of them today and theirs is twice of what Brookline's is. This number comes out of their formula and it comes from our Grand List. There is no arguing. There are 126 towns that belong to this mutual aide system and they have the same formula. The departments feels the burden of \$8,734 should be shared by the town not just the 30-35 volunteers that do all the fund raising etc. and that is where it is at. Archie Clark comments that if you looked at the budget for fire and rescue of \$9,000 and that if we voted no on this article it basically indicates that NewBrook will be paid \$264 to respond to answer the calls in Brookline for the year. NewBrook

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gets a bill for the \$8,734 that they have to pay whether we say yes or no. What NewBrook is looking for is reimbursement of that money and if they don't get it, it would come out of the \$9,000 – which is ridiculous. Peter Meyer asked if it hadn't already been budgeted. It was indicated that it was: NewBrook Fire Dept. general support, and that a couple years back it was indicated on a one line item. That was broken down into separate items a couple years ago at the request of a citizen. Asked if further questions or discussion. Moved to vote. All were in favor. Article 15 passed.

Article 16. Shall the voters of the Town of Brookline vote to collect its current taxes by its Town Treasurer pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791?

Guy Tanza makes the motion. Sherry Greene seconded. Open for discussion. Guy indicated that last year we had to have a special meeting as this is a statute that requires we elect a person to collect the taxes and will be an article each year. Moved to vote. All in favor. Article 16 passed.

Article 17. Shall the Town voters approve the spending up to \$36,210.00 from existing reserved funds on needed renovations on the Historic Church Community Center?

Motion moved by Bruce Mello. Seconded by Pat Ballou. Opened for discussion. Bruce Mello spoke and indicated it was the 180th anniversary of the former church and the committee would like to use the building year round and would love to get everyone's ideas and especially on the name of the building. They need just shy of \$40,000 to do the necessary repairs to the building to make it safe. He proposed this article to address the concerns so that it wouldn't affect the budget one dollar and that the intent is to try and make the building operate on its own. We have two funds, the Ladies Benevolent Society dedicated \$35,000 saved over a 25 year period to open the building for Brookline and the second is an unused revolving loan fund. He purposes taking \$18,000.00 from each fund, leaving \$17,000 of the \$30,000(balance left) from the Ladies Benevolent Society for future matching grants and taking the \$18,000, from the revolving loan, leaving \$12,000 in the revolving loan for other buildings in town. Where we have come up short is the very competitive atmosphere for grants. In the fall he and Patty went to a seminar in Burlington to do what they could to help us receive a grant, however, out of 57 applicants only 12 received money. We have contracts lined up to do the work, but we need your support as it could take many years if we wait around to get money from the state and private foundations to get the money. We have progressed greatly in the year and a-half with work on the building, successful in raising over \$9,000 from community and private foundations, a very successful open house over Columbus day weekend as well. The actions taken here will not only make the center useful quickly but also help transform it in years to come. Asked if anyone had any questions. Open for discussion. Wayne Winot asked if it was going to just take care of the front part of it, and how much more would it take to get it where it ought to be. Peter Meyer indicated the \$36,000 they are asking for is to take care of the belfry roof which needed to be replaced two years ago, the steeple that is leaning and needs to be supported from the back, it will take care of that. Will it also take care of the floor, supporting the first floor? The highest estimate was \$200,000 and the low estimate was \$120,000. It really depends on how far you want to go. Do you want a two or three season building where you shut it down in the winter? You don't have to heat it, insulate it. There could be savings there. Do you want it for four seasons? That adds to it. Right now it could be the last time we use this building for town meeting if this building was inaccessible for whatever reason. Where would we have town meeting? So in answer to the question, low is \$120,000 – high is \$200,000. These repairs need to be done. Moving forward we are looking for more grants. One advantage we get from a yes vote today is that it shows the grantors that we have town support. Without town support they don't want to give the money. Bruce Mello comments that on some of the other issues, like replacing the joists, we can do on our own. Other issues we can ask for help, for making a handicap ramp, making the building accessible. We have to ask the Fire Marshall to sign off on it. Have to ask the Fire Marshall even to sign off on lighting. So they are trying to get past that point. So once it is open we will have a better chance of getting grant money, etc. Right now no tax money has been used on the building, other than electricity. Peter Meyer said the point he wants to make also is that the direction they are running is consistent with what the Ladies

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Benevolent Society had in mind and they put so much work into it and out of respect to them..... Bruce Mello then spoke again about his trip to the seminar and made comments that other towns spoke and it was indicated that they wanted us to use the building, but cannot until it is made safe. We cannot open the building until this work is done. Any questions? There were none, so moved to vote. All in favor, Article 17 passed.

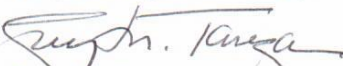
Article 18. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Moderator Parker reminded everyone that anything discussed here was not binding. Tom Brooks spoke and indicated he thought it very important that we recognize in the minutes loss of John and Lynn Reinhardt who moved to Florida. They were very instrumental in Green-Up Day for numerous years and he for one misses not seeing them at the door. Everyone agreed. Lyndall Boal asked if anyone needed to step up and Tom indicated that Green-Up Day would continue. Who will be in charge is another issue, they will be there on the first Saturday and they will figure it out then. Kerry Bourne stood and said he would like to thank Paul Madalinski for framing the picture of the Brookline Church. Stan Noga pointed out that it was Mrs. Fisher who painted the picture (from the large farm on the right across from Sherry & Jack Greene's) and that she had donated the picture to Judy Acampora and Judy donated it to the town. Paul Madalinski indicated that the picture was protected by a u-ray Plexiglas. He was again thanked for a beautiful job. Bruce Mello then indicated he wanted to bring up something that has been thinking about. He indicated he didn't feel like the town was being represented adequately and he would like to mention maybe thinking about switching town meeting day to Saturday because so many people have to work on Tuesday. Wayne Winot spoke and indicated he thought employers were supposed to allow anyone off for town meeting day. Discussed further, maybe an evening, and Bruce indicated his whole intent was to get more people to the meeting. Kristie Henderson then said maybe childcare should be provided for those families in need. She hadn't been to a town meeting in 12 years because there was no place for the kids and this needed to be created so the kids would be taken care of so their parents could be active members. Discussed again and Bruce indicated that Tina Bills from Sunny Day care had gone to the school meeting in NewBrook last year and had been there physically for day care and he thought it a good point that he hadn't even considered. He said maybe these suggestions should be put on a questionnaire by the selectboard to entertain these thoughts. Moderator Parker asked for further discussion, there was none so he asked for a motion that the meeting adjourn. Bernardine Hoard so motioned. Seconded by many people. All in favor.

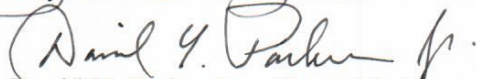
Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM

This Town Meeting was held without power or heat until being restored at around 12:15 PM. The lack of attendance by many was due to last night's storm and many roads being blocked by downed trees, hence the lengthy report, meant to help inform those not able to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,



Guy M. Tanza – Town Clerk



David Y. Parker Jr. – Town Moderator

Selectboard Report

The members of the Brookline Select Board continue to serve the residents of the town in every way possible. Each individual member contributes his or her special talents, experiences and knowledge to help run our small municipality in the most economical and community-centered way possible. Our elected officials are sworn to uphold the law, maintain the town records accurately, and develop a reasonable budget annually. Our appointed officers continue to serve the town as representatives to various local, county and state-level commissions and organizations. As we review the highlights of the past year, we would be remiss not to mention the many hours put in by our town clerk, our listers, auditors, school directors, commissioners, and our justices of the peace. Those who were appointed to work on special projects such as our roads and highways, our trees and forests, our historically significant buildings, cemeteries and emergency plans help maintain the high level of service Brookline is proud to offer.

MEMBERS OF THE SELECT BOARD

Bernardine Hoard continued this year to chair the select board. Her understanding of the needs of the town have helped the board complete vitally important plans that will guide us through unforeseen emergencies. We completed the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan this year which was a time-intensive undertaking. Bernardine has led this board through a difficult year that involved several litigious cases that never seemed to go away. Her service has been invaluable in moving the board forward.

Dorothy Maggio acted as vice-chair to the select board. Originally completing the last two years of an incomplete term, she was re-elected to a full three-year term last March. Dot continues to learn more about the parameters within which a selectperson operates. She joins Nancy Libby in handling the ACO duties, is our town's newest cemetery commissioner, health officer, and occasional minute taker for the select board.

In the past three years, Bruce Mello has worked tirelessly on understanding the responsibilities of this Select Board in regards to owning two new-to-us buildings - the Brookline Meeting House and

the Brookline school building which is leased out to Sunny Lane Day Care. He has gone above and beyond normal expectations in bringing important information to the board for action, including but not limited to heating systems, restoration of historically important structures as well as physically getting things done.

Stan Noga continued to provide expert advice and research on many projects this year. The board knows that when Stan says he is going to do some research on a project we will get a detailed review of what was done in the past, what was planned for by others and what would be the best way to get from one point to the next in the future. Stan, along with Bruce Mello and Guy Tanza, has on several occasions done emergency repairs at SLDC this year- above and beyond the call of duty for a Select Board member. His contribution of time and effort saves the town money.

Gwen Tanza was elected to the Select Board this year. As the appointed assistant town clerk, Gwen was aware of the many facets of municipal government. As a Select Board member, she understands that we each support whatever project that comes before the board. Gwen has volunteered to be the deputy health officer and has made herself available to assist in any way possible. Her professionalism makes her an ideal member of this board. The Select Board is very much indebted to our hard working town clerk, Guy Tanza. He is at every Select Board meeting and hearing held throughout the year. Guy maintains our website and is the cameraman for the videoed meetings shown on Fact 8 TV. Guy is meticulously organized making it a pleasure to work with him.

Somara Zwick is our town treasurer. Somara works throughout the year ensuring that the town is properly meeting its fiduciary responsibilities. She meets with the Select Board to review budget revenue and expenses and guides us as we set the tax rates. Louise Sirois keeps our books in order and is very much appreciated.

SUMMARY OF FY 2016-2017

This year the town was fortunate to get the maximum grant available to pave more of Grassy Brook Road. In addition there was substantial work

Selectboard Report (Cont'd)

done on Putney Mountain Road and Hill Road. Archie Clark also obtained Better Back Roads Grant money to improve some of our less-traveled roadways as well. Mark Bills is such a hard-working employee for the town. His knowledge about invasive plants, culvert repair and road safety such as adding proper signage makes our town safe and enjoyable.

The addition of two buildings has increased the select board's responsibilities. Subcommittee work developed a three-year lease with Sunny Lane Day Care. Old fashioned work-bees were popular this year with the Select Board first getting together to mitigate the beginnings of mold problems in the multipurpose room at SLDC. Ceiling tiles were removed and replaced as well during the first work bee. A long weekend project later in the summer involved cleaning out the back storage room at SLDC which was still filled with desks, chairs, equipment and old books left from the school. Residents were invited to come by and look through the books and sporting equipment and take home what they wanted. The rest was sorted into two dumpsters. It was HARD work. We are proud of what we do and enjoy working together as a team. Most recently, we have been investing in proactive maintenance with the boiler at SLDC making sure it is efficiently heating the building. Unfortunately a water pipe did freeze in late November and the ceiling work done during our first work bee was damaged. Guy, Stan and Bruce all worked on getting the area insulated and the problem has been corrected.

The Select Board is pleased to dedicate this year's town report to the Brookline Meeting House Advisory Committee. Their work on our historic church building is highlighted on the dedication page. We are truly grateful for the time and effort that wonderful group of volunteers put into the improvements needed to make that building the future hub of town activities.

In closing, the Select Board is made up of ordinary citizens working together with a common goal... to make Brookline a safe, attractive and vital community for all who live here to enjoy. Please join us when you can. Come to a meeting, look over our website, join an activity and make suggestions. Stop in for a visit!

