

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 Monday and Wednesday 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, 7:00 P.M.
Leland & Gray Union High & Middle 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
Dog Ownership	See page 35 of this report
Landfill	Access permits available at District Scale house
Fire & Rescue.....	9-1-1 or 1-603-352-1100
Fish & Game License.....	See Town Clerk

Auditors' Report

We the auditors of Brookline have examined the financial statements of the Town of Brookline and the Brookline School District for the year ended June 30, 2007. In work sessions, the books, supporting vouchers, orders and bank statements were verified. The financial statements fairly present, to the best of our knowledge, the financial condition of town and school accounts. We would like to thank Penny Harrington and Lisa Rucker for their assistance throughout our audit. Also, a big THANKS to John Reinhardt and Dan Meehl at 2WiredGuys, LLC for their expertise in the design and completion of the Annual Report.

Sheila Gokey
Heidi Nystrom
Sue Clark

Warning for 2008 Brookline Town Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of Brookline are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Multipurpose Room of the Brookline School in the said Town of Brookline on Tuesday, the fourth of March 2008 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 Auditors' Report?
- ARTICLE 7. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise by taxation to defray Town Expenses?
- ARTICLE 8. To see what dates the Town will vote to pay taxes?
- ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$5,228.00 in continuing support of the following organizations?

ORGANIZATION	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2009
	Approved	Requested	Proposed
Morningside House	100	100	100
Women's Crisis Center	650	650	650
Visiting Nurse Alliance	1000	1000	1000
VT Center for Independent Living	80	80	80
R.S.V.P.	150	150	150
Youth Services	255	255	255
Valley Cares, Inc.	724	724	724
George D. Aiken RC&D	100	100	100
Historical Society of Windham	250	250	250
United Way of Windham County	175	175	175
Grace Cottage Foundation	300	300	300
Brattleboro Area Drop-in Center	100	100	100
Council on Aging	265	265	265
SEVCA	465	465	465
Connecticut River Transit, Inc.	250	250	250
Windham County Reads	200	200	200
Green Up Vermont	50	50	50
West River Watershed Alliance	110	114	114

- ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$8,000.00 for support of the NewBrook Fire Association?
- ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$3,000.00 to defray future replacement or purchase of highway maintenance equipment?
- ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$3,000.00 to defray future bridge repairs?

Warning for 2008 Brookline Town Meeting (cont'd)

- ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$7,500.00 for improvements to Ellen Ware Road?
- ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$11,675.00 to support Rescue Inc. for ambulance services?
- ARTICLE 15. Shall the Town vote to transfer the balance from the existing Town Office Addition Fund into a General Building Fund?
- ARTICLE 16. Shall the Town vote a sum of up to \$10,000.00 for continued restoration of the Historic Brookline Round School House?
- ARTICLE 17. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2008.

Mike Fontaine, Archie Clark, Mike Winot, Joyce Meehl, David Ryder

Warning for 2008 Brookline School District Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of Brookline, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the School Multipurpose room in said Town on Tuesday, the 4th day of March, 2008 at 11 o'clock A.M. to consider and act upon the following articles:

- ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator and Treasurer, as required by law.
- ARTICLE 2: To elect a Leland and Gray Union High School Director for a term of three years, as required by law.
- ARTICLE 3: To elect a Town School District Director for a term of three years, as required by law.
- ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters of the Town of Brookline authorize the Board of School Directors to apply for a loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program and borrow an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for water system improvements.
- ARTICLE 7: To see what sum of money the School District will vote for the Elementary School Board business.
- ARTICLE 8: To authorize the school Directors to accept any donations of land, gifts or monies for school use.
- ARTICLE 9: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Dated this 16th of January 2008

Samantha Bovat, Christopher Maken, Cherish Russ

Town Officers Elected

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator.....	David Parker Jr.	2008
Town Clerk.....	Penny Harrington	2008
Treasurer.....	Penny Harrington	2008
Delinquent Tax Collector.....	Penny Harrington	2008
Select board	Joyce Meehl	2008
	Michael Fontaine.....	2009
	Archie Clark.....	2010
	David Ryder (appointed)	2008
	Michael Winot(appointed)	2008
Listers	Marsha Omand	2008
	Stan Noga	2009
	Doug Wellman	2010
Auditors.....	Sheila Davis	2008
	Heidi Nystrom	2009
	Sue Clark	2010
School Directors	Cherish Russ.....	2008
	Christopher Maken.....	2009
	Samantha Bovat	2010
LGUHS School Director		Vacant
Cemetery Commissioners	Jim Walsh	2012
	Howard Osgood.....	2011
	Cynthia Nau	2010
	Eloise Winot	2009
	John Morrison	2008
First Constable		
Second Constable		
Trustee of Public Funds	Penny Harrington	2008
Town Agent	Lester D Rink.....	2008
Town Grand Juror	Lester D Rink.....	2008
Town Representatives.....	Mike Obuchowski	2008
	Carolyn Partridge.....	2008
Justice of the Peace.....	Marsha Omand	2008
	Cynthia Nau	2008
	Pamela Swing.....	2008
	Marjorie Ray	2008
	Arthur Wellman.....	2008

Town Officers Appointed

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Assistant Town Clerk	Kendra Brooks	2008
	Bernadine Borgeson	2008
Assistant Treasurer	Kendra Brooks	2008
Road Commissioners	Michael Fontaine Michael Winot	
Health Officer	Archie Clark	
Assistant Health Officer	James Walsh	
Fire Warden.....	Lester D Rink	
Town Service Officer	Betty Wellman	
Fence Viewers	Lester D Rink Lester Allbee Dennis Harrington	
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber.....	Lester D Rink	
Tree Warden	Lester D Rink	
Weigher of Coal.....	Johnny Swing	
Windham Regional Commissioners.....	Cynthia Nau	
Civil Defense Chairman	Guy Tanza	
Pound Keeper.....	VT/NH Vet Clinic	
Historical Society.....	Cynthia Nau Arthur Wellman Jim Walsh	
SEVCA		
WCSWMD (landfill)		Vacant
Planning Commission	Barbara Bourne Kim Sankey Cynthia Nau	2008
	Tom Clynes Charles Ezequelle	

2006 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes, March 6, 2007

David Parker, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. stating that it was the coldest morning of the year. David read the warning, then asked the floor to suspend the rules to allow our Representatives Carolyn Partridge and Michael Obuchowski speak. Motion made. Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 1. *To elect a Moderator.*

Margaret Carosona nominated David Parker Jr. It was seconded Courtney moved to close the nominations and the clerk to cast 1 ballot for David Parker Jr.

ARTICLE 2. *To elect a Town Clerk.*

Sue Clark nominated Penny Harrington. Nominations closed. Penny Harrington elected Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 3. *To elect a Town Treasurer.*

Sue Clark nominated Penny Harrington. Nominations closed. Penny Harrington elected Town Treasurer.

ARTICLE 4. *To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes.*

Sue Clark nominated Penny Harrington. Nominations closed Penny Harrington elected Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

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

Selectperson—Joyce Meehl nominated Archie Clark for the 3 (three) year term. Nominations closed. Archie Clark elected to selectboard for three years.

Lister—Marsha Omand nominated Doug Wellman for the 3 (three) year term. Nominations closed. Doug Wellman elected to Listers for the 3 (three) year term.

Auditors—Wayne Winot nominated Sue Clark for the 3 (three) year term. Nominations closed. Sue Clark elected to Auditors for the 3 (three) year term.

Cemetery Commission—Wayne Winot declined running again for the 5 (five) year term. Penny Harrington nominated. She declined. Mike Winot nominated he declined. Jim Walsh nominated. Jim Walsh elected to the Cemetery Commission for a 5 (five) year term.

1st Constable—Jim Walsh nominated. He declined. Archie Clark spoke that in the past if no one was elected to the 1st & 2nd Constable position that it was left that the Selectboard would appoint the position.

It was passed by a voice vote to have the Select Board appoint the positions of 1st & 2nd Constable.

Trustee of Public Fund—Penny Harrington nominated. Nominations closed. Penny Harrington elected Trustee of Public Funds.

Town Agent—Sue Clark nominated Lester D Rink. Nominations closed. Lester D Rink elected Town Agent.

Town Grand Juror—Cynthia Nau nominated Lester D Rink. Nominations closed. Lester D Rink elected Town Grand Juror.

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

It was moved to accept the Auditors Report. Passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. *To see what sum of monies the Town will vote to raise by taxation to defray Town expenses?*

Joyce Meehl made a motion to raise \$120,268.00 by taxation to defray Town expenses. Archie Clark seconded. Open for discussion.

Heidi Nystrom made an amendment to raise the salaries of the selectboard from \$250.00 to \$750.00 for the Chair and from \$200 to \$500.00 for the other members. Discussion.

Lori Greenburg asked about the upcoming Article on two additional Board members. Joyce said that the board would have to find the money in the budget. Stanley Noga, Jr. made an amendment to the amendment to add an additional \$1000.00 to the budget for the two members if the Article passes. Jim Walsh seconded. Discussion. Sally Fegly asked about all the zero's in the comparative budget. Archie explained that is because of the 6 month budget and the twelve month budget. Not all items had to be paid in both budgets. The question moved. The 2nd amendment \$122,368.00 passed

The first amendment now reads to raise \$122,368.00. No discussion. Amendment passed.

ARTICLE 7 now reads to raise \$122,368.00 to defray Town expenses.

Article passed.

ARTICLE 8. *To see what dates the Town will vote to pay taxes?*

Penny Harrington made a motion to pay taxes on 8/15/06, 11/15/06, 2/15/07, & 5/15/07. Open for discussion. Doug Wellman asked how the payment from the state would be applied and made an amendment to the article to apply across the four payments. It was discovered that the Warning in the Town Report did not include Article 16. Article 16 is in the Legal posted warning. Finding it legal Doug Wellman withdrew his amendment. A motion was made to suspend Article 8 so Article 16 could be discussed and voted on.

ARTICLE 16. *To see how the Town would like to apply the Property Tax Credit?*

A motion was made to apply the credit equally over the four payments. Discussion. Margaret Carasona agreed with the motion. Question called. Article passed

ARTICLE 8. *Motion to have payments due 8/15/07, 11/15/07, 2/15/08, 5/15/08.*

The question moved. Article passed.

Samantha Bovat asked if the rules could be suspended to allow Betty Ann Runge, principal of the school to speak. Moved and seconded. All in favor.

Betty Ann Runge mentioned how Brookline was 1 of

2006 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

2 schools in WCSU that tested very well in the NECAP testing. This test is only done in Vermont New Hampshire & Rhode Island. She stated that she is here on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, but is here anytime she is needed. Julie Lavorgna suggested that Betty Ann send emails to Julie on events and happenings at the school for Julie to put out on the town wide email.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$5,174.00 in continuing support of the following organizations?

Question moved and seconded

Penny Harrington spoke on Connecticut River Transit.

Judy Acampora spoke on RSVP.

Chris Maken asked for someone to speak on Youth Services.

Lori Greenburg spoke on Youth Services

Cynthia Nau spoke on Windham County Reads and Windham County Historical Society.

Marsha Omand spoke on Visiting Nurses and the great job that they do.

The question was moved and seconded All were in favor.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$8,000.00 for support of the NewBrook Fire Association.?

Courtney Nau moved the question. Discussion.

Gary Lavorgna wanted to thank everyone for all the cards and notes that are received. He mentioned there is going to be a Safety Training with CVPS this spring. He invited anyone to stop by the station on Sunday morning at 10:00 A.M. Joyce Meehl asked all volunteers to stand up so they could be recognize. Article passed All in favor.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$2,650.00 to pay for the Town's share of replacing the existing retaining wall near the Papoose Bridge intersection; in anticipation of grant approval from Vermont AOT Structure's Program?

Archie Clark moved the Article as written. Heidi Nystrom seconded. Archie Clark spoke on the retaining wall and the need to replace it. Article passed.

ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$3,000.00 to defray future replacement or purchase of highway maintenance equipment?

Archie moved the article as written. Gary Lavorgna seconded. Discussion Mike Fontaine spoke on the need for future equipment and to put a little bit at a time in an account so when it is needed some money will be there. It will be used for highway equipment only. Article passed.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$3,000.00 to defray future bridge repairs?

Archie moved the question. Sue Clark seconded. Archie spoke on establishing a bridge fund for future repairs.

The state has inspected the bridges in town and sent results. There is currently two bridges in town that will be needing some work done in the future. David Parker said it is similar to a rainy day fund.

Archie agreed. Joyce spoke on the need to do maintenance now on the bridges versus repairing in the future. It will cost between \$30,000.00 and \$50,000.00 to sandblast one bridge to prevent further detritions of the bridge. Joyce spoke that hopefully a grant will come about to help with maintaining the bridges. Article passed.

ARTICLE 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to help defray maintenance costs for the Riverside Cemetery.

