

# TALES OF TINMOUTH

January 2019

Vol. 33 Number 1

Tinmouth

Vermont

**Editors' Notes:** *May your New Year be filled with Health and Happiness!! Pray for Peace. . .*

The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, for publication on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@gmail.com) or drop it off at the Town Office. Any submissions missing the cutoff date may be included in the following month.

Many, many thanks for the donations to keep *Tales* in print. They are very much appreciated!

*Pat Psholka, Helen Mango & Gail Fallar*

## ~ Town Meeting 2019 ~

Town Meeting is **Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** this year. Public questions and budgets will be voted from the floor at the Community Center. Officers will be chosen on **Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** via Australian balloting, or you may cast an early/absentee ballot for that election.

Thinking about serving your community? Town Meeting will find voters choosing the following officers:

### *2019 Officers to be elected:*

Moderator - Town - 1 year term  
Select Board Member - 3 year term  
Lister - 3 year term  
Auditor - 3 year term  
1st Constable - 2 year term  
Town Agent - 1 year term  
Grand Juror - 1 year term  
Tax Collector (Delinquent) - 1 year term

And a School Board Member to the Mill River Unified Union School District – 3 year term (see article on right).

*If you wish to run for office*, you must file a petition with the town clerk with **five** voters' signatures by 5:00 PM Monday, **January 28<sup>th</sup>**. Petitions are available at the town office. Candidates must also sign a consent form.

*Petitions for Articles* to be placed on the warning are due by 5:00 pm **Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**. 5% of voters (20 voters) must sign the petition. Voters must be registered to vote in Tinmouth. Select Board must approve as well.

## ~ Winter Driving ~

Please SLOW down and give yourself more time to arrive at your destination. If you don't have studded snow tires, you will have more trouble staying on the road. Vermont does not have a "bare" road policy, expect some roads to be snow covered.

## ~ School Board Opening ~

*By Grant Reynolds*

Tinmouth has one member of the Mill River Unified Union School Board. It is the governing body for our school, now called Tinmouth Mountain School. The term is for three years, starting this March. I have been Tinmouth's member since the District was formed in 2016, and I was on the Study Committee that designed it. However, reality intrudes. I am 83. My years in grades 1-5 were during the Second World War, over 75 years ago. Even my grandchildren are adults. It has been an interesting and sometimes challenging experience, helped along by the fact that I have a longtime interest in education.

Here are some details about the scope of the job. I felt it important to have Tinmouth represented at as many meetings as possible. I am on three committees, Finance, Buildings and Grounds, and Policy. I also attend Personnel Committee meetings. Committees do most of the detail work, but do not make final decisions. They present complete findings and proposals to the full Board. I have found that while my total time commitment is not great, it is spread over all four weeks in the month. That complicates other activities. However, the job doesn't have to be done the same way I do it. Two board and two committee meetings, plus of course unanticipated special meetings and Retreats, are all that are required.

I was able to do this much because I am retired and had the time. My successor can design the job as he or she wishes. I intend to apply to next year's Chair to be a non-board member on the Policy Committee, since I can be of help in analyzing policies and the wording in which they are expressed.

I'd be happy to talk to anyone interested in this position. It pays \$1000 a year. My phone is 446-3457; email [grant62@vermontel.net](mailto:grant62@vermontel.net). Petitions are due to the town clerk on January 28 at 5 PM.

A BIG Thank You to **Grant** for his many years of service, first on the Tinmouth School Board and then as Tinmouth's member on the Mill River Unified Union School District Board. He was instrumental in making sure the new District's Articles of Association included a clause that would require a unanimous vote of the MRUUSD Board to close TES. His knowledge, experience and dedication is very much appreciated!

### January 2019 Calendar of Events

|                                   |           |                  |                                         |                    |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fire Department                   | Thursday  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 7:00                                    | Fire House         |
| Library OPEN                      | Saturday  | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 9-12                                    | Library            |
| Select Board                      | Thursday  | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 7:00                                    | Town Office        |
| Writers' Group                    | Sunday    | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 1:30                                    | Ruth Drachman's    |
| SWARC                             | Wednesday | 16 <sup>th</sup> | TBA                                     | Town Office        |
| Planning Commission               | Thursday  | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 7:00                                    | Town Office        |
| Contra Dance                      | Friday    | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 8:00                                    | Community Center   |
| <i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline | Sunday    | 20 <sup>th</sup> |                                         | Don't Miss It!     |
| Book Discussion                   | Sunday    | TBA              | 3:00                                    | Library            |
| Article Petitions Due             | Monday    | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 5:00                                    | Town Office        |
| Conservation Committee            | Monday    | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 7:00                                    | Town Office        |
| Free Ice Fishing Day              | Saturday  | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Frozen Lakes and Pond all over Vermont! |                    |
| THGS                              | Sunday    | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 2:00                                    | Town Office        |
| Officer Petitions Due             | Monday    | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 5:00                                    | Town Office        |
| TCF Grant Deadline                | Thursday  | 31 <sup>st</sup> |                                         | Town Office or TCF |