Town Operating/Highway Proposed 2018 Budget

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES REPORT POPOSED BUDGET - *see notes	FY2016 ADOPTED BUDGET	FY2016 ACTUAL	FY2017 ADOPTED BUDGET (7/1/16- 6/30/17)	FY2018 PROPOSED BUDGET	Budget Increase (Decrease)
TOWN OPERATIONS					
TOWN OPERATING REVENUES					
Current Taxes (Adopted Budgets, Actual, Proposed Budget)	71,067	65,936	\$ 125,261	133,521	8,260
Current Tax Revenue for Appropriations	6,331	6,331	\$ 6,931	6,306	(625)
Education Tax Accrual Adjustment - Prior & Current yr net (12/21/16 update)	-	(2,990)	-	-	-
Delinquent Taxes - see notes below	40,000	20,880	10,000	-	(10,000)
Penalties	3,200	1,683	800	1,000	200
Interest on Taxes	1,500	2,817	1,000	1,000	-
Current Use (Hold Harmless Payments)	337	7,865	7,500	7,800	300
State Per Parcel Payments	-	345	300	300	-
USA-Deconte Funds - Forest Svc Rev Sharing	100	127	100	100	-
Civil Fines	-	792	-	-	-
Listers Education Grants (Restricted)	-	386	-	-	-
Clerk Fees (80% Recording + other fees)	4,500	4,069	4,000	4,800	800
Dog License Fees & Fines	600	919	600	560	(40)
Fishing Hunting License	25	17	25	-	(25)
Copies	800	908	900	900	-
Marriage/Civil Union	90	30	50	30	(20)
Records Restoration Revenue(20%Recording - Restr'd)	1,200	985	1,000	1,200	200
Reimbursements - LGUHS Election Costs, Other	-	355	-	-	-
Transfer from other fund	-	16,422	-	-	-
Town Fines/Animal Impound Fees/Other income	-	430	-	-	-
Interest On Investments	100	98	20	10	(10)
TOTAL TOWN OPERATING REVENUES - NON TAX & NO appropriations			26,295	17,700	(8,595)
TOTAL TOWN OPERATING REVENUES	129,850	128,405	158,487	157,527	(960)
TOWN OPERATING EXPENDITURES					
Selectboard	2,750	2,750	6,550	6,550	-
Town Clerk	18,000	19,103	21,560	21,560	-
Treasurer/Tax Collector	3,000	5,306	5,925	5,925	-
Delinquent Tax Collector	3,000	2,395	3,600	3,600	-
Listers	4,200	2,115	4,400	4,400	-
Auditors	1,000	564	1,500	1,100	(400)
Health Officer	-	-	-	-	-
Assistant Town Clerk	3,250	5,631	6,240	6,240	-
Listers-Reappraisal	-	-	-	-	-
Election Officials	200	226	200	200	-
Assistant Treasurer	6,500	7,428	7,740	8,140	400

Town Operating/Highway Proposed 2018 Budget (cont'd)

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES REPORT POPOSED BUDGET - *see notes	FY2016 ADOPTED BUDGET	FY2016 ACTUAL	FY2017 ADOPTED BUDGET (7/1/16- 6/30/17)	FY2018 PROPOSED BUDGET	Budget Increase (Decrease)
Selectboard Clerk	1,500	1,296	1,500	1,500	-
Animal Control Officer (Extraordinary services/Emergency)	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll Taxes - General Fund (Wages times \$.0765)	3,320	3,892	4,530	4,530	-
Payroll Service Fees	1,000	1,213	1,100	1,200	100
Supplies & Postage - Town Operations (See notes)	6,000	6,496	6,000	4,000	(2,000)
Supplies & Postage - Town Report Expense	-	-	-	1,500	1,500
Supplies & Postage - Planning Commission Expense	-	-	-	4,500	4,500
Abatements	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Notices	800	997	800	800	-
Seminars & Mileage	1,500	2,203	1,100	1,500	400
Town Office-Electric	1,100	1,070	900	1,100	200
Brookline Church Building-Electric	200	249	200	250	50
Town Office-Telephone	1,650	1,512	1,500	1,500	-
Town Office-Fuel	2,800	1,608	2,800	2,500	(300)
Brookline Church Building-Fuel	200	-	200	50	(150)
Computer Services-Maintenance/Support	700	413	900	900	-
Fire Alarm	300	295	300	300	-
Legal Services	12,500	24,180	7,500	5,000	(2,500)
Rescue Services	14,305	14,305	14,734	14,734	-
Fire Department Services - (Annual Request)	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	-
Fire Department Services - (Mutual Aid dues)	-	-	8,734	9,258	524
Copies	500	437	500	400	(100)
Copier Contract	1,900	1,841	1,900	1,350	(550)
Town Property Maintenance	800	740	800	800	-
Recycling Trash Removal	600	830	600	800	200
Dues-VLCT	1,392	1,462	1,400	1,535	135
Dues-WRC	950	993	993	1,179	186
NEMRC Software-license & support	2,000	2,094	1,900	2,000	100
WSWMD Landfill Fees: NO RECYCLING in 2017	8,000	7,462	8,000	6,120	(1,880)
Law Enforcement	3,800	2,253	3,600	3,600	-
Insurance/Bonds (Includes Historic Town Bldgs)	4,000	4,692	5,000	5,600	600
Old Cemeterys-Lawn mntc	300	240	300	300	-
Brookline School Purchase	-	1	-	-	-
County Tax	4,300	5,277	4,800	5,400	600
Animal Impound Expense	100	250	200	250	50
Audit Reserve Budgeted 2017	-	-	2,000	-	(2,000)
Fire permits/other misc	50	18	50	50	-
TOTAL TOWN OPERATING EXPENSE (Before Appropriations)	127,467	142,835	\$ 151,556	151,221	(335)
FY2018 BUDGET TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES - Town Office: - Not including APPROPRIATIONS - THIS goes in Current Tax Line 1			\$ 125,261	133,521	\$ 8,260
: SEPARATE LIST OF APPROPS					
Appropriations (Proposed amounts voted separately)	6,331.00	6,331	\$ 6,931	6,306	\$ (625)

Town Operating/Highway Proposed 2018 Budget (cont'd)

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES REPORT POPOSED BUDGET - *see notes	FY2016 ADOPTED BUDGET	FY2016 ACTUAL	FY2017 ADOPTED BUDGET (7/1/16-6/30/17)	FY2018 PROPOSED BUDGET	Budget Increase (Decrease)
Appropriations (New \$ in FY18, Warned & Voted Separately)	-				
TOTAL TOWN OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$ 133,798	149,166	\$ 158,487	157,527	\$ (960)
TOWN OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT) See notes	\$ (3,948)	(20,761)	\$ 0	-	

NOTES TOWN OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

- All amounts rounded to the nearest \$1
- Current Tax \$ in FY17 adopted budget includes Special Articles voted at March 2016 Town Meeting

- Cash expenditure for Elementary and High School Taxes FY2016	
Elementary Education Taxes Paid	511,470
Leland & Gray High School Taxes Paid	339,845
Total Education Taxes Paid by Brookline	851,315

- FY18 Supplies Budget increased and detail broken out for Town Report costs and Town Planning budget

- FY 2016 Actual Deficit related to extraordinary legal expenditures; \$3,948 of deficit reflected in FY2016 budget due to application of FY15 Surplus

- Cash basis delinquent tax revenues collected were \$60,016. Per VT Statute, amounts collected within 60 days of FY2015 year end were counted in 2015.

HIGHWAY OPERATIONS

HIGHWAY OPERATING REVENUES

Current Taxes	140,144	140,144	153,313	156,701	3,388
State Aid	37,000	38,447	37,000	38,000	1,000
FY 2014 Emergency Grant Balance - Pond Flood damage	-	48,377	-		-
Permits Revenue	100	100	100	100	-
Interest on Investments	300	566	300	250	(50)
TOTAL HIGHWAY OPERATION REVENUES (b4 budgeted tax)	177,544	227,633	\$ 37,400	38,350	\$ 4,338
TOTAL HIGHWAY OPERATION REVENUES	177,544	227,633	\$ 190,713	195,051	\$ 4,338

HIGHWAY OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Summer Salaries and Mileage (including emergency, special work, etc)	15,000	23,216	15,500	15,500	-
Summer Employee mileage					-
Summer Payroll Tax Exp	1,070	1,400	1,186	1,186	-
Summer Contract Svcs/Equip Rental (increase for addtl work req)	33,000	49,416	35,000	37,000	2,000
Highway Emergency - Additional Fire Dept Svcs	-	145		-	-
Highway Contractors - Emergency 0099	-	45,300		-	-
Summer Hwy Material	21,000	34,548	21,000	21,000	-
Winter Salaries	800	294	800	800	-
Winter Payroll Taxes	61	23	61	61	(0)
Winter Contract Svcs/Equipment	33,000	32,935	33,000	33,000	-
Winter Materials	21,000	5,590	21,000	21,000	-
Town Shed-Electric	450	481	400	450	50
Town Shed Maintenance	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-
Seminars - Hwy Employees	200	-	200	200	-
Insurance-Highway	3,800	3,031	3,800	4,200	400
Town Equipmnt Fuel\Parts\Mntce	4,000	293	4,000	4,000	-
Road signs	1,800	251	1,800	1,800	-

Town Operating/Highway Proposed 2018 Budget (cont'd)

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES REPORT POPOSED BUDGET - *see notes	FY2016 ADOPTED BUDGET	FY2016 ACTUAL	FY2017 ADOPTED BUDGET (7/1/16- 6/30/17)	FY2018 PROPOSED BUDGET	Budget Increase (Decrease)
Culverts	4,500	3,244	4,500	4,500	-
Paving Retreatment/Lines	25,000	108,813	28,000	30,000	2,000
Bridge Maintenance	5,000	7,240	5,000	5,000	-
TOTAL HIGHWAY OPERATION EXPENDITURES	170,681	316,220	\$ 176,247	180,697	\$ 4,450
HIGHWAY FINANCING EXPENDITURES					
Bond Principal Repayment	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
Bond interest	4,649	4,916	4,466	4,354	(112)
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND EXPENDITURES INCLUDING FINANCING, Excluding any specially warned articles	\$ 185,330	331,136	\$ 190,713	195,051	\$ 4,338
FY2018 BUDGET TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES for Highway - THIS goes in Current Taxes Hwy Revenues			\$ 153,313	156,701	\$ 3,388
HIGHWAY FUND SURPLUS (SHORTFALL)	\$ (7,786)	(103,504)	-	\$ -	
Total TOWN & HWY TAX INCREASE BEFORE APPROPRIATIONS:					\$ 11,648

Town Employees Compensation

TOWN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION - Gross Pay 07/01/15 - 06/30/16

		Cash Basis
TOWN CLERK		
BROOKS, KENDRA	\$ 687.75	TANZA, GUY \$ 19,823.64
NYSTROM, HEIDI	\$ 813.75	TOTAL \$ 19,823.64
RUCKER, FRANK	\$ 467.25	ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK
ZWICK, SOMARA	\$ 33.50	TANZA, GWEN \$ 5,843.75
TOTAL	\$ 2,002.25	TOTAL \$ 5,843.75
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR		
GOKEY, DONALD	\$ 285.00	TANZA, GUY \$ 2,512.51
GOKEY, SHEILA	\$ 915.00	TOTAL \$ 2,512.51
OMAND, MARSHA	\$ 1,878.00	TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
WOODS, DOUG	\$ 30.00	ZWICK, SOMARA \$ 5,440.45
TOTAL	\$ 3,108.00	TOTAL \$ 5,440.45
ASSISTANT TREASURER		
HOARD, BERNARDI	\$ 750.00	SIROIS, LOUISE \$ 6,468.00
MAGGIO, DOROTHY	\$ 500.00	TANZA, GUY \$ 1,197.63
MELLO, BRUCE	\$ 500.00	TOTAL \$ 7,665.63
NOGA JR., STANLEY	\$ 500.00	HIGHWAY
O'DONNELL, MICHA	\$ 500.00	BILLS, EVERETT A \$ 7,093.25
TOTAL	\$ 2,750.00	BILLS, EVERETT MA \$ 11,649.75
BARUS, PETER \$ 480.00		
MECKLE, SHANNON \$ 990.00		
SIROIS, LOUISE \$ 31.25		
TOTAL \$ 1,501.25		
TANZA, GUY \$ 100.50		
TANZA, GWEN \$ 125.00		
TOTAL \$ 225.50		