Cynthia Nau made a motion for up to \$5,000.00. Seconded. Discussion

Sue Clark asked how much does it cost for maintaining? Penny spoke that it is usually around \$1,000.00 a year with mowing and other items. Wayne Winot spoke that the mowing price will go up as a result of the need for insurance. It was asked about the old cemetery's maintenance. Penny said the Selectboard budget includes \$225.00 for maintenance of the old cemeteries. Joyce spoke on the volunteering that is done. It was asked if the person doing the old cemetery's has insurance. Yes they do and also will do the work and not bill the Town. It is Archie Clark III that is presently doing the cemetery. Penny spoke on the Capitol Improvement Account which is only to be used for maintaining stones and fences. If the town votes this money in we may be able to get a cheaper price to start doing some of the other work The article passed.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the town vote to elect two additional Selectboard members: a one-year position and a two-year position—both positions to be appointed by the Selectboard until the next Annual Town Meeting?

Joyce Meehl moved the question. Discussion. Penny spoke on the three most dedicated people in Town. Spoke on their work at home and to meetings and having full time jobs. She spoke on the State putting more responsibility on the Boards. Joyce spoke on the need for more opinions on the board. Usually there is a conflict of interests with only three members. The board would like to hear from anyone that is interested. Article passed.

ARTICLE 16. To see how the Town would like to apply the Property Tax Credit?

Article voted on earlier in meeting.

Article 17. We the voter of Brookline would Town Meeting, March 6, 2007, to consider the following resolution:

Whereas George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney have:

1. Deliberately misled the nation about the threat from Iraq in order to justify a war,

2006 Brookline Town Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

2. Condoned the torture of prisoners in violation of the Geneva Convention and US law,
3. Approved illegal electronic surveillance of American citizens without a warrant, and,

Whereas these actions have undermined our Constitutional system of government, damaged the reputation of America, and threatened our national security, Therefore, the voters of the Town of Brookline, VT call upon the U.S. House of Representatives to investigate these charges and to initiate the process of impeachment for George W Bush and Richard B Cheney. This resolution shall be signed by the Town Clerk and forwarded to both the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives. And Representative John Conyers of the House Judiciary Committee.

Jason Sperling moved the Article. Seconded. Discussion. Jason Sperling spoke on the petition. Jim Rogers make a motion to postpone this article indefinitely. Moved and seconded. Discussion. Lori Greenburg spoke. Dan Sieden spoke on the motion to postpone. Gary Lavorgna stated that this is not a issue for Town Meeting.

Jason Sperling meant no disrespect to the local Town Meeting but figured rather than call another meeting as long as everyone was out anyway it would be a good time to consider it. David Parker asked if the floor wanted to consider paper ballot or voice vote.

Lori Greenburg asked for paper ballot. David asked for seven hands. Voice vote. To postpone discussion indefinitely. To close to tell. David asked if everyone in the room was a voter in Brookline. Doug Wellman asked for paper ballot. Received seven hands. David made it clear the motion that was being voted on. 68 votes: 39 yes; 29 no

The article is postponed indefinitely.

ARTICLE 17. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

David Parker reminded the floor that anything brought up is a non binding issue.

Joyce Meehl asked if the town would be interested in having the board pursue having the Town Clerk position be a three year instead of one year. All agreed.

Archie spoke on the Ancient Roads and the first meeting coming up. Stanley Noga spoke on the Reappraisal and stated it was about 75% done. Julie Lavorgna reminded people that they can receive notice of Town events by giving her their email and anyone wanting to share events to let her know.

Broke for lunch at 12:40 P.M.

Meeting resumed at 12:55 P.M.

School meeting at 12:55 P.M.

David Parker Jr read the warning for the school meeting.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator and Treasurer, as required by law.

David Parker Jr. nominated Moderator. Nominations closed. Clerk to cast one ballot.

Lisa Rucker nominated Treasurer. Nominations closed Clerk to cast one ballot.

ARTICLE 2. To elect a School District Director for a term of one year, as required by law.

Kendra Brooks nominated Cherish Russ. Nominations closed Clerk to cast one ballot.

ARTICLE 3. To elect a Town School District Director for a term of three years, as required by law.

Kendra Brooks nominated Christopher Maken. Nominations closed Clerk to cast one ballot.

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

Samantha Bovat made a motion to raise \$587,064.00. The motion seconded.

Doug Wellman asked how close we are to the state penalty. Frank Rucker: We are well away from the number.

Samantha Bovat said being a new Board they rely heavily on Frank Rucker and the District for guidance and advice.

Joyce Meehl asked about the undesignated fund balance. Frank Rucker answered the question.

Motion was moved. All were in favor.

ARTICLE 6. To authorize the School Directors to accept any donation of lands, gifts or monies for school use.

Article moved as written. No discussion. Article passed.

ARTICLE 6. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Samantha Bovat spoke on the resignation of Tom Staats from the Leland & Gray Union High School Board and that they are looking for someone to replace him. It will be posted and advertised.

Beryl Lombard asked about small school consolidation. Samantha said the Commissioner will be coming down to meet with area towns on the consolidation. Motion to adjourn made and seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,
Penny Harrington, *Town Clerk*

Town & Highway Proposed 2008 Budget

Account	Budget FY2007	Actual FY2007	Budget FY2008	Budget FY2009
TAX RELATED				
Current Taxes.....	78,069.95	856,011.59	0.00	0.00
Delinquent Taxes.....	15,668.00	12,699.07	10,000.00	3,000.00
Penalties.....	1,230.00	3,232.31	1,230.00	500.00
Interest on Taxes.....	2,300.00	5,329.13	1,600.00	750.00
Total Tax Related.....	97,267.95	877,272.10	12,830.00	4,250.00
OTHER AGENCIES				
Current Use.....	0.00	4,354.00	4,300.00	8,000.00
USA-Deconte.....	0.00	214.00	200.00	200.00
Civil Fines.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
State GL Payment.....	0.00	386.26	0.00	0.00
Total Othr Agencies.....	0.00	4,954.26	4,500.00	8,350.00
TOWN OFFICE				
Clerk Fees.....	3,000.00	4,732.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Dog License.....	590.00	610.50	780.00	650.00
Fishing Hunting License.....	80.00	109.00	80.00	90.00
Copies.....	780.00	1,250.87	780.00	900.00
Marriage/Civil Union.....	0.00	59.00	0.00	0.00
Total Town Office.....	4,450.00	6,761.37	5,140.00	5,140.00
OTHER				
Interest On Investments.....	800.00	1,221.65	900.00	900.00
Donations.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Overpayment/Insurance.....	0.00	10.74	0.00	0.00
Total Other.....	800.00	1,232.39	900.00	900.00
Total Revenues.....	102,517.95	890,220.12	23,370.00	18,640.00
PAYROLL				
Selectboard.....	650.00	650.00	2,750.00	2,750.00
Town Clerk.....	6,550.00	8,619.00	6,730.00	10,500.00
Treasurer.....	1,730.00	2,509.00	1,730.00	3,100.00
Del Tax Collect.....	400.00	584.00	400.00	600.00
Listers.....	1,980.00	1,764.27	2,000.00	5,020.00

Town & Highway Proposed 2008 Budget (cont'd)

Account	Budget FY2006	Actual FY2006	Budget FY2007	Budget FY2008
Auditors.....	600.00	216.00	500.00	500.00
Health Officer.....	100.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
Asst. Town Clerk.....	450.00	1,630.50	750.00	2,300.00
Listers—reappraisal.....	0.00	328.50	0.00	0.00
Election Officials.....	400.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
Sewage Compliance Officer.....	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Payroll Taxes.....	986.00	1,347.24	995.00	1,882.00
Total Payroll.....	13,846.00	17,648.51	16,105.00	26,852.00
Town Office				
Supplies & Postage.....	4,500.00	5,138.20	4,500.00	6,500.00
Legal Notices.....	300.00	60.86	300.00	400.00
Seminars.....	1,000.00	1,126.76	1,000.00	1,200.00
Town Office—Electric.....	400.00	507.16	450.00	500.00
Town Office—Telephone.....	825.00	1,433.49	960.00	1,100.00
Town Office—Fuel.....	1,450.00	1,498.58	1,600.00	1,800.00
Internet/Services.....	1,300.00	1,298.73	1,300.00	1,800.00
Fire Alarm.....	250.00	222.50	250.00	250.00
Legal Services.....	500.00	400.00	500.00	500.00
Rescue Services.....	7,500.00	6,635.30	8,173.00	0.00
Copies.....	700.00	654.40	389.00	389.00
Copier Contract.....	1,464.00	1,357.00	1,908.00	1,800.00
Town Property.....	650.00	247.76	650.00	650.00
Total Town Office.....	20,839.00	20,580.74	21,980.00	16,889.00
GENERAL EXPENSES				
Dues—VLCT.....	856.00	866.00	708.00	876.00
Dues—WRC.....	693.00	693.00	708.00	725.00
Nemrc.....	960.00	1,023.75	2,795.00	2,000.00
Landfill Fees.....	3,378.00	3,306.47	3,536.00	4,106.00
Law Enforcement.....	3,250.00	2,855.27	3,250.00	3,600.00
Insurance/Bonds.....	3,500.00	3,220.70	3,800.00	3,800.00
Old Cemeterys—Lawn.....	225.00	428.00	225.00	225.00
County Tax.....	3,650.00	3,487.26	3,950.00	4,055.00
Misc.....	500.00	240.37	250.00	250.00
Total General Expenses.....	17,012.00	16,120.82	19,222.00	19,637.00
Total Town Operating.....	51,697.00	54,350.07	57,307.00	63,378.00

Town & Highway Proposed 2008 Budget (cont'd)

Account	Budget FY2007	Actual FY2007	Budget FY2008	Budget FY2009
Appropriations				
Morningside House.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Womens Crisis Center.....	600.00	600.00	650.00	650.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance.....	934.00	934.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Vt Ctr Independent Living	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00
RSVP.....	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Youth Services	255.00	255.00	255.00	255.00
Valley Cares Inc.....	724.00	724.00	724.00	724.00
George D. Aiken RC & D.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Historical Society of Windham County	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
United Way of Windham County	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00
Grace Cottage Foundation.....	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Brattleboro Drop-in Center	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Council on Aging.....	265.00	265.00	265.00	265.00
SEVCA.....	465.00	465.00	465.00	465.00
Windham County Reads	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Green Up Vermont.....	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Conn. River Transit, Inc.	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Newbrook.....	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
West River Watershed Alliance	110.00	110.00	110.00	114.00
Total Appropriations.....	13,108.00	13,108.00	13,224.00	5,228.00
Total Expenditures	64,805.00	67,458.07	70,531.00	68,606.00
Total General	37,712.95	822,762.05	-47,161.00	-49,966.00
Current Taxes.....	82,682.62	82,682.62	97,091.42	0.00
State Aid.....	37,638.95	37,638.95	38,100.00	37,521.00
HIGHWAY-EMERGENCY.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Highway Grants.....	0.00	6,600.00	0.00	0.00
Permits	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Insurance claims.....	0.00	1,881.00	0.00	0.00
Interest on Investment	400.00	596.11	440.00	450.00
Total Revenues	120,721.57	129,498.68	135,731.42	38,071.00

Town & Highway Proposed 2008 Budget (cont'd)

Account	Budget FY2006	Actual FY2006	Budget FY2007	Budget FY2008
SUMMER MAINTENANCE				
Salaries	6,000.00	5,581.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Payroll Taxes.....	459.00	358.56	612.00	612.00
Contracted Services	11,000.00	15,922.50	0.00	0.00
Highway Emergency-Labor.....	0.00	975.00	0.00	0.00
Material.....	12,000.00	17,157.84	0.00	0.00
Highway Emergency-material.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Summer Maintence.....	29,459.00	39,994.90	8,612.00	8,612.00
WINTER MAINTENANCE				
Salaries	200.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Payroll Taxes.....	15.00	0.00	39.00	39.00
Contracted Services/Labor.....	25,000.00	25,507.50	26,000.00	28,000.00
Materials.....	11,500.00	8,677.34	12,500.00	15,050.00
Total Winter Maintenance.....	36,715.00	34,184.84	39,039.00	43,589.00
GENERAL ROAD				
Town Shed-Electric.....	200.00	252.08	220.00	300.00
Town Shed Maintenance.....	500.00	35.00	500.00	500.00
Contracted Services	11,000.00	9,480.00	24,000.00	28,000.00
Equipment Labor	600.00	530.00	800.00	1,100.00
Materials.....	0.00	0.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
Equipment Fuelts	1,600.00	3,599.87	2,300.00	5,200.00
Road signs/Misc	500.00	1,193.12	600.00	1,000.00
Culverts	3,000.00	2,777.60	3,000.00	3,500.00
Retreatment/Lines.....	14,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	18,000.00
Band Rail	4,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total General Road.....	35,900.00	17,867.67	79,420.00	75,600.00
Total Expenditures	102,074.00	92,047.41	127,071.00	127,801.00
Total Highway	18,647.57	37,451.27	8,660.42	-87,730.00
Total All Funds.....	56,360.52	860,213.32	-38,500.58	-137,696.00

Historical Account

Balance July 1, 2006	\$9150.01
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Receipts

Interest	\$36.71
Town Meeting 2007 Article 13	\$1000.00
Sales/Donations	\$800.00

Total Receipts	\$1836.71
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Expenses

Advertising	\$610.04
Total expenses	\$610.04

Balance June 30 2007	\$10376.68
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Due to Town as of 6/30/07

Repairs	\$157.68
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Reappraisal Account