### February 2019 Calendar of Events

|                                   |           |                  |      |                |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------|----------------|
| Library OPEN                      | Saturday  | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 9-12 | Library        |
| Fire Dept.                        | Thursday  | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 7:00 | Fire House     |
| Select Board                      | Thursday  | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 7:00 | Town Office    |
| <i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline | Wednesday | 20 <sup>th</sup> |      | Don't Miss It! |
| Planning Commission               | Thursday  | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 7:30 | Town Office    |
| THGS                              | Sunday    | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 2:00 | Town Office    |

Sunday Church Service 9:00 AM ~ *All are welcome!*

*Transfer Station hours are Wednesday 4:00 - 7:00 pm & Saturday 8:00 am - noon.*

Library Hours ~ Monday 10:00-noon & 1-5 and Thursday 10:00-noon & 1-5

*Fun "non-competitive" Volleyball on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.*

Knit, Craft or Chat ~ Mondays 3:00 – 5:00 pm ~ Library

Bone Builders ~ Tuesday 10:00-11:00 am & Friday 9:00 – 10:00 am Library

~ January reminder from your local Fire Department (TVFD) ~

Please remember to keep your walkways shoveled and clear – *even to the doors you only use occasionally* – you never know when you might need the Rescue Squad or which door they may need to use. Goes for the inside too, don't block doorways with 'stuff'. You may need to make a hasty exit (in case of fire) or the Fire Department may need to get in.

**TVFD also reminds everyone to make sure that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and that you have more than one way out of your house!**

~ Vermont's Free Ice Fishing Day is January 26<sup>th</sup> ~

NORTH HERO, Vt. – Vermont's sixth annual Free Ice Fishing Day is Saturday, January 26, 2019.

Free Ice Fishing Day is held annually on the last Saturday in January. The day is geared toward giving new ice anglers an opportunity to try ice fishing before purchasing equipment, but any angler may ice fish on any waterbody open to ice fishing statewide without a fishing license on Free Ice Fishing Day.

To learn more about ice fishing in Vermont or to purchase a fishing license, visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

~ Safety Advice ~

*(At the risk of sounding like a broken record!)*

Please wear reflective clothing when you are out walking, **ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT!** Drivers need to be able to see you. A number of folks have reported near misses due to not being able to see someone walking along the roadside, as they were wearing dark clothing, both in Rutland (stepping from behind a parked car) and in surrounding communities. The road crew and anyone working on road projects are required to wear fluorescent clothing that also has reflective strips. This is a good idea for walkers, joggers, and hikers too!

~ **Tinmouth Community Fund Grants** ~

*By Jan Krantz*

Chair, Tinmouth Community Fund

The Tinmouth Community Fund (TCF)'s annual grant cycle is beginning. We start the year off with Community Fund Project grants. *Applications for these grants* need to be completed and returned to the Town Office, or emailed to: [krantzkj@vermontel.net](mailto:krantzkj@vermontel.net) **by January 31, 2019**. The *K-12 Camp Scholarship applications* are due **April 1**, and accepted until funds are expended. The *Higher Education Scholarship applications* are due **May 15**. You can pick up grant applications at the Town Office, or download each form from the town's website: <http://www.tinmouthvt.org/resources/>. It helps us a lot if you can fill them in electronically.

We are always looking for new ideas to fulfill TCF's purpose: "To provide funding of needed services and facilities for the well-being of the citizens of and for the sense of community in the town of Tinmouth."

To give you a sense of the type of projects that might be funded think in terms of the following activity areas: historical, culture, arts, recreation, social services, education, health, conservation, environment, aesthetics, and community development. If you are considering a project that fits in any of these areas, download the application today. Might it be computer classes for elders, or Thanksgiving dinners for shut-ins or singles either at home or the community center, or a movie series at the Old Firehouse? Use your imagination, take some action, create something fun for your town. Won't you give it a try?

Community Fund Project grant awards will be announced at the Tinmouth Community Fund's Annual Meeting on **March 2, 2019**, just before Town Meeting at the Community Center at **11:30 a.m.**

*Hope you can join us!*

~ **Non-Traditional Scholarships** ~

**Bob Emerick** would like to remind seniors at Mill River Union High School, that he and his brother Jack, are sponsors for non-traditional scholarships. If you are planning on taking a gap year or attending a trade school, please see the Mill River UHS guidance counselor for details and an application.

**Hunting and Fishing Licensees are available at the Town Office.**

**The town receives \$1.50 for each license sold!!  
Licenses expired on December 31st!!**

~ **Library News** ~

*By Ruth Drachman, Librarian*

**Happy New Year!**

As winter gets into full swing, remember that the library has **SNOW SHOES** which can be borrowed just like a book. We have several pair of adult size, and several pair of children's size snow shoes. The snow shoes can be checked out for one week.

Writing group will meet at Ruth Drachman's house on **Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30** for a Pot Luck, writing prompt and our annual January activities. **Join us!**

We also have bags of books all ready to be checked out. The bags are "**Theme Bags**" and have books appropriate for children ages 3 through 8. Each bag contains 6 or 7 books on a specific theme, for instance; colors, arctic animals, dinosaurs, or transportation. Come and check one out! They are all set to go!