Brookline Estimated Tax Rates (2017–2018)

	Proposed Budget FY/2018	Proposed Rates FY2018	Adopted Rates FY2017	Adopted Rates FY2016	FY17 - FY18 Increase (decrease)
Municipal Grand List (as billed fy16 Grand List)	\$ 715,854				
<u>Operations To Be Voted - Proposed FY 2018 Budget</u>					
Town office operations (General fund)	133,521	0.1865	0.1600	0.1069	0.0265
Highway fund operations	156,701	0.2189	0.2141	0.2128	0.0048
Total annual operations taxes to be warned & voted	\$ 290,222	0.4054	0.3741	0.3197	\$ 0.0313
<u>Special Articles to be voted - FY2018 (FY 17 shown for Adopted)</u>					
Gen. Fd - Appropriations	6,306	0.0088	0.0087	0.0091	0.0001
Gen Fd - New Appropriation Requests	-	0.0000	0.0008	0.0000	(0.0008)
Subtotal - All Appropriations to be Voted/Voted	6,306	0.0088	0.0096	0.0091	(0.0008)
Town Operating Fund Deficit Refunding Tax	20,761	0.0290	0.0000	0.0000	0.0290
Town Op - Fire Dept Mutual Aid Dues (FY18, in Operating budget)	-	-	0.0121	0.0000	(0.0121)
Town Op - Recycling Services Article	11,000	0.0154	0.0000	0.0000	0.0154
Town Op - Reserve for future Audit Article	-	-	0.0028	0.0000	(0.0028)
Highway - Equipment /Town Shed (FY16 article)	-	-	0.0000	0.0115	-
Total Special articles - Town Op & Highway to be voted	38,067	0.0532	0.0245	0.0206	0.0286
Total Municipal taxes to be voted	328,289	0.4586	0.3987	0.3403	0.0599
Total Municipal taxes to be raised before local exemption	328,289	0.4586	0.3987	0.3403	0.0599
<u>Local Exemption(s)</u>					
Veterans (3000 x 1.782)(Education)(not-voted)estimated rate (30,000 x .01 x res. Tax rate)	535	0.0007	0.0007	0.0006	0.0000
TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAXES/RATE to be raised	328,823	0.4593	0.3994	0.3409	0.0600
less Gen fund surplus, if available	-	0.0000	0.0000	-0.0167	-
TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAXES/RATE to be raised	\$ 328,823	\$ 0.459	\$ 0.399	\$ 0.324	\$ 0.060

Education taxes voted at school district annual meeting for information only:

Prorated equalized rates per Brookline/Newfane Joint school	\$ 0.847	\$ 0.902	\$ 0.868
equalized rates LGUHS [Brookline share]	\$ 0.831	\$ 0.682	\$ 0.686
Total Equalized School Property Tax rates	\$ 1.678	\$ 1.584	\$ 1.554
All grades Pre-k through grade 12			
Total CLA adjusted School Property Tax rates	\$ 1.782	\$ 1.608	\$ 1.491
Total Municipal and school Homestead Education tax rate Estimate	\$ 2.241	\$ 2.007	\$ 1.815
Total Percent Change from FY 2017	12%		
Total Non Resident Municipal and CLA adjusted Education property tax rate	\$ 2.105	\$ 1.950	\$ 1.797
Anticipated Income Cap Percent for School Tax on Household Income, if eligible	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%

Brookline Consolidated Balance Sheet FY 2016

Town of Brookline Consolidated Balance Sheet For the Year Ended June 30, 2016

	Brookline							Total
	General Fund	Highway	Meetinghouse	Loan/Rehab	Historical	Reappraisal	School Building	
Assets								
Cash held in Separate Bank Accounts	\$ 20,631	\$ 353,931						\$ 380,537
Cash held in Money Market - Multi Funds	39,055		40,851	17,555	4,850	25,424	-	130,599
Town Office Cash Drawer	32							32
Due From Other Funds	37,980							37,980
Municipal Revenues Receivable	16,910							16,910
Delinquent Education Taxes Receivable	3,184							3,184
Total Assets	\$ 117,793	\$ 353,931	\$ 40,851	\$ 17,555	\$ 4,850	\$ 25,424	\$ -	\$ 569,242
Liabilities								
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	138,297	4,198						142,495
License fees payable to State	60							60
Property Tax Overpayments Payable	172							172
Due to Other Funds		33,213					4,587	37,980
Total Liabilities	\$ 138,528	\$ 37,411	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,587	\$ 180,706
Fund Balances								
Unreserved/Unrestricted Funds	(31,211)		17,555				(4,587)	(13,449)
Reserved/Restricted Funds	10,476	316,519	40,851		4,850	25,424		401,985
Total Fund Balances	(20,735)	316,519	40,851	17,555	4,850	25,424	(4,587)	388,536
Total Liability and Fund Balances	\$ 117,793	\$ 353,931	\$ 40,851	\$ 17,555	\$ 4,850	\$ 25,424	\$ -	\$ 569,242
PROOF (assets - liab+fund bal=0)								
Fund Percentage of Consolidated Total	20.7%	62.2%	7.2%	3.1%	0.9%	4.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Fund Balances as of June 30, 2015	\$ 27	\$ 420,023	\$ 34,790	\$ 33,205	\$ 4,774	\$ 23,950	\$ -	\$ 525,837
Plus Annual Revenues	128,405	227,633	9,904	771	241	2,970	13,028	383,302
Less Annual Expenses	(149,167)	(331,136)	(3,844)	(16,422)	(165)	(1,495)	(17,615)	(520,603)
Fund Balances as of June 30, 2016	\$ (20,735)	\$ 316,519	\$ 40,851	\$ 17,554	\$ 4,850	\$ 25,425	\$ (4,587)	\$ 388,536

Notes to Balance Sheet:

- All amounts are rounded to the nearest \$1.00
- Reserved and/or Restricted fund amounts in the General Fund are for restoration of records and state funds received for listers education
- Reserved and/or Restricted fund amounts in the Highway Fund includes bond revenues received for bridge reconstruction and special amounts voted by the town for paving/retreatment, bridges, equipment, and Ellen Ware Road. All Highway Funds are restricted to use of Highway operations see additional report of Highway Fund Balance detail
- All Cemetery Funds are restricted to that fund. The amount shown as specifically restricted was set forth by the grantor of those specific monies.
- The Community Group fund separate bank account was closed in 2016. Funds are now allocated within the Town's General Money Market - Multi Funds. Interest income earned on these funds is allocated pro-rata to each special fund based on their monthly balance.
- School Building Fund as of December 2016 has no deficit and a small surplus fund balance of \$114.

Highway Fund Balance Analysis as of June 30, 2016

Highway Fund Balance analysis as of June 30, 2016

	Paving/ Retreatmt	Highway Equipment	Grader Repair/Repla cement	Bridges & Culverts	Ellen Ware Rd	Bond Principal and Interest	Undesignated Highway	Total Highway Fund
Balance as of 6/30/2013	\$ 164,000	\$ 29,400		\$ 122,381	\$ 6,461		\$ 155,836	\$ 478,077
Plus:								
2014 Revenues:								
Unrestricted Revenues - Budgeted by Line item	\$ 18,000	\$ 4,000		\$ 9,500	\$ -		\$ 104,026	\$ 135,526
Grants Revenues received - Emergency Grant	\$ 15,276	\$ -		\$ 5,092	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 20,368
Grants Revenues received - State Highway Aid	\$ 38,761	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 38,761
Total Revenues	\$ 72,037	\$ 4,000		\$ 14,592	\$ -		\$ 104,026	\$ 194,654
Less:								
2014 Expenditures	\$ 34,311	\$ 3,528		\$ 4,856	\$ -		\$ 161,384	\$ 204,079
Balance as of 6/30/2014	\$ 201,726	\$ 29,872	\$ 2,055	\$ 132,117	\$ 6,461		\$ 98,477	\$ 468,653
Plus:								
2015 Revenues:								
Unrestricted Revenues - Budgeted by Line item	25,000	4,000		9,500	-		112,322	150,822
Grants Revenues received - Culverts Grant				61,088	-		-	61,088
Grants Revenues received - State Highway Aid	38,476	-		-	-		-	38,476
Grants Revenues received - State Forest Svc		-		-	-		1,500	1,500
Reimbursements received - Property Owner	-	-		-	-		1,500	1,500
Total Revenues	\$ 63,476	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 70,588	\$ -		\$ 112,322	\$ 250,386
Less:								
2015 Cash Expenditures	99,711	2,148		65,316			131,842	299,016
Balance as of 6/30/2015	\$ 165,492	\$ 31,724	\$ 2,055	\$ 137,389	\$ 6,461	\$ -	\$ 78,957	\$ 420,022
Plus:								
2016 Revenues:								
Unrestricted Revenues - Budgeted by Line item	25,000	4,000	1,875	9,500	-		85,786	126,161
Grant Revenues - State Highway Aid	38,447				-			38,447
Grant Revenues - FY2014 Emergency Grant Balance	48,377				-			48,377
Bond Principal and Interest Budgeted						14,649		14,649
Total Revenues	\$ 111,823	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,875	\$ 9,500	\$ -	\$ 14,649	\$ 85,786	\$ 227,633
Less:								
2016 Cash Expenditures	-141,463	-293	0	-43,134	-6,461	-14,649	-127,191	-331,136
Balance as of 6/30/2016	\$ 135,852	\$ 35,431	\$ 3,930	\$ 103,755	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,552	\$ 316,519

NOTES TO HIGHWAY FUND BALANCE ANALYSIS

- all amounts rounded to nearest \$1
- Emergency expense related to FY 2014 grant paid and completed in FY2016, per extension.
- Final reimbursements were received in FY 2016.

Treasurer's Report

Generally when I begin to write up this report each year I try to emphasize the most positive aspects of the year. This year's report I am going to continue in that spirit but must begin with some of the harder financial challenges of the town. Our fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016 (FY2016) was a difficult year with the result of some cumulative expense increases coming home to roost, so to speak.

One of the biggest to deal with has been our legal expenses. During the past three fiscal years our town incurred close to \$50,000 in legal expenses of which just over \$45,000 related to one matter. Our cumulative legal fees through December 2016 are now almost \$65,000, most related to the same matter. The town's related indirect administrative costs – wages, supplies, etc. –aren't even included in these amounts.

Primarily due to these expenses, we closed FY2016 with a deficit. The required Article warning the amount necessary to fund this is part of this year's Town Report. Although we are cautiously hopeful that this level of legal expense is in the past, we are going to have to consider how to manage contingencies such as this in the future should they occur.

With two additional properties added to our town buildings, our Brookline Meetinghouse and the School Building, additional insurance expense has been added to town costs. Our School Building rent covers most of its cost, but until the Brookline Meetinghouse has sustainable revenues to offset overhead, that expense is part of the Town Operations budget.

On to the positive points, our Brookline Meetinghouse Committee has done an admirable job of fundraising, both from individuals in our town and beyond. They are continuing their efforts with more grants received in our current fiscal year 2017. My personal hat goes off to them. They are building on the foundation that the Ladies Benevolence Society/Historic Brookline Church Preservation group kept going in past years.

We are also fortunate that our Highway Fund built up a sufficient surplus that covered a great deal of road work done in FY2016, such as the Hill Road paving and repairs to portions of Putney Mountain road as well. Additionally the first of the Better Back Roads grants awarded to our town in FY2016 was completed and funds received in FY2017. More highways grants were awarded in FY2017, but I guess that will be written about next year.

