

## Town Hall Restoration Update

Hello, Citizen readers! This article is to update everyone on what the Friends of the Brookfield Town Hall have been up to this year. The short version is we've been supporting the development of a new plan for the Town Hall, encouraging the work of others who take care of the building, and looking forward to projects coming soon.

Austin Design of Colraine (MA) has completed the preliminary drawings and cost estimates for a phased renovation of the building. The first phase is the installation of an elevator inside the building's southwest corner—just left of the main entrance. The second phase will be a full remodel of the first floor, Great Hall, and building utilities. The final phase will renovate the basement to make it fully usable again. Austin Design's full plan can be seen on our website at [www.friendsofthebrookfieldtownhall.com](http://www.friendsofthebrookfieldtownhall.com). This work was contracted by the town with 50% funding from the Massachusetts Historical Preservation Projects Fund. The full renovation of the building will be a very long-term project, but by approaching it as a phased project we will be able to

*(Continued on page 7)*

### CONTENTS

2. Library news;
3. Folding Corner
4. The Arts
5. A Look Back
6. Fin Fur and Feathers;
7. Senior Gathering
8. Council on Aging; Highway Highlights
9. Police Station Update; Toys for Joy
10. Mutual Aid
11. Make This at Home
12. Gardening In New England;  
Cultural Council News
13. Citizen Staff; Tri-Valley; CMRP
16. Kid's Page



*(Continued from page 1) Restoration*

move forward in affordable steps and maximum support from grants.

The Friends of the Town Hall thank the Selectboard and Ron Wassmer for painting the exterior of the Town Hall windows this year. They look great! Our group was delighted to see the work completed by a local contractor. We support all efforts to keep our historic town hall in good repair.

We also want to thank Rudy Heller and his group of energy conservation advocates for researching and pursuing the geothermal heating grant for the town's buildings. This particular grant may not have worked out, but we are grateful for the hard work and creative thinking of this group. It's an honor to live in a town where so many people are volunteering their time and energy to make it a better place.

Finally, the town has appropriated the money and plans are being developed for a new septic system for the Town Hall, Fire Station, and forthcoming Police Station. The Friends are looking forward to having the new septic system in place, which we expect to see in the spring/summer of next year. Another thank you for the Highway Department for facilitating the site testing and assisting the process. This is a crucial step to improving the rather outdated and inadequate bathrooms in the Town Hall.

To wrap up, this hasn't been a year of large ambitious projects, but it has been a year of steady progress toward our goal of renovating the Brookfield Town Hall. We look forward to an exciting 2015! Thank you to all who have helped out this year. If you are interested in our group we welcome your participation. Please call at 508.867.6897, email at [friendsofbrookfieldtownhall@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbrookfieldtownhall@gmail.com), like us on Facebook, or visit our website at [www.friendsofthebrookfieldtownhall.com](http://www.friendsofthebrookfieldtownhall.com).

Sincerely,  
Friends of the Brookfield Town Hall

---