**Knit and Chat** is held in the library on Mondays from 3 until 5 PM. Come and do whatever handcrafts you prefer, and be prepared to chat as well.

The library is **open** on Monday and Thursday, from 10:00 A. M. until Noon, and from 1:00 P. M. until 5:00 P. M., as well as the morning of the first Saturday of the month.

The library will be open on Saturday morning, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 until noon.

~ **Legislative Contact Info** ~

The Vermont General Assembly will soon be back in session. If you wish to contact your State Senators or Representatives, here is the info:

You can call the Sergeant-at-Arms at 1-800-322-5616 and leave a message, or email addresses below.

*Rutland 2 District –*

Rep. David Potter: [dpotter@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:dpotter@leg.state.vt.us).

Rep. Tom Burditt: [tburditt@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tburditt@leg.state.vt.us)

*Rutland-Bennington District –*

Rep. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman: [rchesnut-](mailto:rchesnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us)

[tangerman@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tangerman@leg.state.vt.us)

*Rutland County Senators-*

Sen. Brian Collamore: [bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us)

Sen. Cheryl Hooker: [chooker@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:chooker@leg.state.vt.us)

Sen. Jim McNeil: [jmcmneil@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:jmcmneil@leg.state.vt.us)

You can also access the Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us). There you can find who is on which committee, what bills have been introduced, track each bill's progress, review committee agendas, etc. There is a wealth of information available.

Your input can be important in their decision-making. Let them know your concerns!

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~



TINMOUTH  
CHURCH

Dear Friends,

A new year is on the horizon. It might even be here by the time you read this. Every year, I think about what I want to bring forward into the new and what I would rather leave behind in the old. I guess this is similar to making New Year's resolutions, but somehow it feels a little less intimidating to me.

As you may know, from my previous letters, I try to meditate as a way of managing the stressors of everyday life. A few days before Christmas, when there was still plenty to do both in my home and for the churches, I sat down intending to listen to a meditation entitled "Christmas Calm" on my favorite app, *Insight Timer*. A few sentences into it, I was definitely feeling calmer. But no sooner had my guide, a woman with a very soothing voice, said "Let the calm of Christmas settle over you," when my cat, Ayla butted her head against my tea mug and it was the *tea* rather than calm that was settling all over me.

I found myself laughing about it instead of getting upset, and took that as a sign that my meditation practice was doing what I had hoped it would. Later in the week, I was even able to laugh again at Ayla's antics as I shared the story with friends. *This* is something I would like to take into the New Year, this sense of humor that lets things that could be upsetting, slide off my back. In the New Year I would like to be lighter, especially in my approach to myself.

As you contemplate the New Year, I invite you to consider what it is you might like to bring with you. Maybe it is an attitude, or a renewed sense of purpose, maybe it is an intention to keep your heart or mind open. I also invite you to think about what might be best left behind. For me, this means not always having to do everything exactly right, giving myself space to make mistakes and leaving room for other folks (or cats) to teach me a thing or two.

However you shape it, I hope your New Year is a bright and joyful one.

**Happy New Year!**  
**Shirley**



~ Tinmouth's Iron Age ~  
by Grant Reynolds

Tinmouth had over half a century as an industrial town. Iron is a common mineral, but quantities of it are needed for mining to be economically worthwhile. It also needs a customer not far away, because horse and wagon transportation costs were very high. Iron mining in Tinmouth began just north of Tinmouth Pond on the Chipman farm around 1780.

To make use of the iron, Nathaniel Chipman, lawyer, farmer, and politician started a forge, a simple iron smelter, on the Pond outlet. Scraps of smelting waste have been found along a swift water section of the stream. His iron supposedly was used to make musket barrels for his brother Daniel Chipman's musket works in Rutland. An even earlier forge east of the village was destroyed by British raiders in 1777, but it may have been a blacksmith's forge, not a smelter.

More large ore deposits were discovered at the bottom of Crow Hill Road, and on the Church of England lot southeast of the intersection of North End Road and North East Road. No record exists of "bog iron" (iron floating on the surface of swamps) being used in Tinmouth though it was common elsewhere.

In 1788 the "Beaver Creek" was dammed up at North End Road, creating a 700 acre lake with reportedly excellent fishing. It provided a steady flow of water to run the air pumps for a blast furnace located "on the dam". The dam is now the west bank of the channel where it narrows down at the North End road bridge. Chunks of slag visible today verify the smelter location.

A blast furnace was a large stone structure roughly 20 to 30 feet square and 30 to 40 feet high. It was "charged" with charcoal, iron ore, and limestone. Pipes into the bottom level pumped air into the hot section. The air pumps were run by water power from the lake. Once lighted the furnace ran continuously. Day and night men trundled wheelbarrows of ore, limestone, and charcoal across a spindly bridge to the furnace top.

When the ironmaster was satisfied that the iron was ready to pour, an outlet in the bottom was opened and the 2200+ degree metal flowed out into molds. The molds could be used to make rough iron (pig iron), or flatware like stove parts, pots, and pans. Pig iron was sold to blacksmiths and other iron workers to make into usable products like hinges, carriage and wagon parts, and farm tools.