The fiscal year budget proposed for 2018 is going to be a challenge. The Select Board, Road Commissioner, Road Foreman and the Town Clerk did their best to thoughtfully put a budget together for the voters' consideration. Although municipal taxes make up only a small portion of our total property tax bill (apprx. 15%) the budgeting process is important. While we keep hoping that costs will come down and work will decrease, it does not seem that reality is in our near future.

As always, I can't end without saying again that as Town Treasurer and as the Collector of Current Taxes I am very fortunate to have the never-failing support of the other Town officials, elected and appointed. I believe we are fortunate that there continues to be open discussion and a cooperative, supportive spirit throughout our town of Brookline, and thank all town residents for this spirit.

Respectfully submitted,
Somara Zwick, Treasurer/Current Tax Collector

Listers' Report

Listers' life has continued in a very smooth mode. We continue to meet monthly, the last Monday of each month starting at 5:15 PM, and other meetings when needed at arranged times. Tuesdays and Thursdays AM are optional times, as well. If there are needs, Listers may be reached through the Town Clerk, 365-4648. The Listers continue to attend educational workshops offered by the State. The most beneficial are NEMRC and MICRO-SOLVE, our Lister Programs, workshops plus APEX, our drawing program.

Brookline is made of 343 parcels. We continue to work at appraising parcels, site visits, property transfers, current (land) use, homestead declarations monitored, Lister Cards updated, Grand List processed, grievances heard and acted upon. Last year we heard six grievances, which were acted upon auspiciously. A grievance from three years ago was finally settled for certain with the state upholding our findings.

Our new tax maps from DiBernardo Associates of Bellows Falls are excellent. We do continue to keep a list of changes for our next update.

Our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), which provides us a town wide comparison of our total listed value to the State's estimate of total fair market, and our Coefficient of Dispersion (COD), which measures the average deviation from market value of sold properties from the average town wide level of appraisal, are within the acceptable range. The acceptable range for the CLA is 80% to 100% with 100% being perfect. The acceptable range for the COD is 0% - 20%. Last year both were within range and this year both are still within range. CLA is 94.17% and the COD is 9.86%.

When the CLA and COD are not within the acceptable range, a town wide reappraisal is needed.

We do thank the people of Brookline for their cooperation as we do appraisals of property, new homes, renovations, sheds, other buildings, etc. We strive to keep property equalized. Again, thank you very much

Respectively, Donald Gokey, Sheila Gokey,
Marsha Omand

Brookline Planning Commission

The Brookline Planning Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office. Notices, surveys, documents, agendas, and minutes of the meetings are available on the Town Website.

The Planning Commission produced, disseminated, and compiled the Town Survey, for use in the creation of the 2018 Town Plan. Of the 355 Town Surveys mailed out and made available, 70 households, or approximately 20% responded.

At the time of writing this, the Town Plan is well underway, including follow-up input from residents on renewable energy.

The Planning Commission works closely with the Town Office, Select Board, and Windham Regional Commission, which this past year included information on the development of a Hazard Mitigation/Emergency Plan, as well as support for grant applications for the 2018 Town Plan.

The current Planning Commission consists of returning members Tom Kavet (Chair), Charlie Ezequelle, Barbara Bourne, and Suzanne d'Corsey. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in serving on the Planning Commission.

As always, the Planning Commission meetings are open to the public and we welcome your participation.

Road Commissioner's Report

“Road Work Ahead” These three words best describe what folks all over Town saw this construction season.

The season started up on Putney Mountain Road where the old black top was ground, a layer of new gravel was placed and new pavement went down. This completed a project that the Town has been working on for some years. At the same time a section of Hill Road was paved.

In May an 80%, \$175,000.00 paving grant was awarded for Grassy Brook Road. With paving prices at a low from recent years, the board decided to use all the grant money for blacktop. This allowed us to pave about two miles of Grassy Brook Road, but first seven culverts needed to be replaced. All this work resulted in many detours and one lane of traffic for a time. Thank-you to all for putting up with these delays.

The work on Greer Road Bridge was completed with new locust beams placed between all existing ones and the deck placed back on.

The stream bank stabilization project on Parker Road that received a grant last year, was completed in August 2016.

The ledge removal along a narrow section of Athens Road was completed this year with a Better Roads Grants from V TRANS.

The large culvert just south of the Papoose Road, which has been settling in recent years due to decay. Grants have been applied for three of the last four years with no success. In late fall it was decided to grind the blacktop and place steel plates down and repave. This is a short term repair to get us through until a grant can be secured for total replacement.

The sand/salt shed replacement grant has been applied for with a notification date of mid-January. I will have more news on this at Town Meeting when we know the results of that application, but no special article for additional funds will be needed. Plans for 2017 include repaving the remainder of Putney Mountain Road and about 1.2 miles of Hill Road, Replacing the sand/salt shed and replacing the culvert mentioned above. Mark and I will be updating the culvert and bridge inventory which needs to be done every 5 years.

Many THANKS to the entire Select Board, Treasurer, Town Clerk, and the Road Crew and all of you for making this all come together.

Archie Clark
Road Commissioner

Brookline Preservation Committee

Early in 2016 the Brookline Church Preservation Committee wondered if changing the name of the building would be appropriate and supported by our community. In the committee's mind the decision was two fold; the building is no longer used as a church and some organizations don't award grant money to religious entities. Hoping that the building will someday be used as a community center, meetinghouse or arts venue, we queried our community and asked them to cast their vote on a new name. A total of forty five votes were returned with the "Brookline Meetinghouse" winning the majority of the votes. So in the spring of 2016 we have begun referring to the Brookline Baptist Church, aka the Historic Brookline Church, as the Brookline Meetinghouse. As old habits are hard to break, we acknowledge that some people will always call it the Brookline Church, but that's fine with us.

2016 was a very busy year at the Brookline Meetinghouse. Two major repairs occurred late in the summer. All eleven windows in the brick portion of the building were professionally restored at a cost of \$10,350. The cost of this work was covered by our Sponsor-a-Window fundraiser last December, a \$2,500 grant from the Windham Foundation, as well as \$2,000 from the repair fund built up by the Ladies Benevolent Society. All cracked or broken panes of glass were replaced with period glass donated by a community member. These windows, which were in really rough shape are now breathing new life and light into the building.

The other major repair was aimed at eliminating a 3" sag in the floor and ceiling as well as straightening the steeple. This was accomplished by installing two temporary sixteen foot long 8X8 timbers vertically from floor to ceiling in the sanctuary. Hydraulic and screw jacks were placed underneath the timbers in the crawlspace and up she went! The floor went up, the temporary posts went up, the ceiling and queenpost truss went up, the backside of the steeple went up and now she's back where she was originally. The steeple is no longer leaning and she's enjoying her new posture. Large stone pillars were added in the crawlspace and huge hemlock timbers were added to the steeple framing, to add strength and help keep the building

straight. Existing 8X8 roof rafters were pressed back into position which had slipped out of place when the framing failed, sometime in the last 100 years. The cost of this repair was \$24,500 and was paid for equally by the Ladies Benevolent Society Repair Fund and the VT Rotating Loan Fund as voted upon and approved at our 2015 Town Meeting.

We have high aspirations for 2017. Following the recommendations made to us by Historical Preservationist Jan Lewandowski in 2014, our upcoming priorities are first, the balustrade and belfry roof repair, followed by the repair to the foundation underneath the wooden addition. We applied for a \$19,210 matching State grant, of which the State granted us \$7,955 to cover almost half of these repairs. This will enable the repair fund to go that much further, perhaps allowing us to add ADA handicapped access or painting the building.

A local theatrical director has expressed his interest in using the Meetinghouse as a venue to produce plays and musicals. Perhaps we can collaborate with surrounding towns to combine or share events. The 40' X 28' community room is large enough for reunions or community gatherings. The kitchen is fully equipped with vintage appliances but it needs plumbing updates and lots of TLC.

The advisory committee raised \$8,285 during 10 fundraisers in 2016 and private donations totaled \$1,850. We applied for and were granted a \$2,500 grant to help defray the cost of repairing the windows. A committee member attended a two day conference on reclaiming and reusing historic buildings. We opened the building to the public three times during 2016. We sponsored open houses in June and October as well as welcoming 50+ Trick or Treaters for the first time. We cleared large trees and brush along the southern boundary and hope to continue landscaping improvements in 2017.

We do our best to keep our community informed. We use Julie Lavorgna's email list, Front Porch Forum as well as "Historic Brookline VT Church Renovations" on Facebook. Our meeting minutes are posted on brooklinevt.com. If you would like to join Julie's email list please email her at julielavorgna@gmail.com and ask to be added to the Brookline email list.

Brookline Preservation Committee (cont'd)

We would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank the Ladies Benevolent Society for their tireless fundraising in the past. When the building was transferred to the Town of Brookline in 2014, a \$30,000 repair fund accompanied it. Without this tremendous head start we would have had to start from scratch and would not have accomplished what we did in 2016.

The Brookline Meetinghouse advisory committee invites you to attend our meetings, join our committee, help with upcoming events or work bees. We anticipate many exciting events in the coming year and hope that you will be a part of it.

The Brookline Meetinghouse Advisory Committee:
Mark Bills, Kerry Bourne, Bruce Mello, Peter Meyer,
Lee Anne Parker and Helen Samuels

Town Clerk's Report

The winds of change are blowing – year 2016 will go into the record books for many reasons. It started with one of the warmest winters since records have been kept. Most winter sports enthusiasts and oil delivery companies were feeling pretty depressed. A.S. Clark & Sons probably put more salt and sand down than they did plowing, but as usual they did a great job in keeping our roads open and safe. We had a relatively good maple sap gathering season in spite of the roller coaster spring. Speaking of spring, Town Meeting/Presidential Primary day we were greeted by a power outage that lasted all morning and by the time power came back on around 12:15 p.m., all 41 hearty souls at town meeting were beginning to show the stress signs of having no heat. We had one of the first cold “hot” buffets that I can remember, but for the most part we just adapted and got on with it. After all, “we are Vermonters” and the food was still really good!

Mud Season was short lived, but taken care of by our experienced Highway Department. You know the drill – gravel, gravel and just a little more gravel. Finally, after a real cold start to April (killing most of the apple tree buds), Easter Sunday was here and the kids from town enjoyed the Great Easter Egg Hunt, put on by the O'Donnell clan. Approximately 25 children enjoyed themselves searching for eggs and turning them in for prizes. It truly is a Brookline Spring ritual and a big thank you to the Brookline Community Group for supplying the eggs and gifts. Green Up Day was well attended and David Jones took over the helm as the new Green Up Day Coordinator and he did an excellent job. Thanks Dave. As spring wanes, things really started getting busy for the Highway Department. Road Commissioner, Archie Clark, and Road Foreman, Mark Bills, were kept busy applying for grants and completing repairs prior to paving. Grading of the dirt roads after a relatively easy mud season, trimming trees, repair and replacement of culverts and the real big push of repaving close to 75% of our roads. Archie had applied for and was successful in receiving a \$175,000 grant, after a number of years of rejection. Our roads are in great shape and the future

looks good for the other 25% that may be addressed in 2017. The town had a good and somewhat dry summer. A few real warm days, but for the most part a normal Vermont summer.

The town office was the center of activity this year, with four different Australian ballot voting events – February, Leland & Gray Budget Vote; March, Presidential Primary; August, State Primary and November the General Election. We have transitioned to almost all things being digital and electronic, including the reporting of the voting. We have new property transfer tax returns software, increase of marriage license fees, increase of hunting license fees, increase of dog license fees that were all mandated by the State of Vermont. The town is very fortunate to have four high powered computers and all are on the Windows 10 platform.

The Town Clerk's Office has recorded 547 pages of land records; 26 property transfer tax returns; 6 current land use permits; 2 curb cut permits; sold 134 dog licenses; 2 marriage licenses; processed 10 excess weight permits and 10 hunting licenses. The work horse of the office, the printer/copy machine, made 22,296 copies/prints. As most know, we monitor all e-mails and telephone messages daily. We may only be open two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday 9-2), but most of you know my car and if you see it parked at the office on off hours, you know you can stop in and that you will be helped. Some people have even called me at home - the fact is that we are never too far away to address your concerns. We may be a small town with limited resources, but we are always connected one way or the other.