Balance July 1 2006	\$34,058.08
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Receipts

Interest	\$355.31
State of Vermont	\$3,182.50

Total Receipts	\$3,537.81
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Expenses

APAS	\$21,868.00
Listers Payroll	\$3,753.25
Printing	\$352.02
Postage	\$212.60
Supplies	\$414.70
Software	\$157.00

Total Expenses	\$26,757.57
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Balance as of June 30, 2007	\$10,686.71
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Town Employees

Bernadine Borgeson..... \$1,255.00	Joyce Meehl \$750.00
Kendra Brooks..... \$258.00	Bruce Meehl \$438.00
Archie S Clark \$500.00	Stanley Noga, Jr. \$1,694.25
Archie S Clark III \$456.00	Marsha Omand..... \$1,372.50
Nelson Fontaine \$2,952.04	David Ryder..... \$500.00
Michael Fontaine..... \$1,144.00	Douglas Wellman \$1,512.00
Sheila Gokey..... \$216.00	Michael Winot..... \$500.00
Penny Harrington..... \$11,431.00	Derek Worden \$642.00

Cemetery Account

Cemetery Savings		Riverside Capital Improvement	
Beginning Balance July 1, 2006	439.87	Beginning Balance July 1, 2006	1,823.23
Receipts		Receipts	
Interest	1.26	Interest	29.38
Total Receipts	1.26	Total Receipts	29.38
Expenses		Ending Balance June 30, 2007	1,852.61
Bank Service charge	48.00		
Total Expense	48.00	Lord Abbett Account	
Ending Balance June 30, 2007	393.13	Beginning Balance July 1, 2006	1,472.36
Due to Town as June 30, 2007		Receipts	
Cemetery maintenance	821.25	Interest	68.51
Flags	214.11	Total Receipts	68.51
Total Due to Town	1,035.36	Ending Balance June 30, 2007	1,540.87

Building Account

Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2007	31,924.85
Receipts	
Interest	503.75
Town Meeting	20,000.00
Total Receipts	20,503.75
Total Expenses	30,811.39
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2007	21,617.21

Delinquent Tax Report

Delinquent Tax Report as of June 30, 2007

	2006	2006-07	Total
Boulrice Rene	533.86	533.86	533.86
Mclain Britt W., Sr.	241.16	241.16	241.16
Martocci Paul & Rosalee	222.17	1335.16	1557.33
NJM Realty LTD.	38.64	38.64	38.64
Moore John.....	1651.72	1651.72	1651.72
Brissette Laura.....	1467.99	1467.99	1467.99
Fernette Tracy B.	2002.73	2002.73	2002.73
Davidson M.	975.55	975.55	975.55
Mercede Frank J. Trust.....	947.32	947.32	847.32
TOTALS	222.17	9,194.13	9,416.30

The amounts above do not include interest or penalties. * Payments made; **Paid in full by 12/31/07

Town Clerk's Report

IT HAS BEEN FIVE YEARS since you first voted me in to be the Town Clerk and Treasurer of this very fine town. I have learned so very much and know there is a lot more to learn. There have been changes in the way the office is run. The state sends down the rules and you follow them. The new HAVA (Help America Vote Act) is a federal program. Its purpose is to inform America on voting and helping people with disabilities to vote. This year the program offered money for improving the voting site. I applied and received a \$5,000.00 grant for paving the driveway, which was enlarged thanks to the addition. We are preparing for several votes this year. We start with the High School meeting on Tuesday night, Feb. 5, the budget vote follows with all day voting at the Town Office on Wednesday, Feb. 6 from 9:00–7:00. Town Meeting is next on Tuesday, March 5 at the multipurpose room in the elementary school. This is also the day of the Presidential Primary. Voting will be all day at the school until 7:00 P.M.

The state increased the amount for recording a legal document in the land records to \$8.00. I am now putting \$2.00 for every page that is recorded into the Restoration Fund. This year I was able to send Books 1–4 of Vital Records and Book 6 of the Land Records books to be restored. This is a very

important part of our history and I feel that it is very important to save these documents. This year we had 20 property transfers. Welcome to all the new people in Brookline!

I would like to thank everyone who helped on the addition to the Town Office. The larger room is now being used for meetings, when I have an overflow of lawyers and people researching the land records. This year we will be using the finished room for voting.

I will have the dog tags with me at Town Meeting, feel free to call the office if you are unsure if your pet needs a rabies shot.

Lastly I would like to thank the Selectboard and all their hard work and dedication that they have for the Town. With them at the helm I feel confident that the Town is in great hands. With our reappraisal behind us now I would like to thank the Listers for all their time and hard work that they put into the reappraisal. Of course I will not forget all the wonderful residents of Brookline who make it a pleasure to go to work. When someone stops in with a problem or just stops in to share a joke, it reminds me what a great town this is.

Penny Harrington, *Town Clerk*

Treasurer's Report

BEING THE FIRST YEAR that the Prebates from the State came directly to the Town, I think things went fairly smooth. Those of you who received the credit were shown a smaller tax bill. I am sure that new legislation will be coming down this year from Montpelier to improve the process. I would like to remind everyone to file their HS 121 by April 15. Some of the issues that Town Treasurers and State had in 2007 were people filing late, especially the really, really late filers. If you have any questions or need help with filing

please stop by or call the office I will be happy to help you.

I will again recommend four payments for the taxes to be paid. I am seeing a smaller delinquent tax list and many people are able to make the smaller payments. I am continuing to sell Fish & Game licenses. I have them with me most of the time so feel free to stop by and get yours.

Penny Harrington, *Town Treasurer*

Selectboard Report

THE YEAR STARTED OFF much different than any year in Brookline's history.

After the positive vote at Town Meeting for the addition of two more board members, we were pleased to make the appointments of Michael Winot and David Ryder. They both have been a positive addition to the board.

On April 15–16 heavy rains raised havoc with many area roads. Brookline was spared the worst of the damage but still received some on Putney Mountain, Ellen Ware, Whitney Hill and Greer Roads. We are thankful to our road crew, The State AOT and FEMA for taking care of the work and most of the costs.

In May came the long awaited completion of the town-wide reappraisal. Much thanks goes to the listers who worked well with APAS to complete this on time and on budget.

June 30, marked the end of Brookline's first fiscal year. This change provided some confusion for all of us and extra work for our treasurer but, the benefits will be seen for many years to come. We appreciate everyone's patience while we all made it through that 18 month period.

It was an evening in July that Joyce and Archie updated the Rapid Response Plan as emergency management coordinators. This plan was a combined effort with Nbfd, Newfane EM, Rescue Inc. and WRC.

In early August renovations to the Round School House began. The areas worked on were the foundation, masonry, windows, roof, drainage and floor. Thanks to the members of the Historical Committee for all the work that went into this.

The Road Commissioners have been working on road problem areas as money becomes available. The board made many attempts this year to stretch the dollars as far as possible. We joined the Windham County Road foreman's network, which saved many dollars on new culverts through group purchasing. Brookline took the lead in working with our neighboring towns on paving projects. Two highway grants were received from the State AOT. One for the retaining wall on Grassy Brook Road which was completed in September under budget and \$720.00 of the \$2,650.00 voted last

year's Town meeting will be returned to the Town. The other was an \$80,000.00 Class 2 paving grant which was used for paving on Grassy Brook Road.

The Town is still looking for a part time employee to assist Nelson with a variety of road related tasks. For more information contact any selectboard member.

With the fall wind whipping brought the completion of the Town Office addition project. On November 4 an Open house took place to thank the community and the many volunteers that made the project completion possible. Through the use of much volunteer labor and many contractors that worked at or below cost, we are proud to announce that a portion of the funds voted at the 2006 Town Meeting will be returned to the Town. The parking lot was paved with funds from a HAVA grant.

In May the Selectboard held the first meeting in the new meeting room. This welcoming space has already proved useful with much more community members attending meetings and we hope this continues. This room is available to groups in town that are in need of a space to meet. Contact the Town Clerk for a copy of the building use policy.

Kerrick Johnson from Velco attended a meeting in September to give the board and public an update on the proposed southern loop power line expansion.

The Selectboard web site brooklinevt.com/selectboard has gone through some changes and is being updated by 2wiredGuys. Thanks John and Dan for their help and to the public for their patience.

The board has been in contact with southern Vermont cable co. to pursue the possibility of bringing cable television and high speed internet service to Town.

The Selectboard would again like to thank all the women and men that hold various positions in town and make Brookline such a special place to live.

Anyone interested in any position in town, should contact a selectboard member or stop by the Town Office and get relevant information.

On Feb 21, 2008 will be Brookline's first Candidates forum. This will be an excellent chance for interested folks to ask questions of candidates.

Brookline School Board Report

IT IS ONCE AGAIN my pleasure to be writing you as the Chair of the Brookline School Board. Also on our current Board are Chris Maken as Vice-Chair and Cherish Russ as Treasurer. All three of us are parents to children in this school and are pleased to be representing the students, staff and our town both locally and within the district.

We have been very lucky again this year to maintain a consistent staff as well as the Board. Unfortunately, we will be losing Cherish for the upcoming year, but would like to thank her for her time and effort. That being said, we are always looking ahead to the future and would just love to have interested parties come forth to find out about the role of the school board and what it means to be take on such a role.

As many of you know, being committed to a position such as this can be quite a challenge. It can also be quite rewarding. Some people may argue that being on a volunteer school board is a thankless job, but having been on this board for two years now, I guess I would argue that fact. Although the time commitment seems to be the biggest challenge, the benefits of learning about how it all works and listening to a variety of perspectives have truly outweighed the obstacle of time.

For those of you who are unaware, we have a new Superintendent, Wendy Houlihan. Since hiring her in July, we have seen a great deal of foresight into the future of this district by way of a clear strategic plan for our academic and financial future. She has been a pleasure to work with and we look forward to working with her and our new Chief Financial Officer, Frank Rucker. Congratulations Frank!

We have the same core teaching staff of Michelle Bostrom, Pat Branley, and Sue Biolsi. Bettyanne Runge is in her second year as our Principal and Judy Hawkins remains as our Administrative Assistant. As always, we are very happy with our support staff as they bring complimentary services, knowledge and caring to our school

Brookline Elementary School is in excellent shape both academically and fiscally. Our test scores are high and we feel that we are presenting you with a responsible budget. Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to another great year for our community school.

Respectfully,
Samantha Bovat, *Brookline School Board Chair*



Brookline Elementary School

Brookline Elementary School Principal's Report

THE SCHOOL YEAR 2007–08 began with an enrollment of 42 students. We have since added two more for a total of 44. The breakdown is as follows: Kindergarten 6, Grade one 4, Grade two 8, Grade three 6, Grade four 5, Grade five 7 and Grade six 8.

Our first event of the school year was our “Grandparents Day,” celebration. We hosted many grandparents, and friends of our students. Soon after that we held our second annual “ice cream social,” sponsored by the school club, and also well attended.

Brookline School may be small in number and size, but we are definitely large in achievement. I felt tremendous pride when at the first WCSU administrative meeting it was shown on an overview that Brookline scored highest in Reading, and second in Math district wide on the NECAP testing. For the second year, our spelling team coached by teacher Sue Biolsi tied for second place in the WCSU spelling bee.

Several field trips were taken to enhance classroom curricula; Mrs. Branley’s class went to Fort #4 as part of their social studies, and Mrs. Biolsi’s class took a trip to Lowell, Massachusetts as part of their studies of the Industrial Revolution. Nature studies and Hawk sightings were conducted with varying results, but fun and learning was had by all. Mrs. Bostrom’s class went to Green Mtn. Orchard to pick apples and get pumpkins. They had great fun.

We continued with our JISP Program, and expanded it to include ice skating in Brattleboro as well as skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, and skating at

Grafton Ponds. The winter sports program continues to be very popular with our students.

A very successful garden was planted and tended by grades 2, 3, and 4, coordinated by Mrs. Branley with help from many volunteers. Everyone enjoyed the Gilfeather Soup, made from the Gilfeather turnips grown by the students. Many thanks to all who helped with this worthwhile project.

We were fortunate to have an “Artist in Residence,” program that included several sessions of vocal music lessons with Mr. James Flynn. All grades, K–6 met one time weekly and learned many songs. The program culminated with a concert, enjoyed by all.

In the spring we held our first “Education Fair;” teachers displayed, demonstrated, and discussed approaches, methods, and techniques that work in the classroom. We hope to present a “repeat” in Spring 2008.

We enjoy many supportive parents and friends who help us throughout the year, but in particular the school club members led by Karen Fontaine and Sheila Davis along with Barbara Bourne, are invaluable helpers in making our school so successful. Also Emily Chang, Karen Fontaine, Barbara Bourne, and Gail Maken who so ably conduct “The Four Winds Program.”

Lastly I want to say, we are fortunate to have such excellent teachers, students, parents and community members. We have “all the ingredients of excellence,” and we are. We invite you to visit your school. SHARE WITH US!!