In 1808 a second furnace was built downstream from the one on the dam. Two more blast furnaces were built a few hundred yards downstream from it, in the town of Clarendon. Probably they used Tinmouth ore as well as water from the Furnace Pond. The remnants of a small village of tiny cabins are located in the area of the 1808 furnace. It took a substantial number of workers to keep a

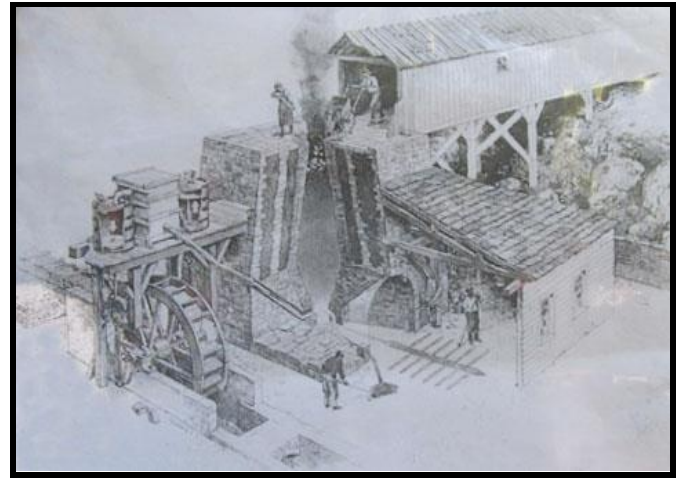
furnace running 24 hours a day, even with the usual 12 hour workday.

The dam furnace was taken down in 1815, and the parts used to build a new furnace on the Channel near Vt. Route 140, behind the house now owned by Nelson and Betti Jaquay. South of the bridge a dam created “Vaughn’s Pond”, named for the last owner of the furnace. A flume led from the dam down to the blast furnace, the fast flowing water in it running the air pumps.

The North End dam was taken down in 1815, creating a wetland somewhat like the one that is there today. Two straight channels can be seen in it, one running west to east and nearly connecting with another running north to south. Currently neither is very long. It is said that they were dug to take ore from the Gospel tract on North East road, and perhaps limestone and charcoal, down to the furnace at Jaquay’s. They are the reason for calling the stream “the Channel”, though there is no documentary evidence of what they were used for.

By 1837 the last operating blast furnace in Tinmouth, the one behind Jaquay’s at Vt. 140, had closed. A depression that year, and cheaper metal and metal goods coming up the Champlain Canal, ruined the market for small country blast furnaces. Tinmouth lost 25% of its population by 1840, no doubt mostly furnace worker families. Mining continued off and on until 1872, especially during the Civil War when the special characteristics of Tinmouth ore made it essential for the furnaces at Plymouth. They made, among other things, the iron plates for the *Monitor*-type ironclad vessels that opened the way for a Navy of iron warships.

While the blast furnaces contributed to the town’s economy, including as many as 300 workers and their families, the environmental effects must have been unpleasant. The noise and smoke from as many as four furnaces at once, including the Clarendon ones just north of the town line, would have been thoroughly unpleasant, especially on a damp day with low hanging clouds. The furnaces constantly needed charcoal for combustion. Tinmouth forests were probably made ready for the “sheep boom” by clearcutting for charcoal. The shouldering charcoal burns would have added to the air pollution from the furnaces. The constant flow of wagons bringing charcoal from the Purchase and from other towns nearby would have required Tinmouth men to spend more time on road maintenance. So while William Vaughn’s friends probably sympathized with his losses when the last furnace closed, most of the town should have been happy to see it go away.



“Tinmouth Blast Furnace”

A blast furnace like those in Tinmouth. The artist has taken a wedge out of the corner of the furnace so you can see inside, but it was actually thick masonry on all four sides. The water wheel provided power to pump air through a pipe into the bottom of the furnace, greatly raising the temperature and the amount of ore that could be melted. The “bridgemen” on the bridge at the top bring wheelbarrow loads of ore, charcoal, and limestone 24 hours a day. Ports near the bottom could be opened by the “moulder” when the ironmaster judged the metal would flow smoothly into molds on the ground at the base.



“Molten Iron”

The molten iron is flowing out of the base of the furnace at 2200 degrees! The “molders” are using long poles to keep it in the proper channels. These men seem to be making rough pig iron castings, but the molds could be for much more complex items.

The Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society is still looking for a Tinmouth Stove – does anyone know the whereabouts of one?



December has been an unpredictable month as far as weather goes. The children had a brief and welcomed opportunity for sledding at the start of the month. This was a welcome respite from the holiday anticipation children felt this time of year. The thirteen days students attended school during December were infused with holiday activities including song, gift making, and reflection on the true reason for the holidays. The culminating event took place the last day of school. Students in kindergarten through sixth grade visited neighbors throughout Tinmouth. The children sang carols they had been rehearsing and gifted jars of cookies.

Teachers started testing students' reading progress in Kindergarten during December. The remaining students in grades 1 through 6 will be tested in January.

Our Winter Sports Program at Okemo Mountain will begin Friday, January 28, and continue for five weeks following. We need volunteers to make this program a success. *If you would like to volunteer for snowboarding, skiing, or skating with a small group of 4 students, please contact Colleen at the school office (446-2458).*

Thank you for the ongoing community support!  
I wish you a New Year blessed with prosperity and peace!

*Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker*  
Principal, Tinmouth Mountain School

**Marion's Musings** will return in February!

~ THGS ~

The Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society will meet on **Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>** at the town office to continue archiving work - sorting photos, papers and ephemera at the town office - and working on a cataloging system.

**2:00 ~ refreshments provided.**

*All are welcome.*

If you have some old photos you would be willing to share, please bring them along. We would like to scan them. They will be promptly returned.

Hope you've had a chance to drive **North End Road** after dark. There is a HUGE peace sign at the Town Hugger's place. Many other folks had delightful holiday displays as well. Thank you for sharing the holiday spirit!

~ Community News ~

**Kudos and Thank You** to the many elves who worked (shopping for food, shopping for gifts (and clothes), wrapping gifts, sorting food, and packing boxes, donations of food, donations of \$'s, donations of time, making cookies, sweet breads, nut butter, set-up and clean-up) to share the Christmas spirit with 23 families who received food baskets (3 or 4 boxes of food) and toys/clothes for those with children and 20 fruit baskets delivered to some of our elders, those with the loss of a loved one, those in need of a kind act, etc. (all separate from the other 23)! They were very much appreciated.

Thanks are also extended to Mill River Union High School's National Honor Society and the Mill River Unified Union School District for all the fixings for a turkey dinner; Operation Dolls and More for gifts for little ones; and Thomas' Dairy for milk and eggs. And for the food drive organized by the Wallingford Rescue Squad and another by the Tinmouth Elementary School. The food shelf at the Town Office has been re-stocked as well, thanks to those efforts. If you need a bit of help with food, please stop in! Or if you can spare non-perishables (pasta, tuna, laundry detergent, etc.) please drop them off.

There were about a dozen and a half carolers out and about just before Christmas. Voices were well tuned, very harmonious and wonderful to listen to and sing along with. What a lovely on-going tradition!!

*Dear Carolers,*

*It was such a pleasure to hear your beautiful voices!  
Thank you so much for coming to my home.*

*Rose Napolitano*

The Christmas Eve Service at the Tinmouth Community Church was splendid! There were choral singers, bell ringers, violin players, pianist and organist, and magic as *Silent Night* was sung by those holding candles encircling the pews. Thank-you to all who participated and were involved in this wonderful celebration of Christ's birth.

Congratulations to **Grant and Jo Reynolds** who recently celebrated their **60<sup>th</sup>** wedding anniversary! Best Wishes for many more years!

Welcome to Tinmouth's newest arrival, **Carson Paul Torres**, born August 25th (birth certificate just received), son of **Stephan and Paige Torres**. Congratulations and best wishes!

*Get Well Wishes* are sent to **Nancy Noble, Betty Fallar, David Aubrey, Mike Smith, Charlie Wrobel, and all cold and flu sufferers**. The flu has arrived - keep washing your hands!! And please stay home if you are ill. Everyone thanks you for that.

**~Meeting Highlights~**

*(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)*

**Select Board ~ 12/13/18**

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Chuck Bronk, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Vito Macaluso, Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Mary Cohen – Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce, Tyler Richardson-Rutland Economic Development Corporation, Ken Krantz, Jan Krantz, Grant Reynolds, Jo Reynolds, Doug Fontein and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

**“Real Rutland”** – Tyler lead the presentation by thanking the Town for its support last year. He and Mary explained the Real Rutland regional marketing campaign. It is a 10 year plan, hoping to attract workers to the county with a variety of ways to brand the area, targeted areas include Rutland County, all of Vermont and Boston/New York/New Jersey. They have a new website activated on October 1<sup>st</sup>. They showed a video featuring Asha Carroll McCullough and husband Andy and why they moved to Tinnmouth from NYC. They are asking for \$1 per Tinnmouth resident as a funding request. Board will include this on the warning for Town meeting. They will attend town meeting to answer any questions voters might have. Mary thanked Cathy for her work on the Quality of Life sub-committee.

**Financial Report** – Board reviewed, asked to have expenditures relating to the planning for a new town garage/salt & sand shed shown separately. Board voted to accept the report.

**Highway** – Eric advised all is good, was thankful for a break in the weather.

**Civil Engineering** - Board reviewed proposal from Don Woods, P.E., regarding engineering needed to continue process for a new town garage. There was much discussion about proposed locations of facilities. Board needs engineering to decide where these should be located. Option D shows the town garage behind the current burn pile with the salt/sand shed to the west and the transfer station moved east a bit to where the current sand pile is. This option has not been approved. There was discussion about moving the town garage closer to Route 140, storm water engineering will help determine what is possible. Discussion about the need for the project, safety of roads and adequate work environment for road crew, what is in the best interest of the town and taxpayers, etc. Cathy moved and Frank 2nded to hire Don Woods to do preliminary engineering with Option D in mind. They both voted yes, Michael abstained. Ken and Jan left at this point, expressing concern for storm water control and salt.

**East Road Speed Control** – Frank advised he called the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department about the speed cart and more enforcement – no response as yet. He will

call again. Eric noted it would be best if the speed cart was not used until after winter plowing was over.