November of this year saw one of the highest voter turnouts in modern history with the Presidential election, the town having a 75% turnout. It proved to be a pretty hectic time in our office with the final lights going out around 12:15 a.m. Special thanks to Cynthia Nau, Marsha Omand and Gwen Tanza who were there from start to finish – a long 15 hr day. Also deserving praise are the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) members who assisted in the long night of counting ballots. It certainly was one for the record books.

Town Clerk's Report (cont'd)

As December arrived, it was that time of the year when everyone works even harder – budget season. Our town has faced many challenges this year. Some we were able to control and some just got away from us. Legal fees took a big chunk of change out of us, but the good news is the town did prevail! I cannot think of anything more important as protecting your assets. The town did that well, but the price proved costly. The challenges of being a landlord (as the town now owns the school, church, round school house, town garage and the town office) has escalated due to a number of factors, including insurance, heat, utilities and normal wear and tear. As mentioned earlier, the winds of change are blowing.

On a more pleasant note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have made my job just a little bit easier. Our selectboard has done an incredible job this term and deserve our respect and gratitude for a job well done. As a town, between our website, www.brooklinevt.com and videotaping of most meetings, we have reached a level of true transparency. There is no reason for anyone not to know what is going on and how we got there. The Brookline Meeting House Committee have had great success in their attempts at receiving grants and in their fund raising campaigns. Our Listers continue their incredible job of maintaining our Grand List. Somara Zwick, our Treasurer, and her Assistants, Louise Sirois and Marie Tattersall, all do a remarkable job of making sure our town finances are carefully

controlled and in total compliance with all tax and banking laws. Our Planning Commission is doing their due diligence in preparing us for our new town plan due in 2018. My Assistant Clerk, Gwen, who just happens to be my wife (for those of you out there that wonder why she corrects me from time to time), I cannot say enough good about her. Her computer and administrative skills add another dimension that is so important to a system now mostly digital/electronic.

To all of you – Thank You, Thank You. I look forward to your continued support. As my friend, Vinny Linguine would say, “Let’s go to Ricks!”

Regards,
Guy Tanza
Town Clerk

Delinquent Tax Report as of December 31, 2016

The Town of Brookline is very pleased to report that there are no delinquent taxes as of December 31, 2016.

Vital Records

BIRTHS

DATE	NAME OF CHILD	SEX	PARENTS
February 26, 2016	Dylan Lawrence Reno	M	Leigh-Anne Reno Terry James Reno, Sr.
May 22, 2016	Cora Winter Cusma	F	Amy Marie Cusma Jess William Winter
July 3, 2016	Abigail Joelle LeBlanc	F	Carly Judith LeBlanc David Charles LeBlanc

MARRIAGES

DATE	BRIDE	GROOM	PLACE
March 19, 2016	Nancy Powers Caldwell	Peter Chase Libby	Brookline, VT

DEATHS

DATE	NAME	AGE
March 19, 2016	Lori Clark Amidon	57
May 12, 2016	Trevor Nathan Moore	30
May 22, 2016	William (Billy) J. Pagach	63
July 30, 2016	Mitchell A. Ellison	60
September 5, 2016	Gloria Hope Rouleau	87
October 11, 2016	Betsey Shaw Regan	95

Regulations Governing Dog Ownership

All dogs or wolf-hybrids six (6) months or older must be licensed by April 1, 2017. Fees are as follows:

<u>Before April 1, 2017</u>	<u>After April 1, 2017:</u>
Spayed/Neutered or wolf-hybrid...9.00	Spayed/Neutered or wolf-hybrid...11.00
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 States Spay/Neutering Program.

Any dog not licensed by May 30, 2017 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.

There will be a Rabies Clinic at the NewBrook Fire Department, Route 30, Newfane, VT on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All animals must be either on a leash or in a cage.

The following is a summary of the fees collected in 2016 by the Town of Brookline.

	Qty	Town	State	Late Fees	Total
Spayed	62	248.00	310.00	4.00	562.00
Female	9	72.00	45.00	4.00	121.00
Male	12	96.00	60.00	4.00	160.00
Neutered	51	204.00	255.00	4.00	463.00
Total	134	\$620.00	\$670.00	\$16.00	1306.00

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

WCSU Superintendent's Report

Windham Central Supervisory Union Superintendent's Letter 2017

The Windham Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) is in the midst of great challenge and opportunity. All school district members and community representatives in the WCSU have participated in our two Act 46 Study Committees. One committee created Articles of Agreement and a report for the Leland and Gray towns (Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane, Townshend, and Windham). The other committee created Articles of Agreement and a report for the towns of Dover, Marlboro, and Wardsboro. All the members of the study committee worked diligently to ask tough questions, seek answers, and ultimately create a new governance structure on which citizens of each town will vote on March 7th.

With declining enrollment statewide, as well as in many of the towns in the WCSU, creating sustainable structures for the future of education in our communities is difficult. However, we are all up to the task. With these real challenges comes opportunity and the potential for evolution.

There is a sense of excitement and positivity about the direction our schools and our supervisory union are currently taking. Many changes have already occurred. We have a new Superintendent, a new Business Manager, a new Director of Curriculum, a new Information Technology Director, a retiring Special Education Director, a new Middle/High School principal, a new elementary principal, a new teaching principal and three retiring elementary principals. The collaboration between this influx of new people and our existing staff has created a synergy of talent, dedication and wisdom. We are showing our respect and appreciation for our foundation while moving forward to build our future. We are fortunate to have so much support from all of our communities.

The WCSU has been selected to participate in a grant opportunity offered by the Vermont Agency of Education. We will be receiving consulting services and an audit of our Special Education Services. We believe this study will provide us with data that will help us strategically deploy resources in a more effective manner.

I encourage everyone to participate in the information sessions for current budgets and the proposed new governance structures. No one can be sure where the WCSU will land on March 8th, but I am confident that the leadership of the individual school boards, the WCSU board, our principals, and the teachers and staff of the WCSU are ready to embrace the challenge.

Thank you for supporting our schools.

William Anton, WCSU Superintendent of Schools

WCSU Proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

Account Description	FY 16 Budget	FY 16 Actual (unaudited)	FY17 Adopted Budget	FY18		% Variance +/-
				Proposed Budget	\$ \$ Variance +/-	
REVENUES						
Interest Income	\$ 200	\$ 512	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ -	0%
Erate Income	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,269	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -	0%
	\$ 6,200	\$ 7,781	\$ 6,200	\$ 6,200	\$ -	0%
ASSESSMENTS						
DOVER	\$ 81,574	\$ 81,574	\$ 83,008	\$ 85,518	\$ 2,510	3.02%
JAMAICA	\$ 55,108	\$ 55,108	\$ 62,806	\$ 61,304	\$ (1,502)	-2.39%
MARLBORO	\$ 65,259	\$ 65,260	\$ 70,919	\$ 75,457	\$ 4,538	6.40%
NEWBROOK	\$ 115,304	\$ 115,304	\$ 138,356	\$ 145,596	\$ 7,240	5.23%
STRATTON	\$ 11,022	\$ 11,022	\$ 10,923	\$ 11,494	\$ 571	5.23%
TOWNSHEND	\$ 66,978	\$ 66,978	\$ 75,550	\$ 78,545	\$ 2,995	3.96%
WARDSBORO	\$ 49,174	\$ 49,173	\$ 52,794	\$ 50,767	\$ (2,027)	-3.84%
WINDHAM	\$ 16,956	\$ 16,956	\$ 17,294	\$ 18,199	\$ 905	5.24%
LELAND AND GRAY	\$ 297,586	\$ 297,586	\$ 289,455	\$ 345,645	\$ 56,189	19.41%
	\$ 758,961	\$ 758,961	\$ 801,105	\$ 872,525	\$ 71,419	8.92%

Account Description	FY 16 Budget	FY 16 Actual (unaudited)	FY17 Adopted Budget	FY18		% Variance +/-
				Proposed Budget	\$ \$ Variance +/-	
SU Superintendent	\$ 211,860	\$ 213,912	\$ 214,000	\$ 122,500	\$ (91,500)	-43%
SU Director of Curriculum/Tech	\$ 77,431	\$ 67,173	\$ 77,431	\$ 44,430	\$ (33,001)	-43%
SU Admin Assistant Salary	\$ 39,780	\$ 42,070	\$ 41,700	\$ 41,840	\$ 140	0.3%
SU Health	\$ 46,019	\$ 51,063	\$ 64,273	\$ 47,657	\$ (16,617)	-26%
SU Dental	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,936	\$ 3,982	\$ 2,612	\$ (1,370)	-34%
SU FICA	\$ 25,174	\$ 24,017	\$ 25,485	\$ 15,971	\$ (9,514)	-37%
SU Life/Disab Insurance	\$ 3,516	\$ 1,103	\$ 1,110	\$ 1,110	\$ -	0%
SU Municipal Retirement	\$ 7,466	\$ 7,461	\$ 7,618	\$ 4,472	\$ (3,146)	-41%
SU Workers Comp	\$ 3,291	\$ 1,550	\$ 3,331	\$ 2,088	\$ (1,243)	-37%
SU Unemployment	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,766	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,728	\$ 678	65%
SU Professional Services	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,596	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -	0%
SU Information System Services	\$ 22,441	\$ 20,300	\$ 22,500	\$ 25,500	\$ 3,000	13%
SU Curriculum Dev	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
SU Professional Development	\$ 6,000	\$ 9,902	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	0%
SU Legal Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
SU Insurance Bond & Prof Liability	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	0%
SU Telephone/Internet	\$ 6,270	\$ 10,840	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ -	0%
SU Postage	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,944	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,000	\$ (500)	-14%
SU Advertising	\$ 3,000	\$ 679	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0%
SU Travel	\$ 6,000	\$ 8,255	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -	0%
SU Conference Expense	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,077	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 500	11%
SU Supplies	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,902	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -	0%
SU Equipment	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,253	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0%
SU Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,535	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,500	\$ 100	2%
SU Miscellaneous	\$ 100	\$ 1,499	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ (100)	-100%
SU Audit Services	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ -	0
Subtotal of - SU Admin	\$ 503,948	\$ 497,830	\$ 526,480	\$ 373,907	\$ (152,573)	-29.0%
Business Salary	\$ 121,774	\$ 127,643	\$ 132,577	\$ 280,961	\$ 148,384	112%
Business Human Resources Salary	\$ 29,500	\$ 28,900	\$ 29,500	\$ 49,725	\$ 20,225	69%
Business Health	\$ 44,573	\$ 46,573	\$ 51,331	\$ 75,522	\$ 24,191	47%
Business Dental	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,084	\$ 3,084	\$ 3,815	\$ 731	24%
Business FICA	\$ 11,572	\$ 11,536	\$ 12,399	\$ 25,297	\$ 12,898	104%
Business Office Life/Disa	\$ 1,515	\$ -	\$ 1,538	\$ 1,323	\$ (215)	-14%
Business Municipal Retirement	\$ 7,753	\$ 8,288	\$ 8,914	\$ 18,188	\$ 9,274	104%
Business Workers Comp	\$ 1,513	\$ 1,566	\$ 1,621	\$ 3,307	\$ 1,686	104%
Business Unemployment	\$ 1,562	\$ 2,491	\$ 1,312	\$ 2,880	\$ 1,568	120%
Business Equipment Repair	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -	0%
Business Professional Dev	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ -	0%
Business Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0%
Business Conference Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0%
Business Supplies	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,427	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -	0%

WCSU Proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget (cont'd)