Bettyann Runge, *Principal*

WCSU Superintendent's Report

Superintendent.....Wendy Houlihan
Director of Special Education.....Abigail Dillon
Lang. Arts & Soc. Studies....Christine Shakespeare
Mathematics & Science.....Janine Manninen
Business Manager Frank Rucker

Assistant Business Manager.....Teri Fletcher
Human Resources.....Kathy Velsor
Administrative AssistantRuthann Chalifour
Administrative AssistantRebecca Paroli
Medicaid Clerk.....Laurie Garland

IT IS A PRIVILEGE to serve the Windham Central Supervisory Union, and to work with School Boards, administrators, teachers, staff and community members who all seek excellence in education in our schools. In his best selling book, *Good to Great*, Jim Collins states that "Greatness is not a function of circumstance. Greatness is largely a matter of conscious choice and discipline...." Clearly operating with this understanding, the WCSU Board of Directors commissioned a study of the supervisory union that would provide the members with recommendations about how they might improve its processes and functioning. Guided by Dr. Brent Kay's final report issued in September, 2006, the WCSU Board of Directors has now embarked on a process of strategic planning. As part of this process, Board members and administrators spent two evenings together in August discussing roles and responsibilities and core values. At the end of the second evening, the WCSU Board of Directors adopted the following four core values which now serve as the foundation for the actions and decisions of the Board of Directors and administrators:

- Place students at the center of our decision making
- Build trust and respect by acting ethically, transparently and with integrity
- Operate as a community of learners committed to developing the skills and capabilities of all
- Collaborate, share and seek creative solutions

The next steps in the process include developing a WCSU vision and identifying goals and action steps. That process will continue at various times over the course of this school year. This exciting work will move us along the continuum of excellence, bringing the coherence and focus that will best support student learning, maximize resources, and build capacity in the supervisory union.

Understanding that striving for excellence is an ongoing process, and guided by the core values, the administrative team developed three goals this year which are grounded in improving student and adult learning. WCSU is fortunate to have a skilled and committed administrative team whose members are collaborative learners focused on student learning, and it has been a great pleasure to welcome Rosemary FitzSimons, new principal in Wardsboro, and Laura Hazard, new principal in Jamaica, to the team.

Our two coordinators, Tina Shakespeare and Janine Manninen, provide professional development and support for teachers in multiple ways: working with them individually in their classrooms, providing workshops or courses outside the classroom, or facilitating grade level, content area or schoolwide teacher teams as they look at data together and discuss student learning and teacher practice. It is a great honor to work with the dedicated teachers throughout Windham Central Supervisory Union, who are committed to providing the best education for the students in their schools, and to learning from each other on behalf of students.

Thanks to the voters in the five member districts of Leland and Gray Union Middle/High School, a bond was approved in June, 2007, that will provide renovated or newly constructed learning and teaching spaces for several programs, and benefit students and staff throughout the school. Construction is scheduled at this time to be completed in November, 2008.

Windham Central Supervisory Union is very well served by skilled and dedicated staff members, committed and caring Board members, and supportive communities, and it is a great honor to serve as superintendent here. Thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy H. Houlihan, *Superintendent*

Brookline School District Balance Sheet

	General Fund Year ending 06/30/2007
ASSETS	
Cash.....	139,522
Reserve for Bond Debt 1995-09.....	45,000
TOTAL ASSETS	184,522
LIABILITIES	
Bond Debt 1995-09.....	45,000
Accrued Salaries.....	17,038
Accrued Fica.....	1,304
Accrued Expenses.....	879
TOTAL LIABILITIES	64,221
FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balance.....	105,301
Designated to reduce taxes.....	15,000
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	120,301
 TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	 184,522
<p>The annual debt service requirements for the 1989 school addition are scheduled through the year 2010. The current principal amount due on the bond equals \$45,000 as of 6/30/07.</p>	
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE:	
Beginning Fund Balance 7/1/06.....	121,341
FY 2007 Surplus/(Deficit) as of 6/30/07.....	-1,040
 ENDING FUND BALANCE AS OF 6/30/07	 120,301

Brookline School District FY08 Budget Proposal

	FY07 ACTUAL	FY2007 Adopted BUDGET	FY2008 Adopted BUDGET	FY09 Proposed BUDGET
REVENUES:				
Interest Income.....	4,080	750	2,500	4,000
Transport Fees- LGUHS				12,020
E-rate Grant & Misc.....	986	1,500	1,000	1,000
Total Local Revenue.....	5,066	2,250	3,500	17,020
State Aid - Education Spending Rev.	880,883	872,385	885,064	415,141
State Aid - Ed Fund/Career Center	11,734	15,369	11,410	0
State Aid - Small Schools Grant	56,341	54,187	57,542	57,542
State Aid - Transportation	17,606	10,765	11,127	6,562
State Aid - Special Ed Block Grant.....	14,875	25,936	25,936	
State Aid - Special Ed Intensive	54,116	74,372	87,642	70,080
State Aid - Special Ed Extraordinary.....		9,900	9,900	0
State Aid - Special Ed EEE	4,964	5,083	5,083	3,964
State Aid- DEC Water Project Grant				20,000
WCSU Subgrant Medicaid	7,238	0	10,365	7,534
WCSU Subgrant IDEIA.....	4,743	0	8,408	10,304
State Aid - Milk Program.....	0	500	500	500
Total Other Revenue.....	1,052,500	1,032,661	1,077,141	591,628
TOTAL REVENUE.....	1,057,566	1,034,911	1,080,641	608,648
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries - Teachers.....	107,948	107,876	117,050	117,050
Salaries - Aides	0	0	0	0
Substitute	2,485	1,800	1,800	2,500
Reserve Negot.Salary & Benefits.....	0	0	0	10,245
Health & Dental Benefits.....	14,383	14,323	15,222	30,657
Fica Expense	8,202	8,390	9,092	9,146
Disability & Life & Unemploy.	730	500	500	500
Workers Comp Ins.	1,730	1,700	1,700	1,700
Tuition Reimb./Prof. Development.....	2,302	3,500	3,500	3,500
Phys. ed Instruction -WCSU	5,200	5,497	5,300	5,518
Art Instruction-WCSU	6,505	6,405	6,891	7,152
Music Instrumental -WCSU	6,120	6,477	8,608	8,951
Music Instruction	5,439	6,000	6,000	6,000
Enrichment Activities	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,500
Professional/Technical Serv.	2,194	3,000	3,000	3,000
Equipment Repairs.....	1,304	1,000	1,000	1,400
Tuition & Travel Reimb.	85	150	150	150
Educational Supplies.....	5,202	4,500	4,500	5,200
Text Books	1,970	2,000	2,000	2,000
Software/Internet Connection.....	2,250	3,500	3,500	3,500
Instructional Equipment.....	1,956	4,500	4,500	4,500
Computers	741	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Instruction.....	178,146	184,119	197,313	226,169

Brookline School District FY08 Budget Proposal (Cont'd)

	FY07 ACTUAL	FY2007 Adopted BUDGET	FY2008 Adopted BUDGET	FY09 Proposed BUDGET
Spec. Ed Instruction	37,396	37,397	40,005	0
Spec. Ed Aide	18,818	18,860	20,787	35,900
Spec. Ed Health Benefits	9,657	7,502	11,276	11,662
Spec. Ed FICA expense	4,256	4,304	4,651	2,746
Spec. Ed Services-WCSU Asses	26,008	26,056	25,837	25,479
Contracted Instruction, OT/PT	12,179	8,858	12,502	45,660
Special Ed Tuition	31,035	26,000	37,200	0
Special Ed Travel	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Spec. Ed Supplies	1,147	500	500	500
Total Special Education	140,496	130,477	153,758	122,947
Essential Early Ed	5,576	3,951	3,955	3,964
TOTAL DIRECT EDUCATION	324,218	318,547	355,026	353,080
SUPPORT SERVICES				
Guidance Services.....	4,496	6,203	15,188	13,081
Nurse Services	6,281	8,172	7,990	8,457
Library Salary	8,431	7,192	7,705	7,705
Library FICA.....	645	550	589	589
Library Books.....	496	500	500	500
Board & Treasurer Salary	792	1,100	1,100	1,100
Board Fica Expense	61	84	84	84
Board - Professional Audit.....	0	0	5,500	0
Board - Financial Services.....	3,328	3,328	3,461	0
Negotiations/Services.....	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Board- Bond Insurance.....	40	50	50	50
Board - Advertising/ Supplies	664	2,500	2,500	2,500
Board - Dues	600	850	850	850
Total Board Services	5,485	8,912	14,545	5,584
WCSU Office Assessment	24,169	24,201	24,749	26,533
Principal Salary	25,700	31,000	28,600	27,600
Secretary	31,162	30,596	31,820	31,820
Principal Office Health Ins.	11,002	13,532	11,286	12,530
Principal Office FICA	4,350	4,712	4,622	4,546
Principal Professional Dev.	0	750	750	750
Townshend Education Collab.	0	0	0	0
Supplies.....	129	200	200	200
Dues.....	0	100	100	100
Total Principal's Office	72,343	80,890	77,378	77,546

Brookline School District FY08 Budget Proposal (Cont'd)

	FY07 ACTUAL	FY2007 Adopted BUDGET	FY2008 Adopted BUDGET	FY09 Proposed BUDGET
Custodian Services.....	6,912	7,299	7,591	7,591
Custodian FICA Expense	529	558	581	581
Maintenance Contracted Serv.....	7,014	6,000	6,000	8,000
Water Testing & Sytem Upgrade	1,744	1,500	1,500	21,800
Roof Repairs.....	0	0	0	0
Property & Liability Insurance	2,004	1,900	1,900	2,200
Telephone.....	875	1,500	1,500	1,500
Custodial Supplies	1,708	1,800	1,800	1,800
Electricity.....	3,917	3,900	3,900	4,000
Fuel.....	12,614	10,816	10,816	13,000
Building Equipment	687	1,600	1,600	1,600
Total Custodial Services.....	38,004	36,873	37,188	62,072
Transport - contracted	15,404	15,404	16,174	16,983
Field Trips	1,268	1,500	1,500	1,500
Transportation Fuel.....	6,952	6,000	6,000	7,500
Total Transportation Services.....	23,624	22,904	23,674	25,983
Capital Improvements.....	1,638	5,000	5,000	27,000
Debt Interest.....	2,825	3,544	2,531	1,519
Debt Principal (final pmt 12/1/09)	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Debt Service.....	17,825	18,544	17,531	16,519
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	203,437	219,942	232,038	271,568
SUB TOTAL EEE & K-6 Expenses	527,655	538,489	587,064	624,648
LELAND & GRAY ASSESSMENT.....	506,421	481,079	488,487	0
Career Ed Assess-State Share	14,484	15,369	11,410	0
Career Ed Assess-Local Share	10,046	9,973	8,680	0
Sub Total Secondary Expenses.....	530,951	506,421	508,577	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,058,606	1,044,911	1,095,641	624,648
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-1,040	-10,000	-15,000	-16,000
PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS APPLIED.....		10,000	15,000	16,000
Net		0	0	0
Total Fund Balance @ year end.....	120,300		105,300	89,300
Total Expenditures to be presented to voters at Town Meeting		553,858	587,064	624,648
	\$ Change: 37,584	% Change: 6.4%		

Brookline School District FY08 Budget Proposal (Cont'd)

	FY2000 Equalized Students	% of Total	FY09 Est. School Tax Rate	FY08 School Tax Rate	Change
Statistics:					
Brookline Elementary Enrollment.....	47.00	47.00	42.00	-5.00	-10.60%
Budgeted Grants and Local Revenues.....	157,157.00	199,167.00	209,507.00	10,340.00	5.20%
Local Education Spending					
(K-12 FY07&08)(K-6 FY09)*	887,754.00	896,474.00	415,141.00	-481,333.00	-53.70%
Equalized Students DOE					
(K-12 FY07&08)(K-6 FY09)	83.81	82.20	42.83	-39.4	-47.90%
State Excess Spending Threshold per equ. Pupil.....	11,728.00	12,594.00	13,287.00	693.00	5.50%
Brookline Ed. Spend/equalized pupil					
(k-12 FY07&08)(K-6 FY09).....	10,592.00	10,906.00	9,693.00	-1,213.00	-11.10%
Brookline vs. State Threshold per Equ.Pupil					
[over/(under)]	-1,136.00	-1,688.00	-3,594.00	-1,906.00	112.90%
Base Education Spending Index.....	7,330.00	7,736.00	8,210.00	474.00	6.10%
State wide Base property tax index.....	\$0.95	\$0.87	\$0.85	-\$0.02	-2.30
Tax Impact Estimates:					
Est. Equalized Homestead Tax Rate					
(k-12 FY07&08)(K-6 FY09).....	\$1.37	\$1.23	\$1.00	-\$0.22	-18.20%
Common Level of Appraisal	61.30%	120.60%	107.90%	-12.70%	-10.50%
Estimated Actual Tax Rate					
(K-12 FY07&08)(K-6 FY09)	\$2.24	\$1.02	\$0.93	-\$0.09	-8.50%
Income Sensitivity base index	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	0.00%	0.00%
Estimated Income Sensitivity percent					
(K-12)	2.60%	2.54%	2.89%	0.35%	13.9%
<p>*Above estimated school tax rates reflect combined K-12 budgets in FY07 & FY08. FY09 reflects K-6 elementary budget only per Act 130. Effective FY09 LGUHS has a separate tax rate that is combined with the elementary school tax rate as noted below based on weighted average equalized student statistics provided by the Vermont Department of Education.</p> <p>*Estimated FY09 combined Equalized School Tax Rate including Leland & Gray UHS per Act130-as of 1/16/08:</p>					
Brookline School District K-6	42.83	50.9%	\$1.00		
LGUHS School District 7-12	41.31	49.1%	\$1.34		
Combined K-12					
(Weighted Avg. Equalized School Tax Rate)	84.14	100.0%	\$1.17	\$1.23	-4.6%
Common Level of Appraisal		07.87%			
Combined K-12 Estimated Actual School Tax Rate			\$1.09	\$1.02	6.7%

Brookline School District Personnel Overview (January 2008)

FY2009 PROPOSED	FY2009 PROPOSED
PRINCIPAL:	CONTRACTED EDUCATION SERVICES FROM WCSU:
Bettyann Runge27,600	Physical Education.....5,518
TEACHERS:	Music Instruction8,951
Sue Biolsi45,931	Art Instruction.....7,152
Pat Branley.....34,078	Nurse.....8,457
Michelle Bostrom37,041	Guidance13,081
Cynthai Nau.....7,705	Special Education Instruction.....35,356
TOTAL TEACHERS124,755	Physical Therapy.....5,140
	Occupational Therapy5,164
SUPPORT SERVICES:	Essential Early Education3,964
Principal Secretary31,820	TOTAL CONTRACTED
Special Ed. Paraprofessional20,787	EDUCATION SERVICES.....92,783
Special Ed. Paraprofessional15,113	
Custodian7,591	
SUBTOTAL75,310	
TOTAL EMPLOYEES227,665	



Chip or Dale?