**Others** – Doug Fontein, as Chair of the Conservation Commission (CC), advised that the CC is researching establishing a designated fund for conservation efforts, but is just beginning that process. He did ask the Board to increase the CC’s annual allotment in the budget from \$250 to \$500. Board agreed. Funds are used for trail work, speakers, etc. Past funds have been used for the trail kiosks, trail signs, the town’s cabin in the Purchase, and to help with school with a new program called “Trout in Schools” – students are growing fingerlings for release next spring into a Tinnmouth stream.

**Highway Draft FY20 Budget** – Board members expressed concern for the lack of sand on back roads during recent storms. Eric advised that he is trying to follow Best Management Practices (BMP) now being recommended by the state. Sand can fill ditches, has to be cleaned out, past practice applies 5 times as much as the state recommends (one ton per mile). Board encouraged him use the sand, winter sand is a very small part of the highway budget, roads need to be safe.

Eric advised that \$12,000 is needed for the **chloride program**, also a BMP, where the vendor provides the tank, pump and storage tanks needed as long as the town agrees to a 3 year contract to buy the product from them. Michael and Vito expressed concern with the use of all that chloride. Frank advised he had done research and couldn’t find any concerns on the state’s part. Eric noted it helps keep the gravel on the road and provides dust control as a side benefit. Other discussions about the budget included overtime (weather dependent, bad winter OT goes up), and Eric’s request to hire a part time person to cover vacations in the summer and perhaps help with winter plowing in a big storm. Board took under advisement. More work on budget next month.

**Procurement/Purchase Guidance** – Board decided to require bidding for salt (unless the state bid is used), paving and equipment from the Equipment Fund; and for any purchase in excess of \$10,000 from the Capital Building/Repair Fund. Cathy edited, will send around for final review at Board’s January meeting.

**Practice regarding when to plow, when to sand, when to salt**, was postponed until January meeting.

**Holiday Bonus** - Board discussed past practice, Cathy moved and Frank 2nded to increase bonus to \$100, for each regular town employee – road crew, town office staff, and transfer station workers. Both voted in favor, Michael recused himself (mother is town employee).

**General Budget** – Board reviewed proposed general budget for FY20 – decided to ask voters to create a special fund for website and computer needs so that if the amount is not spent in a year, it will be able to be saved for future use. Board asked that recycling disposal costs be shown as a separate line.

**Old Business** – Trash on Mountain View Road – no progress made.

**Members' Concerns** - Cathy noted that the Town's Operator's Manual needs to be updated, her Dad, Grant Reynolds has volunteered to undertake this. The school section especially has changed a great deal.

### **Planning Commission ~ 11/29/18**

Present were members Michael Fallar, Bob Lloyd, Pat Psholka, Grant Reynolds, Rainbow Squier, Vito Macaluso, Larry Carabeau, and Kim Harbaugh, as well as Richard Amore – Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, Barbara Noyes Pulling-Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Stan Wilbur, Sherry Johnson and Gail Fallar, Secretary.

**Village Center Designation** – Richard Amore noted he had met with a few members of the Planning Commission earlier in the afternoon and toured the center of Tinmouth, finding it most charming and beautiful. Members discussed the many attributes – center of town activities, the school, church, fire department, community center, concerts, contra dances, etc. He presented information regarding the state's Village Center Designation and its benefits. Given the make up of Tinmouth Center, the biggest benefit will be additional points in state grant applications. The program recognizes and supports commercial and civic revitalization; rehab of historic buildings – built before 1983, with incentives for owners (tax credits), etc.

Mr. Amore explained the process to apply, a map has to be presented to a State Board who approves the final boundary of the area. The Select Board and the Regional Planning Commission have to approve as well. There is a map in the town plan, but it includes some areas of vacant land which is not allowed. RRPC will draw the map and help with the process.

Stan inquired about a program for village waste water, asked the Planning Commission to look into it for the village area. Taken under advisement.

Barbara Noyes-Pulling, presented information regarding **Enhanced Energy Planning** including a draft plan for Tinmouth. Depending on how far the PC wishes to delve into it, it could produce a map of where renewable energy projects could go or where they are prohibited. There is a 14 page checklist that has to be followed. There was discussion about what other towns are doing – Wallingford is working on one now. It may take a year or so to compile information. Bob advised that the Town Plan already has done quite a bit of what is required, asked Barbara to take a look at that before proceeding. Each town has a renewable energy target to meet by 2050 – could be done by encouraging folks to install solar panels on roofs. There were some questions regarding baseline data that is being used – some of it has been shown to be inaccurate.

Concern was expressed about the possible conversion of the OMYA 44K transmission line into a distribution line – GMP representatives have assured the PC in the past that there was no such intention, but given the upgrade of the line in the last couple of years, suspicions have arisen.

RRPC is getting a state grant to help 3 or 4 more towns with Enhanced Energy planning – does the PC want to participate? After discussion, Grant moved and Bob 2nded to continue in the process. Motion passed with one abstention.