Account Description	FY 16 Budget	FY 16 Actual (unaudited)	FY17 Adopted Budget	FY18	\$\$ Variance +/-	% Variance +/-
				Proposed Budget		
Business Equipment	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,668	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0%
Bank Fees	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,683	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ -	0%
					\$ -	
Subtotal - Business	\$ 231,862	\$ 243,859	\$ 254,676	\$ 477,418	\$ 222,742	87.5%
Property Services - Custodial	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,250	\$ 4,000	\$ 750	23%
Property Serv Maint & Repair	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,907	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ -	0%
Building Rent	\$ 14,800	\$ 15,167	\$ 14,800	\$ 14,800	\$ -	0%
Building Electric	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,206	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	\$ -	0%
Building Fuel Oil	\$ 5,400	\$ 1,987	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ -	0%
Building Equipment	\$ 2,000	\$ 417	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	0%
					\$ -	0%
Subtotal of - Operation & Maintenance	\$ 29,350	\$ 26,284	\$ 26,150	\$ 27,400	\$ 1,250	4.8%
Total Superintendent/Business Office	\$ 765,160	\$ 767,973	\$ 807,306	\$ 878,725	\$ 71,419	8.85%
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 1	\$ (1,231)	\$ (1)	\$ -	\$ -	

Special Education Budget

FY 18 Combined Special Education Budget Teacher/Related Service and Direct Bill

Act 148 "An act relating to special education" Governor signed on 5/31/2016
 Payment of Special Education Funding to Supervisory Unions

Revenues	FY16 Actual (unaudited)	FY17 Adopted Budget	FY18 Proposed Budget	\$\$ Variance +/-	% Variance +/-
State Block Grant	\$ 382,215	\$ 378,451	\$ 378,451	\$ -	0
Extraordinary Rev-Combined	\$ 99,675	\$ 91,808	\$ -	\$ (91,808)	-100%
Extraordinary Rev-Dover			\$ 2,165	\$ (89,644)	0
Extraordinary Rev-Jamaica			\$ 2,503	\$ 2,503	0
Extraordinary Rev-Marlboro			\$ 43,380	\$ 43,380	0
Extraordinary Rev-Wardsboro			\$ 93,210	\$ 93,210	0
Extraordinary Rev-LGUHS			\$ 32,089	\$ 32,089	0
State Placed Rev	\$ 65,016	\$ 148,087	\$ -	\$ (148,087)	-1
Intensive Reimbursement From	\$ 1,489,216	\$ 1,574,877	\$ 1,900,091	\$ 325,214	21%
Total Revenue	\$ 2,036,122	\$ 2,193,223	\$ 2,451,888	\$ 166,857	7.61%

Total Net Cost

DOVER	\$ 138,472	\$ 170,591	\$ 190,335	\$ 19,744	11.57%	\$ 180,111
JAMAICA	\$ 84,156	\$ 72,731	\$ 114,488	\$ 41,756	57.41%	\$ 110,213
MARLBORO	\$ 202,906	\$ 235,255	\$ 238,695	\$ 3,441	1.46%	\$ 249,412
NEWBROOK	\$ 151,881	\$ 153,459	\$ 211,141	\$ 57,682	37.59%	\$ 199,543
STRATTON	\$ 31,604	\$ 26,574	\$ 43,935	\$ 17,361	65.33%	\$ 41,567
TOWNSHEND	\$ 138,098	\$ 161,944	\$ 191,981	\$ 30,036	18.55%	\$ 183,130
WARDSBORO	\$ 154,876	\$ 150,576	\$ 122,094	\$ (28,482)	-18.92%	\$ 163,094
WINDHAM	\$ 8,701	\$ 10,861	\$ 12,096	\$ 1,235	11.37%	\$ 11,064
LELAND AND GRAY	\$ 489,418	\$ 744,466	\$ 646,717	\$ (97,749)	-13.13%	\$ 632,737
Total Assessments	\$ 1,400,112	\$ 1,726,457	\$ 1,771,481	\$ 45,024	2.61%	\$ 1,770,870
Total Revenue	\$ 3,436,234	\$ 3,919,680	\$ 4,223,370	\$ 211,881	5.41%	

Expenses	FY16 Actual (unaudited)	FY17 Adopted Budget	FY18 Proposed Budget	\$\$ Variance +/-	% Variance +/-	% of Total Special Ed	Actual EXTRA		
							Extraordinary by %	Ordinary per District	Adjustment
							\$ 173,346		
DOVER	\$ 377,239	\$ 388,943	\$ 418,031	\$ 29,088	7.48%	9.90%	\$ 17,158	\$ 2,165	\$ 14,993
JAMAICA	\$ 142,118	\$ 165,826	\$ 254,056	\$ 88,230	53.21%	6.02%	\$ 10,428	\$ 2,503	\$ 7,925
MARLBORO	\$ 520,491	\$ 536,375	\$ 612,552	\$ 76,177	14.20%	14.50%	\$ 25,142	\$ 43,380	\$ (18,238)
NEWBROOK	\$ 322,540	\$ 349,884	\$ 458,512	\$ 108,628	31.05%	10.86%	\$ 18,819		\$ 18,819
STRATTON	\$ 70,931	\$ 60,588	\$ 95,408	\$ 34,820	57.47%	2.26%	\$ 3,916		\$ 3,916
TOWNSHEND	\$ 261,182	\$ 369,229	\$ 416,903	\$ 47,674	12.91%	9.87%	\$ 17,112		\$ 17,112
WARDSBORO	\$ 306,300	\$ 343,310	\$ 467,553	\$ 124,243	36.19%	11.07%	\$ 19,190	\$ 93,210	\$ (74,020)
WINDHAM	\$ 23,717	\$ 24,763	\$ 26,267	\$ 1,504	6.07%	0.62%	\$ 1,078		\$ 1,078
LELAND AND GRAY	\$ 1,411,716	\$ 1,697,365	\$ 1,474,087	\$ (223,278)	-13.15%	34.90%	\$ 60,503	\$ 32,089	\$ 28,415
Total Expenses	\$ 3,436,234	\$ 3,936,283	\$ 4,223,369	\$ 287,086	7.29%	100.00%	\$ 173,346	\$ 173,346	\$ (0)

Revenues minus expenses \$ 0 \$ (16,603) \$ 0 \$ (75,205) 453%

FY 18 Extraordinary Rev/Exp Breakout

Town	Expense	Less 50,000	Exp over 50K	90% Revenue	
Dover	\$ 52,405	\$ (50,000)	\$ 2,405	\$ 2,165	
Jamaica	\$ 52,781	\$ (50,000)	\$ 2,781	\$ 2,503	
Marlboro	\$ 198,200	\$ (150,000)	\$ 48,200	\$ 43,380	
Wardsboro	\$ 253,567	\$ (150,000)	\$ 103,567	\$ 93,210	
LGUHS	\$ 85,654	\$ (50,000)	\$ 35,654	\$ 32,089	
Total	\$ 642,607	\$ (450,000)	\$ 192,607	\$ 173,346	\$ 247,371

NOTE: Districts that employ a part-time para will have additional costs on their local budget.

NewBrook Elementary Principal's Report



NewBrook Elementary Principal's Report

December 23, 2016

Introduction

I have been the principal at NewBrook Elementary School for the past two-and-a-half school years. I love working at NewBrook; I enjoy forming relationships with our students and staff and the families that make up our community. NewBrook students are thoughtful, kind and fun and their families are supportive and involved in their school life.

As members of the NewBrook staff, we work together with purpose. We enjoy our students and make decisions with the children in mind. I am thankful for the support and feedback that members of the NewBrook staff have offered me and for the relationships that they form and maintain with one another and with the children and families that we together serve. I feel very lucky to be working in a school and supervisory union that attracts such high quality and student-centered staff. I also am thankful to work in the beautiful West River Valley.

Staffing, Professional Development and Curriculum

We hired some excellent **new staff** this year: Mr. Brady Andersen, our new Special Educator, Mr. Andrew Worden, our new physical education teacher and Ms. Marisa Pisani, our new classroom para-educator. Mr. Worden has been accepted into an officer training program in the United States Marine Core, and though we will miss him, we are all very proud of him and thankful for his service to country. Gia Casella, our after-school program coordinator, will be facilitating our physical education classes for the balance of the school year. Mr. Ryan Cutting will also be joining us in January of 2017. He will be our new Academic Support teacher, working part time to help us to appropriately intervene with every student we serve.

Last spring, the NewBrook Leadership Team recommended that we re-assign one of our upper level teachers to the first grade in order to better serve our **large first grade** class of 23 children. We formed two balanced groups of our first graders and both classrooms are inviting places for the children to learn and grow together. Ms. Paradis took on this challenging re-assignment with delight.

We are very proud of our 2016-17 **master schedule**, which we developed over the second half of the last school year. Our schedule includes **skills blocks** for all grade levels. We dedicate these blocks of time to intervention and enrichment. Vertical teams were created in order to allow staff to best serve our students in our skills blocks, clustered in grade bands, as follows: K-1, 2-3, 4 and 5-6. Our staff benefit from weekly **common planning time** in order to plan for appropriate groupings for enrichment and intervention, using a "all hands on deck" approach, including the classroom teachers, our special education staff and our interventionists.

On the supervisory union level, we have made some fundamental changes in our **WCSU office staff**. Mr. Bill Anton is our new superintendent. Mr. Anton was Principal of the Year while working at The Dover School and as our superintendent is continuing to illustrate his dedication to providing all children and educators with opportunities to grow and be successful. Ms. Jen McKusick is our new WCSU Director of Curriculum. In this new position, Ms. McKusick is working as a support for our schools as we work to improve our service to children. Our new WCSU Business Manager, Ms. Laurie Garland, hit the ground running and has been a great support to NewBrook as we planned our budget, our kitchen renovation project and our solar project. Mr. Anton and his staff are hard at work to further unify the WCSU member schools, creating efficiencies and supporting our structures for professional learning, while recognizing the individual goals and personalities of the communities to which each member school is in service.

NewBrook Elementary Principal's Report (cont'd)

Communication and Technology

We are continuing to find new ways to utilize technology in order to enhance instruction and to support communication. Universal computer access (**1:1 computing**) allows NewBrook teachers to utilize web-based lessons and software, **Gmail** communication and age-appropriate, cloud-based editing processes. Hoping to improve communication with our community, we continue to update the NewBrook School website and **FaceBook** page regularly with posts that include celebrations, announcements, photos and other important dates.

Our use of the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium** (SBAC) web-based assessment continues to evolve. Vermont joined with a group of other states to develop the next generation of educational tests for both Literacy and Mathematics. The **SBAC** is aligned with the Common Core State Standards, uses the latest computer adaptive testing technologies and will provide a range of summative, interim and formative tools that we will be able to use for a variety of educational purposes. For the past two years, we have utilized the interim SBAC assessment with our students as part of our WCSU-wide assessment plan. Our staff uses this formative data, along with other local and nationally normed assessments, as a tool to create their student groupings and to track each student's progress. Along with these nationally-normed assessments, NewBrook staff regularly offer our students a wide array of ways that they can show what they have learned, appealing to our broad group of learners.

We are planning two **technology safety trainings** this spring, one for our elder students and one in the evening for families and community members.

School Climate and Enrichment Programs

The staff at NewBrook is dedicated to maintaining a school climate in which all children are comfortable and available to learn. Our **school-wide expectations** are clear: *We are Safe, We are Engaged, We are Respectful*. By focusing upon these three simple guiding principles, we all measure our behaviors and attitudes accordingly. At NewBrook, we regularly acknowledge students and teachers for their accomplishments, while providing varied opportunities for parents, families and community members to take part in our programming on a regular basis.

During our monthly **All-School Sings**, we take the time to acknowledge our students. We read the names of all of the students who have been given *Falcon Awards* during the month. *Falcon Awards* are mailed home in recognition of students for their acts of kindness or their academic accomplishments. During our All-School Sings, we also recognize our *Student of the Month*, chosen by our staff. Each of our specials teachers award students who have been especially engaged in our broad range of enriching opportunities. We even award a classroom with the *Golden Plunger*, as a thanks for their exceptional tidiness. I give the *Principal's Award* as well, in acknowledgement of student leadership and service to school. For staff, our *Golden Apple* is a peer recognition award that is passed monthly between staff. Parents, guardians and members of the community are welcome to attend our **All-School Sings**, which are posted outside the school, on our website and on our Facebook page.