Comparative Data for Cost-Effectiveness
16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2)(K)

School: Brookline Elementary School
S.U.: Windham Central S.U.

A list of schools and school districts in each cohort may be found on the DOE website under "School Data and Reports":
<http://www.state.vt.us/educ/>

FY2007 School Level Data

Cohort Description: Elementary school, enrollment < 100
 (47 schools in cohort)

Cohort Rank by Enrollment (1 is largest)
 35 out of 47

School level data		Grades Offered	Enrollment	Total Teachers	Total Administrators	Stu / Tchr Ratio	Stu / Admin Ratio	Tchr / Admin Ratio
Smaller ->	E. Taylor Hatton School	K - 6	40	4.25	0.10	9.41	400.00	42.50
	Tinmouth Elementary School	PK - 6	43	4.80	0.50	8.96	86.00	9.60
	Peacham Elementary School	PK - 6	44	5.60	0.60	7.86	73.33	9.33
	Brookline Elementary School	K - 6	45	4.00	0.50	11.25	90.00	8.00
<- Larger	Reading Elementary School	K - 6	48	5.05	1.00	9.50	48.00	5.05
	Barnard Central School	K - 6	56	6.20	0.60	9.03	93.33	10.33
	Sunderland Elem. School	K - 6	56	8.25	1.00	6.79	56.00	8.25
Averaged SCHOOL cohort data			65.47	6.63	0.75	9.88	86.75	8.78

School District: Brookline
LEA ID: T033

Special education expenditures vary substantially from district to district and year to year. Therefore, they have been excluded from these figures.

FY2006 School District Data

Cohort Description: Elementary school district, FY2004 FTE < 100
 (47 school districts in cohort)

Cohort Rank by FTE (1 is largest)
 35 out of 47

School district data (local, union, or joint district)		Grades offered in School District	Student FTE enrolled in school district	Current expenditures per student FTE EXCLUDING special education costs
Smaller ->	Tinmouth	PK-6	41.00	\$11,523
	Morgan	PK-6	42.08	\$9,053
	Granville/Hancock Joint District	PK-6	43.94	\$10,132
	Brookline	K-6	45.95	\$8,202
<- Larger	Reading	K-6	48.84	\$12,777
	Peacham	K-6	49.56	\$12,309
	Middletown Springs	K-6	51.77	\$13,889
Averaged SCHOOL DISTRICT cohort data			62.31	\$10,295

Current expenditures are an effort to calculate an amount per FTE spent by a district on students enrolled in that district. This figure excludes tuitions and assessments paid to other providers, construction and equipment costs, debt service, adult education, and community service.

FY2008 Municipal School District Data

Town School District data (resident PK - 12 students, publicly funded)

LEA ID	School District	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	Equalized Homestead Ed tax rate	Common Level of Appraisal	Actual Homestead Ed tax rate
T033	Brookline	\$10,906	\$1.227	120.57%	\$1.017

The Legislature has required the Department of Education to provide this information per the following statute:
 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2) The school, at least annually, reports student performance results to community members in a format selected by the school board. . . . The school report shall include:

(K) data provided by the commissioner which enable a comparison with other schools, or school districts if school level data are not available, for cost-effectiveness. The commissioner shall establish which data are to be included pursuant to this subdivision and, notwithstanding that the other elements of the report are to be presented in a format selected by the school board, shall develop a common format to be used by each school in presenting the data to community members. The commissioner shall provide the most recent data available to each school no later than October 1 of each year. Data to be presented may include student-to-teacher ratio, administrator-to-student ratio, administrator-to-teacher ratio, and cost per pupil.

Windham Central Supervisory Union FY09 Budget

	FY2007 ACTUAL	FY2008 Adopted BUDGET	FY2009 Proposed BUDGET
REVENUES:			
Interest Income	9,258	2,000	4,000
Erate Grant			5,000
Brookline Assessment	24,169	24,749	26,533
Dover Assessment	41,046	43,179	42,723
Jamaica Assessment	48,900	44,759	49,981
Marlboro Assessment	38,594	42,652	43,833
Newfane Assessment	56,374	65,822	71,577
Stratton Assessment	4,512	7,899	6,170
Townshend Assessment	40,073	47,391	58,619
Wardsboro Assessment	36,039	44,232	43,193
Windham Assessment	15,924	13,164	15,426
Winhall Assessment	25,062	25,275	32,086
Leland & Gray UHS Assessment	188,964	188,513	228,924
Total General Fund Revenues.....	528,915	549,635	628,066
EXPENDITURES:			
Professional Administrative Salaries	165,228	170,100	197,100
Professional Salaries-Coordinators	26,142	17,090	5,584
Clerical Salaries	33,917	34,318	35,691
Reserve for Salaries & Benefits	0	35,000	1,000
Health & Dental Benefits	25,371	29,947	41,008
Fica Benefits	16,098	19,623	18,312
Disability & Life Ins. & Retirement Benefits	4,214	2,946	15,860
Workmens Comp & Unempl. Insurance	0	2,631	2,840
Legal & Professional Services	19,446	10,000	8,000
Information System Services	20,477	25,000	18,000
Curriculum & Professional Development	7,215	9,000	7,000
Audit Services	12,151	10,000	10,000
Bond Insurance & Prof. Liability	15,752	9,900	11,000
Telephone	18,759	9,500	8,025
Postage & Advertising	11,536	9,500	9,500
Travel	10,189	12,000	12,000
Conferences	4,377	5,000	5,000
Supplies	3,472	2,500	2,500
Equipment	3,684	1,500	2,100
Dues	8,266	4,100	4,100
Salaries (A/P, Payroll, Accountant, HR)	58,389	61,599	109,913
Health Insurance & Retirement Benefits	18,692	18,513	46,729
Fica Insurance	4,191	4,712	8,408
Equipment Repair	0	1,250	1,250
Supplies	1,465	4,000	4,000
Equipment	3,981	1,500	3,450
Property Services - Custodial, Maint. & Repair	7,656	11,500	9,500
Rent	10,100	15,405	17,800
Electric/Fuel	8,555	6,000	8,500
Equipment	5,195	5,500	3,895
Total Superintendent Office/Instruction Expense	524,518	549,635	628,066
General Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	4,397	0	0

Brookline Vital Records

BIRTHS

DATE	NAME OF CHILD	SEX	PARENTS
June 26, 2007.....	Darien Malachi Archer	Male.....	Corey Archer & Adrianna Wheeler
August 21, 2007.....	Sophia Marie Durocher.....	Female.....	Gregory & Crystal Durocher
October 14, 2007	Cooper Jeffrey Palmer	Male.....	Troy & Melissa Palmer
November 2, 2007	Garret Wayde Cutts	Male.....	Brad & Alisha Cutts

MARRIAGES

DATE	BRIDE	GROOM	PLACE
August 16, 2007.....	Danielle Martin	Clifford Chase	Brookline

Regulations Governing Dog Ownership

ALL DOGS or wolf-hybrids six (6) months or older must be licensed by April 1 2008.

Fees are as follows:

Spayed/Neutered dog or wolf hybrid 7.00
 Unneutered dog or wolf-hybrid 11.00

The State fee is \$3.00. \$1.00 goes to Rabies Control and \$2.00 to the Spay & Neuter Program.

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 must receive a booster vaccination.

All subsequent vaccinations following the initial vaccination shall be valid for 36 months. A copy of the vaccination certificate must be presented at the time of licensing. A copy of the certificate will be left with the Town Clerk. Spay or neuter certificates from a veterinarian must be exhibited when the license is obtained.

This years Rabies Clinics will be held on March

15, 2008 from 10:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.. It will be held at NewBrook Fire Dept. Brookline Town Clerk will be there for licensing dogs.

After April 1st, the fee is 50% more than prior to April 1st. Any dog not licensed by May 30th, the owner will be charged a \$50.00 fine according to the Brookline Dog Ordinance.

VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program aka VSNIIP. This is a designated fund set aside to enable income eligible caretakers of cats and dogs to receive financial assistance in which to spay neuter and vaccinate the animals for which they provide care.

For more information you may contact the Town Clerk or call 1-802-672-5302.

	Qty	Fee	Town	State	Late Fees	Total
Neutered	43	7.00	172.00	129.00	24.00	325.00
Spayed	67	7.00	270.00	201.00	42.00	513.00
Female	11	11.00	84.00	33.00	14.00	131.00
Male	14	11.00	108.00	42.00	32.00	282.00
Total	135		668.00	405.00	112.00	1,151.00

Planning Commission

THE BROOKLINE PLANNING COMMISSION had been very inactive for well over a year due to lack of membership. Recently, several members of the community have expressed interest and have joined the committee. We now find ourselves with a full quota of five members. New to the commission are Barbara Bourne, Tom Clynes, Charles Ezequelle, and Kim Sankey, with Cynthia Nau returning. The commission is grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Barclay Ward, who have offered their services as volunteers.

At our first, organizational meeting in October, Sue Fillion from the Windham Regional Commission attended the meeting and presented a crash course on Town Planning. In November Kim Sankey was elected Clerk/Secretary and Cynthia Nau Chairperson. It was at this meeting that the commission reviewed a previous survey and decided to revise and present to the town another survey. At the January meeting (there was no December meeting due to the holidays), the survey draft,

created by Tom Clynes and Charles Ezequelle, was discussed with commission approval expected by the end of January.

Our current plans are to present this new survey to the town in February, with the results providing guidance to the commission as we proceed to update the Town Plan. Deadline for completing the surveys is March 15. Since this deadline will occur shortly after town meeting, committee members will be able to answer any questions from the community at town meeting.

At this time no set meeting date/time has been established, but meetings will be announced in advance on the Brookline E-mail list.

Respectfully submitted:

Cynthia Nau, *Chair*
Kim Sankey, *Clerk/secretary*
Barbara Bourne
Charles Ezequelle
Tom Clynes



(Left to right) Michael Obuchowski (Vermont State Representative), Penny Harrington (Brookline Town Clerk), and Carolyn partridge (Vermont State Representative) at the Brookline Town Office New Addition Grand Opening,

Brookline Historic Round School House

OCTOBER 2007 has come and gone and at this time we finally see the completion of the restoration project for the Brookline Round School House for 2007— at least as far as the current contracts and funding allowed.

Starting early in August 2007 contracts were awarded to Jonathan Jesup Restorations, Inc., 119 South Goddard Hill Road, Putney, VT 05346 (for roofing and other carpentry restoration) and Petra Terra Inc., PO Box 71, 163 Minor Rd., Wilmington, VT 05363 (Masonry restoration). These contracts were awarded for the above mentioned restoration work as was identified in the Conditions Assessment Report of January 2006, conducted by the above named contractors under Paula Sagerman.

After a year of searching unsuccessfully for “local” contractors to bid on the project the Brookline Historical Committee decided to ask the above named contractors if they were interested in pursuing the job, they were, and were approved to do the work.

At this time the Select board decided, as the Round Schoolhouse belongs to the town, we needed to have a select person serve on the Historical Restoration Committee. Archie Clark was appointed and after some serious discussions ground rules were laid out and the summer work proceeded without personnel issues.

Bob Anderson, sub-contractor for Jonathan Jesup was first on the job to begin the perimeter drain at the rear of the building. This was halted almost immediately as it was realized that scaffolding for the roofing would hinder that work. Anderson would return at the end of the summer.

It was then that Jonathan Jesup and crew started the PRIORITY ROOFING JOB.

The Petra Terra crew came in at this time to repair the soffits working along with the roofing crew.

It appeared that the heavy growth of mosses must have been what kept much rain out and shingles on. (see photo)

Meanwhile the old chimney had to be taken down and as the brick were much newer than those in the building they were disposed of.