### **~ Keep Your Home Safe from Carbon Monoxide ~**

By *Katie Warchut*, [katie.warchut@vermont.gov](mailto:katie.warchut@vermont.gov), Public Health Communication Officer, VT Dept. of Health,

As you heat your home this winter, keep it safe from an invisible, deadly gas – carbon monoxide.

Many heating systems burn fuel - like natural gas, propane, oil, or wood - which produces carbon monoxide (CO). When it's cold out and homes are closed up tight, carbon monoxide can build to dangerous levels if it's not properly ventilated.

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, so you may not know if your family is at risk. But you can take steps to prevent CO poisoning in your home:

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm. Change the batteries regularly and replace the alarm when it expires.
- Have your heating system and other fuel-burning appliances serviced every year.
- Keep the vents outside your home clear of snow and ice.
- If you lose power, only use generators outside – at least 20 feet away from your house.
- Never run a vehicle inside your garage, even if the door is open.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness and upset stomach/vomiting. This can sometimes be confused with the flu.

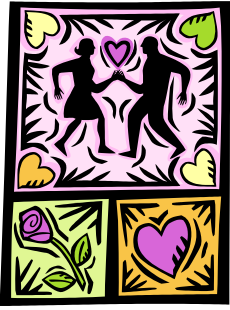
If your CO alarm goes off, go outside immediately to get fresh air, then call 9-1-1.

For more tips and a video on carbon monoxide safety, visit: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/CO>

And check out more tips for staying safe during the winter: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/climate/winter-weather>







## Tinmouth Contra Dance Dance to Mary Wesley calling to the amazing tunes of CLOUD TEN!

**Friday, January 18 at 8:00 pm  
Tinmouth Community Center,  
573 Route 140**

Dance to the splendid tunes of Cloud Ten with Mary Wesley calling **Friday January 18 from 8 pm – 11 pm** at the Tinmouth Community Center. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner. If you are a beginner, come right at 8:00 for a beginner's lesson to learn the moves. There will be live music, enthusiastic swinging and dancing, refreshments and a fun night for all. Bring your friends and family. The dance takes place in the Tinmouth Community Center on the third Friday of the month. The TCC is on Rte. 140 in the center of Tinmouth, Vermont, 5 miles west of Wallingford.

Please bring clean, non-marring shoes. Admission is \$10-\$12, \$8 for teens and free for children 12 and under. More info at [tinmouthcontradance.org](http://tinmouthcontradance.org). Like us on Facebook at Tinmouth Contra Dance. Shine up those dancing shoes and bring a couple of friends to dance with! Our email is [tinmouthdance@gmail.org](mailto:tinmouthdance@gmail.org). Phone 802-881-6775. See you in Tinmouth!

Mark your calendars for our March Dance-Cedar and Friends with Adina Gordon calling! We are taking February off – go dance at Dance Flurry in Saratoga as an alternative.

### ~ Recipe Corner ~ Cream Cheese Bars

2/3 cup brown sugar  
2/3 cup butter  
2 cups flour  
1 cup nuts (chopped)  
½ cup sugar  
2 (8 oz.) cream cheese  
2 eggs  
¼ cup milk  
2 teaspoons lemon juice  
1 teaspoon vanilla



Cream brown sugar and butter. Add flour and nuts. Mix to make crumb mixture. Reserve 1 cup for topping.

Press remaining mixture in 13x9 inch greased pan. Bake 12 minutes at 350 degrees.

Blend sugar and cream cheese. Add eggs, milk, lemon juice and vanilla. Beat well. Spread over crust. Sprinkle reserved crumb mixture over top.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes.

*Got a favorite recipe you are willing to share? Please send it/them to Shirley Bucciari at [smhb@vermontel.net](mailto:smhb@vermontel.net) or 49 North End Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773. Thanks!*

## Ice Safety Tips This Winter Season



MONTPELIER, Vt. – The recent arrival of cold temperature has formed early-season ice on Vermont ponds, lakes and rivers. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, in partnership with the National Weather Service, reminds winter enthusiasts that ice should **never** be considered safe and ice conditions vary, especially with changing weather.

“We are urging all outdoor enthusiasts – people going ice fishing, cross-country skiers, hikers, and snowmobilers -- to be extremely cautious and prepared if they are going to venture out on any ice,” said Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s Chief Game Warden Colonel Jason Batchelder. “Ice conditions can vary dramatically on different parts of a lake. Remember, even though it may look thick enough on the surface, moving water from currents, rivers and springs can cause ice to form unevenly.”

Vermont’s winters can be extreme and changeable. Always check the latest forecasts before you start your winter adventure. Prepare for extreme winter conditions like blizzard conditions due to strong winds and blowing snow as well as “dangerous wind chills that can cause frostbite in just minutes, if unprepared,” says NWS Burlington’s Warning Coordination Meteorologist – Scott Whittier.

“Once we have sustained cold weather to form good ice, activities such as ice fishing can be safe and a lot of fun,” said Batchelder, “but when we go onto the ice, we need to use good judgment and observe several safety precautions.”