We plan our eight week **Winter Sports Program** on Wednesdays beginning in January. We offer ice skating in Brattleboro, skiing/snowboarding at Stratton, cross-country skiing at Grafton and snowshoeing and rock climbing at NewBrook. This year, some of our youngest students will be taking part in nature activities led by visiting staff from the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center. Children who take part in the Stratton program receive a season lift pass at Stratton and ALL NewBrook students are eligible for a free season pass at Mount Snow!

Our **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports** work continues. **PBiS** is a proactive, school-wide, systems approach to improving social and academic competence for all students. We plan school-wide incentives and celebrations for our students and collect behavioral data to allow pre-emptive decision-making.

NewBrook Elementary Principal's Report (cont'd)

We also teach our students the specifics of the **Bullying, Hazing & Harassment** law in our classrooms every fall.

We are planning our annual **Diversity Week** in January, our school-wide theme week intended to encourage our students to consider a wide range of issues surrounding human difference in our country. Ms. Suzanne Paugh, our art teacher, wrote a grant and hired an artist in residence to work with our students on a project that will become a permanent installation at NewBrook. We will have many small-group sessions, run by school staff and guests. Ms. Anderberg, our school chef, is planning to widen our palates with foods from around the world. As we have for the past two years, Diversity Week will culminate with a student drumming performance led by a guest musician and educator, Mr. Todd Roach.

Our fifth graders spend a week at **Keewaydin Environmental Education Center** (KEEC) every spring. This five day, four night trip is paid for with local funds. KEEC offers hands-on, experiential learning in a variety of natural habitats, all within only a few miles of their campus in Salisbury, Vermont.

Our sixth graders fund raise all year to pay for their **Sixth Grade Trip**, which is a two night three day educational experience in beautiful Montreal. Thanks to Ms. VanPamelen for all of her efforts to make this wonderful experience happen for our students.

Our **Spelling Bee Team** always participates effectively and competitively in the WCSU spelling bee!

A Twenty-First Century Grant funds the majority of our after school program, **L'AFTER**, which is a critical part of our school's programming. We offer a healthy snack, guided homework support and a wide variety of educational and enriching activities and programming. **L'AFTER** activities are taught by community members and school staff.

Our **Educational Support Team** is a voluntary committee whose goal is to support struggling students, their families and their teachers. We meet weekly to create immediately actionable plans, to pair students with outside supports and to brainstorm and share practices.

Community

Our annual **Open House and Potluck Dinner**, on September 29, was well-attended and solely positive. Staff relayed information about communications, homework and classwork expectations. Teachers shared student work and elaborated on units in progress and curricular information. The people of Brookline and Newfane are excellent cooks!

Our Farm to School Committee planned our third annual **Community Farm and Field Day** on November 4, 2016. Our students learned about the origins of our food, composting, vermiculture, and the history of food preservation. They tasted a wide variety of foods, created art projects and played field games. Our students played a waste-sorting relay race with a member of the Windham Solid Waste Management District staff. Community members volunteered to bake pizzas in the adobe pizza oven that we built two years ago. We celebrated at the end of the day singing together.

Our fourth annual **Harvest Celebration and Art Show**, on November 17, was very well-attended and super-fun. We packed the multi-purpose room with our students, their families and friends. Our staff made soup, our PTO provided desserts and we listened to live music while featuring our students' art work.

We are hosting monthly **Milk & Cookies & Stories** events with Brookline and Newfane children who are not yet attending Kindergarten. We meet in the NewBrook Elementary School Library and enjoy milk and cookies and a story read by the school Principal! Our intention is to encourage these families to build relationships with one another and to invite new families into our educational community.

NewBrook Elementary Principal's Report (cont'd)

NewBrook students reach out to the community by taking part in a **Food Drive** for the Townshend Food Shelf and Project Feed the Thousands. Our **UNICEF** fundraising was a huge success as well.

Energy Committee Update

On October 23, 2014, the Brookline and Newfane voters passed two articles that “give the Brookline/Newfane Joint Board the ability (1) to enter into a Solar Net Metering Credit Purchase Agreement for up to 20 years and (2) to install a new air-to-air heat pump system financed through a municipal loan of up to \$330,000.” Our progress is as follows:

HVAC Project

- ARC Mechanical installed 23 air-to-air heat pump units and the necessary piping, control wiring and electric. They installed 4 condenser units, two to the south of the building and two to the east of the building as well as two fresh air units on the eastern slope of our roof line.
- In February of 2016, we began heating our building with these new units and then took the edge off of the humid summer air in June.

Solar Project

A contract with SunEdison was signed on October 2, 2015. However, as you may be aware, SunEdison declared bankruptcy in April and is currently restructuring. On November 9, 2016 the members of the NewBrook Energy Committee met with a representative of Vesco Energy Services, based in South Burlington, whom SunEdison has contracted to oversee our permitting process. We are excited to report that SunEdison expects our solar project will proceed according to the following timeline:

November, 2016 - 45 Day Notice filed
December, 2016 - CPG Application Submitted
March, 2017 - Permits Approved
April, 2017 - Construction Start
May 2017 - Modules on Site
July 2017 - Interim Completion and Interconnection Approved
August 2017 - Final Closing

Kitchen Improvements and Offering

We are in the process of developing a kitchen facility improvement plan. We plan to work within our budget and capital savings to make the kitchen improvements necessary to enable us to purchase and process more local foods and to further reduce our non-recyclable waste. We are collaborating with a local design company who is working with us to create a phased plan to expand and improve our kitchen. We are considering leasing a small, commercial dishwasher and purchasing an additional prep sink and prep table.

For the third year in a row we were awarded a **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program USDA Grant** for the 2015-2016 school year. This money allows us to provide a daily fresh fruit and vegetable snack to every student, at no cost to families during our morning snack time. We serve breakfast and lunch as well.

NewBrook Elementary Principal's Report (cont'd)

2017-18 Budget

The administration proposed this FY18 budget in order to continue to create a school experience for every NewBrook student that will result in their academic, social and emotional progress. The request would provide us with the ability to meet the needs of each child while caring for the investments that have been made in the past.

I would like to highlight the following:

- Our budget includes an increase for our high quality afterschool program, L'AFTER. Our 21st Century Grant funding is waning and we are responsible for additional local funding this year.
- The new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes more specific direction around the spending of our federal Title I grant funds. To be compliant, we need to fund our Information Technology (IT) position with local funds and hire a .5 FTE licensed Academic Support teacher to be paid with our Title I funding.
- Our Special Education spending has increased due to our growing case load. We hired a second Special Educator for FY17 and have budgeted for the position again in FY18.
- With the passing of Act 148 all Special Education revenues will be paid to the central office. The expense that you see in the NewBrook budget is a "net" cost of special education. NewBrook's total Special Education expenses for FY 18 are estimated to be a 31% increase from FY 17.
- In order to be compliant with Act 166, we are proposing \$93,000 for FY18 to cover the cost of 10 hours of pre-K per week for the three and four year olds in Brookline and Newfane.
- The mandated waste management program is costing us an extra \$2,000 per year. We need to have a compost dumpster along with our trash and recycling dumpsters.

Closing Statement

Again, I would like to thank the entire NewBrook community for all of the support I have received as your Principal. We are all quite proud of our smooth opening to the 2016-17 school year and we will continue to move forward as a school, providing our students with the essential skills for success in today's world. The proposed budget will allow us to deliver our balanced, skill-based curriculum while supporting the essential and enriching initiatives already in place.

Please visit our website (newbrookschoool.org) or our Facebook page for regular updates, event notices and news items. If you can, please join us for one of our monthly All-School Sings to get a flavor for the great things that NewBrook has to offer. Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me to set up an appointment if you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to tour the building. I have time for you!

The school staff and I are looking forward to a wonderful second semester with the children of Brookline and Newfane. Thank you all for your support as we work with the children that you entrust to us.

Sincerely,



Scotty Tabachnick
School Principal



Please  us on FaceBook for updates!

www.newbrookschoool.org

2018 Proposed Brookline School Budget

REVENUE	FY 16	FY16 Actual	FY17	FY18	\$\$ Variance (+/-)	%Variance (+/-)
	Budget	(unaudited)	Budget	Proposed Budget		
Local Revenue						
Interest Income	\$ 35	\$ 122	\$ 35	\$ 33	\$ (2)	
Rent	\$ 13,100	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	
Misc Local Donations	\$ -	\$ 36		\$ -	\$ -	
Subtotal	\$ 13,135	\$ 158	\$ 35	\$ 33	\$ (2)	-5.5%
Subgrants from WCSU						
Sub Grant CFP	\$ 10,175	\$ -	\$ 10,419	\$ 16,673	\$ 6,254	
Sub Grant Medicaid	\$ 3,888	\$ -	\$ 4,587	\$ 6,846	\$ 2,259	
Subtotal	\$ 14,063	\$ -	\$ 15,006	\$ 23,519	\$ 8,513	56.7%
State Revenue						
General State Aid	\$ 664,691	\$ 651,033	\$ 668,393	\$ 664,377	\$ (4,016)	
Small Schools Grant	\$ -	\$ 6,440		\$ -	\$ -	
Transportation	\$ 9,041	\$ 9,401	\$ 10,008	\$ 9,339	\$ (669)	
Subtotal	\$ 673,732	\$ 666,874	\$ 678,401	\$ 673,716	\$ (4,685)	-0.7%
Special Education State Revenue						
Special Ed Block Grant	\$ 17,458	\$ 17,458	\$ 17,096	\$ -	\$ (17,096)	
Special Ed Intensive Aid	\$ 23,322	\$ 48,184	\$ 42,271	\$ 5,670	\$ (36,601)	
Central Early Ed Aid	\$ 5,499	\$ 5,499	\$ 6,025	\$ -	\$ (6,025)	
Subtotal	\$ 46,279	\$ 71,141	\$ 65,392	\$ 5,670	\$ (59,722)	-91.3%
State and Local Food Program Revenue						
Local Food Sales	\$ 4,917	\$ -	\$ 4,757	\$ 3,739	\$ (1,018)	
Sub Grant Federal Food Prog	\$ 13,237	\$ 11,781	\$ 16,370	\$ 11,647	\$ (4,723)	
Subtotal	\$ 18,154	\$ 11,781	\$ 21,127	\$ 15,386	\$ (5,741)	-27.2%
Total	\$ 765,363	\$ 749,954	\$ 779,961	\$ 718,324	\$ (61,637)	-7.9%
EXPENDITURE						
Transfer to NewBrook	\$ 765,363	\$ 714,743	\$ 779,961	\$ 718,324	\$ (61,637)	-7.9%
Surplus/Deficit	\$ -	\$ 35,211	\$ -	\$ -		