As work progressed workers felt fortunate that

after a rainy spring they were working in the dry times and for the most part comfortable temperatures.

Later in the season the crew did endure some very hot humid weather, tough on a roof as each and every shake (shingle) had to be measured and cut. The crew worked daily and fortunately did have the shade of the big ash tree during part of the most days. The roof crew felt that the roof structure, king/ ridge pole was amazingly sound.

The roof history is documented under the shingles/shakes and underlayment by the signatures of those who have repaired the structure in the past. See photos for documentation. (photos)

The Petra Terra crew then moved on to replace and repair damaged brick around the building. Our first dilemma, we need old replacement brick. We were fortunate to find a couple of townspeople who had a supply of old, solid and matching brick that were donated to the project. As there were 2 known brick kilns in town it is assumed that is where the brick came from.

As masonry work began under a window facing the road concern was noted about an area below that front window. This area showed damage as early as 1909 and it was thought to be from the settling of the building. With this repair would problems rear their ugly head? No! and repair proceeded satisfactorily. (photos)

As work proceeded to the rear of the building the chimney/thimble area created quite a bit of discussion. Do we rebuild, brick, metalbestos, meeting of the minds...no! not a priority at this time. Metalbestos would not meet with historic status of our building and we, at this time, do not have enough available brick to rebuild. The result—for now the thimble hole has been covered with luan. Someone suggested we install a pipe from the stove to the outside—that was quickly ruled out as we felt someone, not knowing the situation, just might start a fire and the results would be disastrous.

As the job progressed, both contractors expressed their concerns about the condition of the windows, primarily the sills. At the Historical Committee request Jonathan Jesup submitted an estimate for replacing the sills. We were able

Brookline Historic Round School House (cont'd)

with the Town's support to go ahead with this proposal of an additional \$1449.00. The person who had volunteered to do the window project backed out, stating he would only paint and glaze the windows. This job has not been done and with further inspection by the Historical Committee we have decided the lower (bottom) sash on all windows should be replaced. Another volunteer has come forth to do this job which will be done as soon as warm weather arrives again (spring 08).

Now comes the interior. As the interior flooring was removed to support and repair the floor joists, much of the wainscot was also removed for repair. Far more damage was discovered that could have possibly been uncovered during the Conditions Assessment. Repairs to and additional floor joists were installed, and sub flooring has been laid to protect the area during the current winter season with completion anticipated in 2008. We continue working to raise the necessary \$5-10,000.00 to complete that project. Many rotted floor boards and wainscot (approximately 1/3rd of wainscot at the damaged area) pieces will need to be replaced. The wainscot 2x4" nailers (also approx 1/4 of building) will need replacement.

What caused this interior damage? It appears that the interior layer, of the double brick layer wall, were of less than perfect brick, thus absorbing much of the water leaking into the building from the outside, thus creating the deterioration of said brick and creating the rotting of floor boards and wainscot.

Petra Terra has given an estimate for this necessary repair of the brick to the west wall, which is necessary to preserve the supporting wall of the building. (\$10,000.00 - copy attached)

This also we hope to complete in 2008 as we continue to raise the additional monies.

All remaining floor boards, wainscoting, nailers and trim boards have been carefully set aside and numbered correct placement.

The enclosed photos will attest to all written documentation.

We are happy and relieved to have this much of the Restoration project completed at this time, most especially the top priority — **The ROOF**

The project has been an interesting and educational experience, and I'm sure will continue to be, for me, as "Clerk of the works" so to speak.

Bob Anderson, sub contractor, working with



Brookline's famous Round School House.

Brookline Historic Round School House (cont'd)

Jonathan Jesup, returned the first week of October and the perimeter drain has been completely installed to our satisfaction.

I am submitting copies of our receipted payments and at this time request payments of our grants to the Town of Brookline, Historical Society Account for re-payment to the town.

I have enclosed a copy of the preservation treatments plus cost estimates as listed in the Conditions Assessment report and a copy of our original Invitation to Bid that the current contractors worked under. These documents have been marked in order to better document the work completed and yet to be done.

Our only regret is that it will be at least another year before we can move onto the 2nd and 3rd phases of the restoration.

Fund raising events are planned for the coming year, Town Meeting lunch, a concert, a day at the Rt. 91 Welcome Center and more. On the agenda of summer events for the Historical Soci-

ety of Windham County is a program at the Round School House.

Early in October, WCAX Channel 3 did a broadcast for the Round School House which netted us a small donation, earlier this summer the Vermont Life Magazine gave us a small plug and most recently the Brattleboro Reformer did a nice write up for us. Please find copies attached.

One thing that disturbs me is the apparent reluctance to mention where our grants have come from.

It is our hope that we have completed our report satisfactorily. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 802-365-4164

It is with great appreciation that we were able to be the recipient of the grants from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation and the Preservation Trust of Vermont/Freeman Foundation.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Nau, *Co-chair*

NewBrook Fire & Rescue Department

FROM SEPTEMBER 2006 to September 2007 NewBrook had a total of 221 calls. 171 were rescue, 44 were fire and 6 others. Five new members were voted in during that period also.

In December 2006, 200 feet of 1¾" hose was purchased. A truck committee was formed in March to spec-out our future need for a replacement pumper truck. Grants for that truck and personal protective equipment (P.P.E.) were applied for in May. In March we did receive (P.P.E.) Cones, lights, gloves and turnout gear from a previous grant application. Vermont Yankee presented the Department a gift of a power point projector in June. Four search lights were purchased through the generosity of

the Valley Lions Club and an annual grant from the Nichols Foundation.

Expenses, as everyone can relate to, did increase for the year. Examples are; Dues- \$12,900+, Insurance- \$16,500+, Fuel & Utilities- \$15,400+ and Maintenance of vehicles & buildings- \$25,500+.

We ask the Town of Brookline for an \$8,000.00 donation this year. Brookline's generosity and support allows NewBrook to serve and improve and is sincerely appreciated. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory L. Record, *President*, N.B.F.D.

Connecticut River Transit, Inc.

3 New Buses Acquired This Year
6 of CRT's 50 Volunteer Drivers, and Transportation Coordinators

Transportation. We coordinate Dial-A-Ride services along the Route 30 corridor.

a. Between-town and/or commuter buses between Bellows Falls & Brattleboro. We also transport Brookline residents to VT Human Service Agency programs.

b. In-town buses in Bellows Falls, Springfield, and Windsor.

c. Dial-A-Ride door-to-door service to medical appointments for Brookline residents who are elderly, disabled and/or on Medicaid. When you call us two days prior to qualified appointments, we will send a bus, a van, or a volunteer driver to take you and bring you home.

Benefits. Particularly in the context of America's current oil and gas issues, we impact your environment and economy positively in Brookline and the towns where you go for work, shopping and recreation, by reducing pollution, gas consumption, traffic congestion, and the cost of going to work.

Public transportation is particularly appreciated by visitors and by Brookline residents who are commuters, elderly, disabled, shoppers, and those who need transportation to medical appointments.

Funding. Government grants and donations provide our \$2.5 million operating budget. We ask each of the 30 towns we serve for a donation; the amount depends on population and our level of service. These local donations fulfill the local match in order to access the Federal and State funds. The total of all the towns' donations equals less than 1% of our budget. This year we are asking Brookline for a donation of \$250.00 - the same amount you donated last year.

Contact us. Bus schedules are available at your town office, at our website www.crtransit.org, or by calling us in Springfield at 885-5162 or 1-888-869-6287.

Please call me with any questions; if you would like to me with me, please let me know what time would work for you.

Gary Fox, Executive Director

George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

THE GEORGE D. AIKEN Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) helps towns, groups and organizations by bringing together the technical, financial and administrative resources to deal with natural resource conservation and rural and community development issues. We are here to serve your community. By bringing together help from our extensive network of resources, we can focus technical and financial resources on your specific needs. We get technical assistance and some staff through the U.S. Department of Agriculture but private and community sources make up most of our budget. In 2007 working with our partners, we secured and administered over \$325,000 for natural resource conservation, public safety, and community development projects.

Some current projects include securing wildland fire gear for fire departments, helping to promote Vermont maple products, helping to control erosion on backroads, helping to develop several parks and playgrounds and helping to connect residents with locally grown food. Do you have a project or program that could use some assistance to "make it happen"? Over the years the George D. Aiken RC&D Council has helped many communities and organization on a variety of projects. We work on a request basis, so the first step is up to you, giving us a call. For information and free consultation call Kenneth Hafner our RC&D Coordinator at (802) 728-9526 or email: kenneth.hafner@vt.usda.gov.

Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center

IN 2007, THE RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM completed its 34th year of coordinating volunteers in the Town of Brookline with important work in non-profit organizations. As part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, RSVP was established locally in 1973. Since that time, RSVP has matched hundreds of individuals with agencies and neighbors who benefit from their donation of skills and talents.

Whether by volunteering at the Brookline Elementary School, Grace Cottage, and Moore Free Library volunteers from Brookline and the surrounding areas have completed over 800 hours of volunteer work. A healthy living walk program was started in collaboration with the Vermont De-

partment of Health, as well as an Adult Literacy Program. RSVP Bone Builders classes continue to grow throughout Windham County to assist those with osteoporosis.

As we move ahead in the 21st century, we look to the Baby Boomers to find out how RSVP can be their ticket to fulfillment. It is our hope that retired individuals and those who are still in the workforce will get in touch to see how they can continue RSVP traditions and create new ones. Windham County RSVP can be reached at 254-7515.

Patricia M. Palencsar, *Executive Director*,
Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center

The Council on Aging for Southern Vermont, Inc. (COASEV)

THE COUNCIL ON AGING for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. (COASEV, Inc.) fosters and supports successful aging of seniors in the Brookline community and throughout Windham and Windsor Counties.

To assist seniors in Brookline we offer a number of services, including:

Information and Assistance—Our Senior Help Line at 1-800-642-5119 is a toll free number which offers help applying for benefits, assistance with health insurance problems, housing needs, fuel assistance, and many other services. As part of the new Medicare Part D, prescription program we have trained staff available by phone, office or home.

Senior Nutrition—480 Home delivered meals were arranged. Congregate meals are available in Townshend, Westminster, Putney, Dummerston and Newfane.

Transportation—Special arrangements are made for non-Medicaid seniors requiring medical transportation.

Case Management & Advocacy—One on one case management enables seniors to access services which help them remain safe at home. Often minimal services can prevent premature institutionalization. Some clients who require nursing home level of care are able to remain at home with family caregivers and trained personal care givers. COASEV served 8 Brookline residents which are estimated as an annual cost of \$7,144.

Care Giver Respite—Through grants we provide respite assistance for caregivers of those diagnosed with dementia or other chronic diseases.

Successful Aging Initiatives—We provide small grants to grass roots groups who attempt to promote healthy aging.

Your town contribution of \$265.00 generates \$1,502.00 in Federal matching funds to support our activities. We do not charge for any of our services. The support of Brookline citizens is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Joyce A. Lemire, Executive Director

Rescue, Inc.

AS ONE OF THE MEMBER TOWNS of non-profit Rescue Inc, Brookline has worked with Rescue Inc. for the last 3 years to provide the community with emergency services. Since its inception Rescue Inc. has grown to include fourteen member towns covering approximately 500 square miles and is now Vermont's second largest ambulance service.

Rescue Inc. currently has 27 volunteer and 35 paid full and part-time providers ranging from EMT-Basic through the Paramedic level. Rescue's providers are aided by NewBrook First Response team who often arrive first on a scene, assess the situation, provide initial care to a patient and relay critical information to the responding Rescue Inc. crew. This team effort assures quick response, quality care and rapid transport to definitive hospital care.*

Like Emergency Medical Services (EMS) across the country, Rescue Inc. is facing higher demands on the system (often for non-emergency calls), a decreasing volunteer corps, declining federal dollars and uncompensated care, increased training and re-qualification requirements for providers

and skyrocketing expenses for insurances, supplies, vehicles and equipment.

Rescue Inc personnel respond to over 4000 calls a year, 33 of which were caring for Brookline residents in FY06-07. Brookline taxpayers support Rescue Inc. through a town subsidy; in 2007 the subsidy was \$17.50 per capita. Town subsidies from all 14 member towns provide only 14% of Rescue's operational budget. Households can also assure personal coverage through an annual subscription to Rescue Inc. Subscriptions cover expenses not covered by insurance for care and transport provided by Rescue Inc.

The Rescue Board of Trustees has met with Town Select Boards and Local and State Legislators to try to approach these issues as a team and work toward solutions. Your input and participation are welcome.

For more information about Rescue Inc. or subscriptions please call 257-7679 or contact Archie Clark, your Brookline Town Representative to Rescue's Board of Trustees at 365-7606 or arch24@verizon.net.

Thank-you



(Left to right) Charlotte Fontaine, Nelson Fontaine (Former long-time Brookline Selectboard member), and Penny Harrington (Town Clerk) at the Brookline Town Office New Addition Grand Opening.

Valley Health Council

DURING THE PAST YEAR our homemakers have spent 807 hours providing services to residents so that these people may remain at home. To do this, in our rural area, they have had to drive nearly 6,000 miles.

People have borrowed, free of charge, over 200

pieces of durable medical equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, shower benches, etc.)

Our dedicated volunteers have driven over 1500 miles providing rides to medical appointments.

We are requesting \$724, which is \$1.55 per capita, for the year 2008.

Valley Cares, Inc.

RECENTLY VALLEY HEALTH COUNCIL became part of Valley Cares. While we continue to provide homemaker services for elders throughout the West River Valley – allowing our clients to maintain their independence at home or to return to home from hospitals or nursing homes – we now offer so much more for our seniors. In November 2007 we opened West River Valley Senior housing: 24 units of independent living with supportive services and 28 units of assisted living. Elders in the Valley now have an option for safe, affordable senior housing when they can no longer remain in or care for their current housing situation.

While we charge for housing, care and homemaker services, we must subsidize many of our

services to make them affordable to low to moderate income elders. For example:

We charge just \$20 per hour for homemaker services which cost us over \$25 per hour to provide.

Half of the independent living units receive subsidies so that the resident only pays 30% of their income in rent

Over 80% of the assisted living residents receive either public or private support to make the cost of care more affordable

We also provide free transportation to medical appointments, and free loan of medical equipment, such as walkers, commodes, wheelchairs etc.

The Historical Society of Windham County

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Windham County was founded in 1926 to preserve our history for present and future generations.

In 1936 the museum was built in Newfane to house a collection that came from all the towns in the county. This now contains some 7,000 artifacts which are displayed in changing interpretative

exhibits, or are available for research or interest. School visits are encouraged.

We hope you share our belief that all our towns would be poorer if our rich local history were ever lost. Your support will help us to maintain the collection and continue our policy of free admission.

We are open every Wednesday thru Sunday, 12-5, from Memorial Day weekend until late October.

The Windham Regional Commission

THE WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSION (WRC) works with its 27 member towns to address regional issues and provide effective local government. Each town annually appoints two representatives to the commission. Brookline's current representatives are Cynthia Nau and Guy Tanza. Commissioners serve on a number of committees that address regional issues and concerns. Some of the highlights of 2007 include:

- Providing staff and administrative support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee, work on emergency preparedness, the National Flood Insurance Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation planning, and Rapid Response and Emergency Operations Plan assistance.
- Providing planning assistance for local and regional transportation projects, including traffic analysis, Road Safety Audit Reviews, public transportation, infrastructure inventories, and coordination for cooperative purchasing of materials.
- Continuing the valuable regional Brownfield initiative and bringing EPA-funded assistance to many towns, development organizations and commercial property owners.
- Providing program assistance to the South East Vermont Housing Coalition and the Vermont Long Term Care Network, and support to the Windham County Long Term Care Network's Healthy Aging Study and the Westminster & Rockingham housing study.
- Establishing a WRC Energy Committee, participating in local and state reviews of many energy generation and transmission projects and proposals.

- Providing GIS support for towns, including highway and "ancient roads" data, land use planning scenarios, zoning maps, natural resources & conservation mapping, natural hazard maps, road name and E-911 maps, and more.
- Reviewing projects of regional importance and under Act 250 and other state and federal programs.
- Responding to daily requests/questions from elected officials and planning commission members on a host of planning-related issues.
- Other important work covered a broad range of topics, including natural resources planning, village redevelopment and revitalization projects, economic development planning, and a variety of education and training events for local officials.

WRC staff members are available to assist member towns with planning and land use projects and support of their data and mapping needs.

The WRC's core budget is partially funded by -and relies on- member town assessments. The \$1.60 per resident rate will result in a total assessment of \$725 from Brookline for the new fiscal year. Brookline may wish to budget additional amounts for town-specific work needed from the WRC. For information on the WRC and its programs, contact your Town Representative or the WRC office at 139 Main Street, Suite 505, Brattleboro, (802) 257-4547; our e-mail address is: wrc@sover.net. Visit our website at www.rpc.windham.vt.us.

Green Up Vermont

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS STRONG, “Green Up Day” is a special day when Vermonters clean and spruce up their communities. We were the first state in our nation to designate a day for such cleaning of the entire state. Working together, we can keep our unique Green Up spirit growing for Vermont.

Green Up Vermont is the not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that works to enhance our state’s natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day and educating about the benefits of a litter free environment.

Well over 15,000 Vermonters participated in Green Up Day 2007, using over 42,000 Green Up bags, collecting hundreds of tons of trash, piles of mixed metals and tires. Green Up Vermont continued providing widespread promotional support in excess of \$30,000.

The success of Green Up for Vermont depends upon two essential ingredients. One is the combined efforts of individuals and civic groups who volunteer to make it all possible; and two, the fi-

nancial support given by the public and private sectors throughout Vermont

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

Careful use of resources minimizes Green Up’s costs. The State appropriates funds that cover about 10 percent of our budget. The rest comes from gifts from towns, individuals and businesses. These funds pay for supplies including thousands of Green Up trash bags, promotion and services of two part-time employees. We ask your community to contribute, according to population, to keep Green Up growing for Vermont.

www.greenupvermont.org
greenup@greenupvermont.org

Mark your calendars May 3, 2008 is the next scheduled “Green-Up Day”! Get your boots, grab your gloves, invite a few friends and come join us in your community to make Vermont even more GREEN!

Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center

IN 2007, THE RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM completed its 34th year of coordinating volunteers in the Town of Brookline with important work in non-profit organizations. As part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, RSVP was established locally in 1973. Since that time, RSVP has matched hundreds of individuals with agencies and neighbors who benefit from their donation of skills and talents.

Whether by volunteering at the Brookline Elementary School, Grace Cottage, and Moore Free Library volunteers from Brookline and the surrounding areas have completed over 800 hours of volunteer work. A healthy living walk program was started in collaboration with the Vermont De-

partment of Health, as well as an Adult Literacy Program. RSVP Bone Builders classes continue to grow throughout Windham County to assist those with osteoporosis.

As we move ahead in the 21st century, we look to the Baby Boomers to find out how RSVP can be their ticket to fulfillment. It is our hope that retired individuals and those who are still in the workforce will get in touch to see how they can continue RSVP traditions and create new ones. Windham County RSVP can be reached at 254-7515.

Patricia M. Palencsar, Executive Director, Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center

Listers' Report

2007 WAS A BUSY and productive year for the listers. The first town-wide reappraisal, since 1988, was completed. The firm, Automated Property Assessment Services (APAS), began in August 2006 and completed it by May 2007. APAS employees visited, in varying degrees, every dwelling in town. Existing data and inspections were used to assess properties consisting of land only.

We involved ourselves in the reappraisal process as the opportunity and time permitted. We randomly accompanied APAS on site visits and performed a review of APAS assessments before accepting the reappraisal results. We conducted grievance hearings.

In conjunction with the reappraisal, we fully utilized the Vermont Computer-Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system to value properties.

We are satisfied with the service provided by APAS and believe the reappraisal to be fair and equitable. The most visible impact of the reappraisal was an average increase in assessed values of 103.8 percent. Because of the complex formulas the state uses to adjust the education tax rates this doubling of assessed value resulted in only modest tax in-

creases for most individuals.

Recent sale prices are close to the reappraisal listed values. Brookline's Common Level of Appraisal is 108 percent (rounded).

In addition to the reappraisal, we completed all our annual statutory duties including adjusting the value of Current Use Program properties, ensuring accurate housesite data used to calculate pre/rebates, and completing reports as required by the state.

Each of the listers attended state training seminars to ensure understanding and compliance with state policies and procedures. Lastly, but not least, we have started visiting properties that have undergone changes since the reappraisal in preparation for the 2008 grand list.

We look forward to serving you in 2008 and would like to thank you for all your assistance during the reappraisal, as well as, in advance, for your cooperation this coming year.

Stanley Noga, Jr.
Marsha Omand
Douglas Wellman

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.

Moore Free Library

THE MOORE FREE LIBRARY thanks the entire community for its ongoing support and patronage. Since we are a private library—even though we function as your public library, charging no fees—we receive no municipal, state, or federal funding. The generous donations of our Brookline and Newfane communities enable us to serve you. During the past year over 7,700 visitors checked out over 17,300 books, movies, and audios!

The year was filled with many lively events. In the spring local poets and writers read from their works, and a bicycle traveler shared slides of his trip through Turkey. During the summer the “Get a Clue at Your Library” program for children was a great success, with guests from the Brattleboro Police Department and the Grafton Nature Museum as well as local artists and craftspeople. In the fall the Library offered programs on Peruvian textiles, ancient Greece, and country fairs.

We are extremely grateful to all our volunteers for their dedication and of course to the Friends of the Library, who raised \$2,300 this year in their annual fall book sale.

Through the generosity of the Robert L. Crowell Charitable Fund, we continue to offer scholarships to local high-school seniors who plan to attend

college. This year three awards were made, all to students residing in Williamsville.

The Crowell Art Gallery in the back of the Library showcases the incredible talent and diversity of artists in our, and neighboring, communities. From December to February the Library exhibits its permanent collection of works by southern Vermont artists. In March the annual show of art by Newfane schoolchildren returns, and each month thereafter features a different exhibitor, usually with a Saturday-afternoon reception to meet the artist. Highlights of the year, among many, were an exhibition of relics from Iwo Jima collected by a local family and a stunning quilt show of items created by the Sew Whats sewing group of Newfane and Brookline.

The Library and Gallery are open Tuesdays through Fridays, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M., and Saturdays, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Story-time for pre-schoolers is at 10:30 Thursday mornings and includes a story, a craft and a snack. Watch for our newsletter, *The Bookmark*, mailed to all Brookline and Newfane residents in September and February.

Library Board of Trustees: Robert Doyle, Myra Fassler, Jonathan Field, Julie Lavorgna, and Dick Marek; *ex-officio*, Diana Urbaska. Librarian: Meris Morrison.

Brattleboro Area Drop In Center

THE BRATTLEBORO AREA Drop In Center provided emergency food assistance to 31 unduplicated residents of Brookline in 9 households in 2007. This represents a 20% increase in households served over 2006. Overall in 2007, the Center provided food to 5504 unduplicated people in Brattleboro and 51 surrounding towns, as well as outreach and case management services to 236 homeless individuals,

We have been serving an increasing number of working families and elders who are unable to make ends meet in times of high costs for fuel, medicine, and transportation. We do not anticipate this trend reversing itself in the upcoming year.

We are very appreciative of any support Brookline can provide to our agency. Thank you.

Melinda Bussino
Executive Director

Grace Cottage Hospital / Otis Health Care Center

2007 WAS A YEAR OF CHANGE at Grace Cottage Hospital and the Otis Health Care Center. Under the direction of a new CEO, Dr. Shana Jones, five-year strategic goals were identified by the board, medical staff and senior leadership, which include:

- Increasing diagnostic services. To improve patient care, a CT scan, ultrasound, digital X-ray and Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS) have all been added this year, for faster, more accurate, and far more detailed images of what's going on inside the patient's body; electronic transmission means that the high- clarity digital images can be sent anywhere at any time.
- Obtaining patient satisfaction scores no lower than the 95th percentile. Grace Cottage currently has the highest patient satisfaction scores of any hospital in the state, and many of them are already above the 95th percentile, but our goal is to do even better.
- Achieving a net operating gain. This is what every rural hospital dreams of, especially as reimbursements continue to decline.
- Reducing employee turnover. It's low by healthcare standards, but lower would be even better!
- Increasing staff productivity. Procedures and processes are being streamlined.
- Expand market share. A variety of wellness

programs, including Strong Living and yoga have been added, the X-ray department is open 24/7 and laboratory hours have been expanded. Three new practitioners have joined the doctors' office staff, so the wait time for appointments has been reduced, and night-time and weekend hours are now being offered to make office hours more convenient for patients.

Grace Cottage Hospital's mission is to promote the health and well-being of the community by providing quality health care services in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Area residents, second homeowners and visitors increasingly rely on the personalized, professional health care services of Grace Cottage Hospital and the Otis Health Care Center, as reflected in the following statistics:

SERVICES	FY1997	FY2006	FY2007
Emergency Room	1,517	2,197	2,524
Lab Tests	23,482	58,428	61,634
X-rays	1,870	2,808	2,921
Physical/ Occupational/ Speech Therapy	1,365	20,012	21,338
Retail Prescriptions Filled	17,652	54,206	55,804

United Ways of Vermont

Vermont 2-1-1
Get connected. Get Answers

VERMONT 2-1-1, A program of the united Ways of Vermont, is an information and referral help line serving all Vermonters. Community Information and Referral Specialist provide the human touch, by helping to solve problems, and linking callers throughout Vermont with government programs, community-based organizations, support groups and other local resources. More than 5,000 people here in Vermont called the Vermont 2-1-1 line in its first year of operation. That number will increase as more people become

aware of this service. When fully operational, it is estimated, that 30,000 to 40,000 callers (6–8% of Vermont’s population) will utilize this service each year.

Funding for Vermont 2-1-1 is provided by the ten individual United Ways in Vermont, the Vermont Agency of Human Services, and grants from local foundations.