Three Prior Years Comparison

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES
ONLY

District: **Brookline**
County: **Windham**

T033
Windham Central

Property dollar
equivalent yield
10,076

Homestead tax rate
per \$10,076 of
spending per
equalized pupil
1.00

Income dollar equivalent yield per
2.0% of household income
11,875

Expenditures	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	1.
1. Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$734,241	\$765,777	\$779,961	\$718,324	1.
2. <i>plus</i> Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-	2.
3. <i>minus</i> Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-	3.
4. Locally adopted or warned budget	\$734,241	\$765,777	\$779,961	\$718,324	4.
5. <i>plus</i> Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-	5.
6. <i>plus</i> Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-	6.
7. Total Budget	\$734,241	\$765,777	\$779,961	\$718,324	7.
8. S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	8.
9. Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	9.
Revenues					
10. Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$162,689	\$114,744	\$111,568	\$53,947	10.
11. <i>plus</i> Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-	-	11.
12. <i>minus</i> All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-	12.
13. Offsetting revenues	\$162,689	\$114,744	\$111,568	\$53,947	13.
14. Education Spending	\$571,552	\$651,033	\$668,393	\$664,377	14.
15. Equalized Pupils	46.40	47.18	46.02	43.90	15. (2)
16. Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$12,317.93	\$13,798.92	\$14,523.97	\$15,133.87	16.
17. <i>minus</i> Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-	17.
18. <i>minus</i> Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	18.
19. <i>minus</i> Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	19.
20. <i>minus</i> Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
21. <i>minus</i> Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	21.
22. <i>minus</i> Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	22.
23. <i>minus</i> Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	23.
24. <i>minus</i> Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	NA	-	-	-	24.
25. Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$16,166 \$16,166.00	threshold = \$17,103 \$17,103.00	Allowable growth \$14,095.60	threshold = \$17,386 \$17,386.00	25.
26. <i>plus</i> Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-	-	26.
27. Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$12,318	\$13,799	\$14,524	\$15,133.87	27.
28. District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	132.665% <small>based on \$9.285</small>	145.881% <small>based on \$9.285</small>	149.716% <small>based on yield \$9.701</small>	150.197% <small>based on yield \$10.076</small>	28.
Prorating the local tax rate					
29. Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$15,133.87 ÷ (\$10,076.00 / \$1.000)]	\$1.3001 <small>based on \$0.98</small>	\$1.4442 <small>based on \$0.99</small>	\$1.4972 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.5020 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	29.
30. Percent of Brookline equalized pupils not in a union school district	58.72%	60.08%	60.24%	56.40%	30.
31. Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (56.40% x \$1.50)	\$0.7634	\$0.8677	\$0.9019	\$0.8471	31.
32. Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	104.49%	104.19%	98.52%	94.17%	32.
33. Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$0.8471 / 94.17%)	\$0.7306 <small>based on \$0.98</small>	\$0.8328 <small>based on \$0.99</small>	\$0.9154 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$0.8995 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	33.
If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a PARTIAL homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.					
34. Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [((\$15,133.87 + \$11,875) x 2.00%)]	2.39% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	2.63% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	2.67% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.55% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	34.
35. Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (56.40% x 2.55%)	1.40% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	1.58% <small>based on 1.80%</small>	1.61% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	1.44% <small>based on 0.00%</small>	35.
36. Percent of equalized pupils at Leland And Gray UHSD #34	41.28%	39.92%	39.76%	43.60%	36.
37.	-	-	-	-	37.

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$10,076 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$11,875 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.550. New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and the income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.
 - Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
 - The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

Three Prior Years Comparison (cont'd)

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES
ONLY

District: Leland & Gray UHSD County: Windham		U034 Windham Central		Property dollar equivalent yield	Homestead tax rate per \$10.076 of spending per equalized pupil	
				10,076	1.00	
				11,875	Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income	
Expenditures		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	
1.	Adopted or warned union district budget (including special programs and full technical center expenditures)	\$7,018,185	\$7,037,337	\$7,120,218	\$6,307,157	1.
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at union district meeting	-	-	-	-	2.
3.	Adopted or warned union district budget plus articles	\$7,018,185	\$7,037,337	\$7,120,218	\$6,307,157	3.
4.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-	4.
5.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-	5.
6.	Total Union Budget	\$7,018,185	\$7,037,337	\$7,120,218	\$6,307,157	6.
7.	S.U. assessment (included in union budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	7.
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (if included in union expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	8.
Revenues						
9.	Union revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, federal, etc.)	\$1,960,375	\$1,958,419	\$2,183,162	\$1,129,214	9.
10.	Total offsetting union revenues	\$1,960,375	\$1,958,419	\$2,183,162	\$1,129,214	10.
Education Spending		\$5,057,810	\$5,078,918	\$4,937,056	\$5,177,943	
11.	Leland & Gray UHSD equalized pupils	316.38	309.37	296.59	277.43	11.
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil		\$15,986.50	\$16,416.97	\$16,646.06	\$18,663.96	
14.	minus Less net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	\$755.41	\$752.97	\$773.95	\$724	14.
15.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per equpup)	\$2.72	\$14.75	\$22.97	\$22	15.
16.	minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per equpup)	-	-	-	-	16.
17.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per equpup)	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per equpup)	-	-	-	-	18.
19.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per equpup)	-	-	-	-	19.
20.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per equpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
21.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per equpup)	NA	-	-	-	21.
22.	Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$16,166 \$16,166.00	threshold = \$17,103 \$17,103.00	Allowable growth \$16,611.02	threshold = \$17,355 \$17,388.00	22.
23.	plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-	\$531.35	23.
24.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$15,987	\$16,417	\$16,646	\$19,195.31	24.
25.	Union spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	172.176% based on \$9.285	173.550% based on \$9.285	171.591% based on yield \$9.701	190.505% based on yield \$10.076	25.
26.	Anticipated equalized union homestead tax rate to be prorated [\$19,195.31 - (\$10,076.00 / \$1,000)]	\$1.6873 based on \$9.94	\$1.7182 based on \$9.98	\$1.7159 based on \$1.00	\$1.9051 based on \$1.00	26.
Prorated homestead union tax rates for members of Leland & Gray UHSD						
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	
T033	Brookline	0.6965	0.6859	0.6822	0.8306	43.60%
T104	Jamaica	0.8462	0.8460	0.9065	0.9318	48.91%
T137	Newfane	0.9233	0.9818	0.9535	1.0120	53.19%
T208	Townshend	0.9219	0.9218	0.9110	1.0080	52.91%
T246	Windham	0.9071	0.8536	0.7073	0.7062	37.07%
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
27.	Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated from Leland & Gray UHSD [((\$19,195.31 - \$11,875) x 2.00%)]	3.10% based on 1.80%	3.12% based on 1.80%	3.06% based on 2.00%	3.23% based on 2.00%	27.
Prorated union income cap percentage for members of Leland & Gray UHSD						
		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	
T033	Brookline	1.28%	1.25%	1.22%	1.41%	43.60%
T104	Jamaica	1.55%	1.54%	1.62%	1.58%	48.91%
T137	Newfane	1.70%	1.75%	1.70%	1.72%	53.19%
T208	Townshend	1.69%	1.67%	1.62%	1.71%	52.91%
T246	Windham	1.67%	1.55%	1.26%	1.20%	37.07%
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	-	

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$10,076 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$11,875 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1,550. New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and the income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.
 - Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
 - The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

Dedication

2016 Town Report Is Dedicated to the Brookline Meeting House Advisory Committee Members.

The Select board is very lucky to have such an active group of people volunteering their time and energy on the revitalization of our beautiful historic 1836 church building, now known as The Brookline Meeting House. The building was deeded to the Town of Brookline by the Brookline Ladies' Benevolent Society as that group of women was disbanding. With the building now the town's responsibility, a small group of residents established the Brookline Meeting House Advisory Committee. With the support of the select board and generous donations over the past few years as well as the money saved up by the Ladies Benevolent Society much work has been done on this town jewel.

Currently the committee is chaired by Peter Meyer but originally Stan Noga was the chairperson. There are five other active members working together to get grants researched and bids processed. Bruce Mello (liaison to the select board), Kerry Bourne, Helen Samuels, Lee Ann Parker and Mark Bills make up the current committee.

The best way to fully grasp the scope of the work already done on the building is to review the agendas and minutes for the meetings which are posted on the town's website. Their progress has been remarkable and for this reason, the 2016 Town Report is dedicated to them. The group meets during the warmer months in the Meeting House every other Tuesday on opposite weeks from the select board meetings. Since the building is not heated, the meetings are held at the Town Hall during the colder months.

The meeting schedule is reduced during the winter months but agendas are posted online if anyone is interested in sitting in with the group as they actively plan the next project or two.

Past projects that have been completed include making sure the land under the church and the school building are properly recorded in the deeds.

Stan Noga helped get that detail done when the building was first transferred to the town. Structural repairs which stabilized the steeple began in the crawlspace under the floor of the sanctuary right on

through to the queen posts and trusses in the attic area. This major project eliminated the tilt in the steeple and leveled out the floor of the building. While the roof is still being improved, there was some slate patching done on the north side of the building with slate obtained from Craigslist. One of the most visible projects to date was the window repair done this past summer.

Eleven windows were removed, broken panes were replaced with period glass obtained from EBay and the wood was properly primed, installed and painted. The Advisory Committee ran a very successful Sponsor a Window campaign which was well supported. Mold was treated, bat guano was cleaned up, and landscaping has been started. Volunteers met and cut back brush to open up the south border of the property. The committee raised money by auctioning off the 1.5 cords of mixed hardwood that was cut during the cleanup.

One of the upcoming projects will be the repair of the belfry roof and pinnacle balustrades. The committee successfully applied for and earned a matching grant from the State Preservation Trust which will help pay for this project. A donor has made a restrictive gift of \$1,000.00 to make improvements in the current kitchen in the building. The vintage floor and appliances along with the plumbing date back to the 1950's. The bathroom is not ADA compliant nor are there any wheelchair ramps into the building yet. The community room has a drop ceiling that needs some attention and the chimney could certainly use some repointing to start with.

The Brookline Meeting House Advisory Committee envision the building evolving into a space where various activities can occur. There is talk of us using the building to put on plays, hosting musical events, and even eventually being able to have our annual Town Meeting held there. So far two weddings have been celebrated in the sanctuary, and a 4-H demonstration on horse care was held the community room. Family celebrations, graduation parties, ice cream socials on the lawn are all possible examples of what the future may hold for this beautiful building. The Brookline Community Group has raised money to support these types of events in town. The Meeting House committee has also held a

Dedication (cont'd)

trick or treat night this past Halloween to get people to stop by and see the inside of the building and to encourage more residents to get involved.

You are invited to join this devoted group of volunteers at any time. Do you have a few hours a month to help out? Contact Peter Meyer and let him know of your interest. This is OUR building, it can be whatever we want it to be. The committee is proud to say that the work being done is from donation, not your tax dollar.

The Select board wants to again thank the members of the Brookline Meeting House Advisory Committee for all of their hard work, devotion and care shown in the preservation of our historic church building. Your drive and accomplishments have made such a difference and it is much appreciated. Thank you... Thank you... Thank you!

In Memory

In Memory of... In the past we have made note of one or two residents who passed away during the year. This year our vital records page listed the births of three babies and the death of six of our neighbors. It was so sad to learn that two young residents of Brookline passed away after fighting cancer for many years.

Lori Amidon was only 57 when she died in March. Her five-year battle against cancer ended peacefully with her loving husband Sam at her side. We shall miss seeing her horses peacefully graze in their field at the base of Putney Mountain. She is missed by all who knew her.

We were all very saddened when Trevor Moore lost his battle against cancer. He fought hard and long, seventeen years to be exact after being diagnosed. While we shall remember his sense of humor and love of everything outdoors and of course his dogs, it is heartbreaking to all those who survived Trevor to see his life end at 30 years of age. Much too young.

Only ten days later, Bill Pagach passed away with his wife of 42 years by his side. How do you explain to his three grandchildren and his many nieces, nephews and cousins that he will no longer be able to take them hunting and fishing? Those who gathered at his life celebration made donations to the NewBrook Junior Fire & Rescue in his name ensuring his memory lives on.

Mitchell Ellson passed away in the summer. A carpenter who was able to demonstrate Yankee ingenuity when he built things and a man who loved his family dearly. Again, a neighbor who passed away but is remembered fondly by many.

Gloria Rouleau passed away at her home in Brookline. She led a full life serving as an honest and committed worker. Gloria enjoyed the simple things in life like her favorite TV shows and of course her loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren. May she rest in peace.

When Betsey Regan passed away this fall, she left a legacy of service behind her. Born in 1921, Betsey lived a very long and service-oriented life. She was a nurse who retired in our little town of Brookline. It was here that she gave of her time and talents knitting hats for children, playing music for anyone to enjoy and working on projects with the Ladies' Aid Society. She too had the pleasure of spoiling her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We miss her.

While you pause to think of those who have passed on this year, we are happy to welcome the three newest residents born in 2016. Dylan, Cora and Abigail. May their memories of growing up in Brookline be filled with happiness, love and an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a caring community.

Notes

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