Here’s how Vermont 2-1-1 helped the town of Brookline this past year:

Information only/Listening Support	4
Income Support and Employment	1
Organizational/Community/International Svcs	1

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of VT and NH

THE VNA & HOSPICE is a not-for-profit organization providing home healthcare, hospice, and maternal child health services for over 100 years. Recognizing the importance of caring for people in the comfort of their home, our services are provided to all in need, regardless of ability to pay. Last year, the VNA & Hospice provided over 1.9 million dollars in uncompensated care to individuals. The VNA & Hospice, like the local EMS, police and fire departments, is a vital part of the community’s safety net. Town funding is only intended to be a “contribution” towards the full cost of services provided to residents.

Supporting home healthcare is a way to control other town expenses. By keeping Brookline residents out of emergency rooms and hospitals and by reducing the need for relocation to nursing homes, our care offers significant savings in the town’s emergency services and other medical costs. VNA & Hospice nurses provide health education, local clinics, and comprehensive compassionate care, from before birth through the end of life.

Services provided between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007:

	Home Healthcare	Maternal and Child Health Services
Residents Served:	27	6
Home Visits:	577	36
Hours of Service:	597.74	45.58
	Hospice Services	Long Term Care
Residents Served:	1	6
Home Visits:	58	143
Hours of Service:	65.58	186.08

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

Mark Hamilton
Interim President and CEO

Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

IN VERMONT, approximately 8,000 residents are visually impaired and another 3,000 people are legally blind. Vision problems interfere with an individual's ability to manage daily tasks, travel to places outside the home, and enjoy leisure activities. In addition, the rural nature of the state makes it less likely for those with visual impairments to encounter others who are experiencing similar impairments, and thus feel isolated and alone.

Last year, the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) provided services to one adult and one child in the Town of Brookline, as well as 124 adults and 24 children in Windham County.

VABVI, a non-profit organization founded in 1926, is the only private agency to offer free training, services and support to visually impaired Vermonters. Our mission is to enable individuals with vision problems to achieve and maintain independence. Services include Rehabilitation (adapting daily living tasks to allow those with low vision to live independently); Orientation and Mobility

(providing white cane and guide dog instruction, allowing individuals to navigate through their home and community independently); Assistive Technology (adaptive aids allow clients to successfully perform most activities they desire); Social Networking (improving social skills and providing a support network); and Statewide Transportation (volunteer drivers provide rides to medical appointments, grocery stores and for personal visits)

VABVI offices are located in Burlington, Brattleboro, Montpelier and Rutland, with training rooms in our Montpelier Mini Center to showcase the latest technology in assistive aids for individuals with visual impairment.

For more information about VABVI's services, or to volunteer, please contact us at 1-800-639-5861, email general@vabvi.org or visit us on the web at www.vabvi.org.

Please contact Michelle Connor, Development Coordinator, at mconnor@vabvi.org or (802) 863-1358 x17 if you would prefer to receive this information by email. Thank you.

Windham County Reads

WINDHAM COUNTY READS is beginning its 20th year of bringing families and books together! There's much to celebrate, and at the same time, the pressing need for literacy outreach to families with young children continues. Support from sixteen Windham County towns, including Brookline, helped make our work possible this past year.

During the past year, Brookline K-6 students took part in the March Reading Challenge and received annotated Summer Reading Lists. K-4 students participated in the Red Clover book award program, which we co-sponsor, and families with new babies received board books and support for

daily reading through our Love Me, Read to Me partnership with Early Education Services.

As 2008 begins, we envision a fully literate county, where parents read daily with their young children, children enter school ready to read and learn, young students enjoy books throughout the entire year, teens use books to define and pursue their dreams, and adults of all ages read for pleasure and information. Thank you for sharing this vision and helping us make a difference.

Sincerely,
Ruth E. Allard, *Director*
(802) 257-5725, wcreads@sover.net

Windham Solid Waste Management District Report

THE WINDHAM SOLID WASTE Management District Board of Supervisors and Staff have continued to provide recycling services as well as hazardous waste, paint, compost and other waste recycling programs throughout the District. We also had an additional town join the District. Westminster became a member this past July and we welcome their input into the operation of the programs and participation of the residents in the overall offerings of the District.

The rural drop-off recycling program continues to experience increased quantities over the previous year from In-District programs due to the conscientious recycling habits of the residents and area businesses. However, we have experienced a decrease in annual quantities due to out of district material going to other MRF's. The District received approximately 6,000 tons of recyclables for the year as compared to 6,300 in the previous year.

The District Budget was approved by the Supervisors at the December 2007 meeting and for the second time in six years the District-wide assessment is not being subsidized from operating revenues. The overall net budget has actually de-

creased for the next fiscal year to \$336,642 (from a current \$350,000) for the estimated 37,467 District residents. This is equivalent to 75 cents per month per resident.

The permanent paint drop-off program at the District facility in Brattleboro continues to be available to residents to recycle paints year round rather than waiting for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW) day each year. There is a "rover" site for HHW that is located in different towns during the HHW event each year and we also operate short collection events in towns over the course of year for oil, paint and electronics.

As always, the District Convenience Center in Brattleboro is available for use by residents and accepts used crankcase oil, fluorescent tubes, batteries, ballasts and other materials on a daily basis. Call ahead for questions related to costs and a list of items that can be disposed of, or recycled through this program.

Please call the District at 257-0272 with any questions or to arrange a tour of the facility. Everyone is always welcome to watch the recyclables being processed once they arrive at the Materials Recycling Facility for processing.



The "Brookline Bridge" coming in to Brookline from Newfane.

Morningside Shelter Report for the Town of Brookline

MORNINGSIDE HOUSE INC., a non profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors, was founded in 1979 by a group of concerned area citizens. Located in an old farmhouse just south of downtown Brattleboro, 81 Morningside Drive has given literally thousands of people a safe and supportive place to call home while they sort out their lives. These are generally people caught up in circumstances, between jobs, trying to escape from an abusive situation or recover from an addiction. Live-in staff are on site from 11:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. every day, making the shelter accessible to the community 24 hours a day.

Currently Morningside can house 24 people at a time at its main shelter, and 6 families at its Life Skills Housing Program. We served over 200 people in 2006, including upwards of 50 children. Our residents range from newborns to mature individuals who arrive at our doorstep or are referred from human service agencies, churches, the law enforcement community and private social service agencies and counselors.

The average length of stay at Morningside is more than a month. For a significant number of Morningside clients, short term temporary housing is not sufficient to break the cycle of homelessness. In response to this, Morningside has expanded its services over the years to work with all the local human services agencies in the community to provide its residents with assistance and referrals for job placement and housing, family and substance abuse counseling, budget management, nutrition, health education and parenting and child services.

Morningside takes a variety of approaches to helping address the problem of homelessness in our community:

For a few individuals and families we provide short-term temporary shelter to those who have encountered a minor setback and just need a safe and stable place to stay while getting back on their feet.

For a significant number of Morningside shelter residents, short term temporary housing is not sufficient to break the cycle of homelessness. In response to this, Morningside offers an extended stay and intensive assistance in helping to address the many challenges residents face in their lives. Morningside staff works collaboratively with a wide range of area non-profit and human services agencies to assist residents in obtaining: job training and placement, medical and mental health treatment, family and substance abuse counseling and support, budget management, nutrition, health education, parenting and child care services, and assistance in identifying and qualifying for low income housing opportunities.

In addition to operating a shelter, Morningside employs several outreach workers who provide intensive support and assistance to assist low income individuals in staying successfully housed. This includes former shelter residents, who receive intensive case management assistance for up to two years after they leave the shelter.

Finally, in June of 2006 in collaboration with the Windham Housing Trust, Morningside opened Life Skills Housing, a two year transitional housing program for formerly homeless single young mothers and young expectant mothers between the ages of 18 to 35. Life Skills Housing has six, two bedroom apartments, one of which is occupied by a live-in staff member. Residents can stay up to two years provided they are actively engaged in program activities and making acceptable progress towards achieving program objectives. The goal of the program is to assist this group of young women in obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to be good tenants and good mothers in order to help break the cycle of homelessness, poverty, and abuse which they have previously experienced.

Southeastern Vermont Community Action

SOUTHEASTERN VERMONT COMMUNITY Action is an anti-poverty, community based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965.

Our mission is to enable people to cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty; create sustainable self-sufficiency; reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Services (i.e., fuel/utility assistance, food, shelter), Crisis Intervention, Parent Education, Micro-Business Development, Individual Development Accounts (IDA), and five thrift stores.

In the community of Brookline we have provided the following services during the past fiscal year:

Family Services (Outreach): 3 families (6 individuals) rec'd 17 services (including crisis intervention, financial counseling, nutrition education, referral to and assistance in accessing needed services)

Fuel/Utility Assistance: 2 families (6 individuals) rec'd \$300 in assistance

Weatherization: 1 family (3 individuals) weatherized at a cost of \$4,645

Tax Preparation: 1 family (3 individuals) rec'd an average of \$1,025 in Earned Income Tax Credits

Thrift Store Vouchers: 2 families & individuals rec'd vouchers for furniture, clothing or Housewares, valued at \$14

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private, and town funds allow us to not only maintain, but to increase and improve service.

We thank the residents of Brookline for their support.

Stephen Geller, *Executive Director*



(Left to right) Julie and Gary LaVorgna enjoying some of the food at the Brookline Town Office New Addition Grand Opening.

Women's Crisis Center

THE MISSION of the Women's crisis center is to work to end physical, sexual and emotional violence against the women and children of Windham County. Since our beginnings in 1977, we have provided intervention services to survivors of these crimes, as well as prevention and education services to help create a community in which violence is not tolerated.

Emergency services such as shelter, crisis intervention, emotional support, and information and referral are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Ongoing individual and group support for women and children; legal, medical, housing and social services advocacy; and cooperative work with other agencies are provided during the week.

During the fiscal year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, the Women's Crisis Center responded to over 1,000 call or walk in request for assistance. Thirty-five women and their 40 children were shel-

tered for a total of 1,154 shelter-nights. In addition, many hundreds of hours of individual and group support, advocacy, and childcare were provided to more than 250 women and 96 children who have been emotionally, physically, and/or sexually abused. The Women's Crisis Center continues to provide education about domestic violence and sexual assault to a wide range of groups in our community. As always, Windham County residents make up a large majority of the women and children who receive our support.

The Women's Crisis Center is a private, not-profit organization relying heavily on community support to provide our free and confidential services. We thank you for your Town's contributions to the Crisis Center, and hope you will look upon it as an investment in creating the safe and productive future that each of us deserves.

Youth Services

FOR OVER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS, Youth Services has helped Windham County area youth learn how to help themselves. We support families in becoming closer, stronger, and more vibrant. We inform our community partners and learn from them about what youth need and how best to insure they get their needs met. We are flexible, committed and energetic about all that we do because we are banking on our future, our community youth. In addition, Youth Services works in partnership with area service providers, schools, and state-wide groups to deliver services that help our area's youth and families, regardless of their ability to pay.

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

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

This past year, Youth Services' programs assisted over 1,447 local youth and adults. In addition, many family members also benefited from our services. Support from the Brookline community helps make it possible for Youth Services to be responsive to the ever-changing needs of our area's residents.

This year, we respectfully request \$255 from the Town of Brookline to help fund our agency's services. Federal and State of Vermont funding is shrinking or under-funded so we need to rely on area towns whose residents we serve to help support our efforts. You are part of the solution for many families, children and teens.

Thank you for your essential and continued support.

Allyson A. Villars, *Executive Director*

Youth and Families: Healthy, Empowered, Valued.

Brookline Community Group

OUR TWO ANNUAL spring events were the Easter Egg Hunt in April at the Solomons and Green-Up Day in May, when volunteers picked up trash from the Athens line to the green iron bridge.

The Thanksgiving Feast in November attracted another record crowd of Brookline residents. Again, we thank NewBrook Fire & Rescue for the use of their space. Turkey with all the fixings and potluck dishes were in abundance, and the Brookline schoolchildren made centerpieces and applesauce and baked bread and apple pies for the occasion. This year, a magician kept us entertained, and we held a "coffee-can raffle" of items donated by members of our community. The proceeds will go toward funding community events and the Life-long Learning Scholarships that provide modest assistance to Brookline residents of any age to attend classes, camps, or other educational/athletic activities. We were delighted this year to have been able to award twenty-eight scholarships totaling \$2,100.

The food concession booth that we run every six weeks at Saturday NewBrook Bingo continues to be a successful fundraiser for town activities and the scholarship fund. Volunteers either work at the booth or provide food for the evening. We

urge anyone willing to join in the effort to contact one of us.

Our Brookline E-mail list now includes over a 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 julielav@sover.net. (And, please, if your address has changed, let Julie know.)

The Brookline Community Group is dedicated to providing our town with recreational, social, and educational opportunities. There are no fees for attending the events; instead we rely on donations to offset costs. We are indebted to the many people who continue to volunteer time to make these activities possible and our town such a wonderful place to live. We are always looking for new recruits. Please join us!

Archie and Lorrie Clark (365-7606)
Tom Clynes and Cathy Mizgerd (365-9449)
Dennis and Penny Harrington (365-4270)
Gary and Julie Lavorgna (365-7278)
Bruce and Joyce Meehl (365-4505)
John and Lynn Reinhardt (365-4710)
Chuck and Marie Tattersall (365-7377)
Heather Van Horn (365-7118)

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