- **Leave your car or truck on shore.** Every year several motor vehicles go through the ice on Vermont lakes, and people have drowned as a result.
- Leave information about your plans with someone -- where you intend to fish and when you expect to return.
- Wear a personal flotation device and don't fish alone.
- Dress for the cold weather! Wear several layers of loose-fitting, breathable layers of clothes. Also hats, gloves or mittens and warmers for hands and feet to prevent frost bite and hypothermia.
- Fish with a friend. Ice fishing is a great sport to share with family members and friends, and having a partner with you increases both the fun and the safety.
- Ice varies in thickness and condition. Always carry an ice spud or chisel to check ice as you proceed.
- Be extremely cautious crossing ice near river mouths, points of land, bridges, islands, and over reefs and springs. Current almost always causes ice to be thinner over these areas.

- BE AWARE of changeable weather and ice conditions, especially after a period of mild, above freezing temperatures. Re-check the ice status BEFORE venturing onto it.
- Avoid going onto the ice if it has melted away from the shore. This indicates melting is underway, and ice can shift position as wind direction changes.
- Waves from open water can quickly break up large areas of ice. If you can see open water in the lake and the wind picks up, get off!
- Bring your fully-charged cell phone with you.
- Carry a set of hand spikes to help you work your way out onto the surface of the ice if you go through. Holding one in each hand, you can alternately punch them into the ice and pull yourself up and out. You can make these at home, using large nails, or you can purchase them at stores that sell fishing supplies.
- Carry a safety line that can be thrown to someone who has gone through the ice.
- Heated fishing shanties must have good ventilation to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. Open a window or the door part way to allow in fresh air.

For weather information and forecasts –

National Weather Service Burlington office -

<http://www.weather.gov/btv/>

Recreational Forecast –

<http://www.weather.gov/btv/recreation>

### And Bird Feeding Basics

MONTPELIER, Vt. – With winter weather now taking hold, Vermonters are readying their bird feeders. But before residents put up their avian offerings, Vermont Fish & Wildlife recommends a review of the bird feeding basics.

“Birds of all species have very interesting behaviors, shapes, and plumage, and observing them up close is a great source of enjoyment throughout the winter months,” said John Buck, Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s migratory bird biologist.

Buck recommends that people only feed birds during the winter months to avoid attracting bears. Bears are very fond of suet and bird seed, especially black oil sunflower seed. Bringing feeders in at night doesn’t work, because bears will still feed on seed that is spilled on the ground, and bears can also be active during the daylight hours. Bears that are lured by birdfeeders can become unafraid of people, which can result in the bear needing to be put down.

While the Department suggests a general feeding window of December 1-March 31, bears will continue to be present when the ground is snowless and abundant fall foods are available. Buck recommends waiting to put

feeders out until 4-6 inches of snow cover occurs to be reasonably assured bears have denned for the winter.

According to Buck, birds don’t generally need food from backyard feeders to survive, but the activity is a great way for people to interact with nature and if done properly, won’t harm bird populations. Many local hardware stores sell bird feeders and a variety of seed mixes that will appeal to different types of birds. For an all-purpose food, black oil sunflower seeds will attract many native bird species.

Buck also urges people to clean birdfeeders at least once a month to prevent a buildup of harmful pathogens. Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites can be spread through dirty feeders and make birds ill, particularly vulnerable species are common redpolls, pine siskins, sparrows, finches, and cardinals.

Buck recommends using a solution of one-part bleach to nine parts hot water to kill bacteria. Hot water with unscented dish detergent also does an excellent job. Bottle brushes work well in tube feeders. He recommends thorough rinsing and drying before refilling feeders, and cleaning up seeds and droppings below the feeder. Buck also recommends checking feed after rain or wet snow to look for clumping or rotting seeds. And feeders are best placed away from larger windows that birds can sometimes crash into. With some forethought and precautions, bird feeding can be a really rewarding activity on a dark winter’s day.

Vermonters who feed birds will have plenty of company. Nearly half of households in Vermont feed birds each winter, contributing an estimated \$65 million to Vermont’s economy. People can help birds and other wildlife by making a tax-deductible donation to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on line 29 of the state tax returns or by purchasing an annual Vermont Habitat Stamp, available at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).



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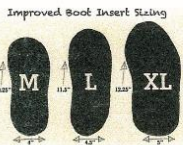
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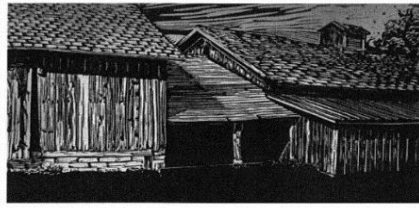


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*Act as if what you do makes a  
difference. It does.*

*- William James*

**A reader sends a bit of humor ~**

**Here is what comedian Jeff Foxworthy has to say about Vermonters:**

- If someone in a Home Depot store offers assistance and they don't work there, you live in Vermont.  
If you've worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you live in Vermont.
- If Vacation means going anywhere south of New York City for the weekend, you live in Vermont.
- If you measure distance in hours, you live in Vermont.
- If you know several people who have hit a deer more than once, you live in Vermont.
- If you have switched from 'heat' to 'A/C' in the same day and back again, you live in Vermont.
- If you can drive 75 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching, you live in Vermont.
- If you install security lights on your house and garage but leave both unlocked, you live in Vermont.
- If you carry jumpers in your car and your wife knows how to use them, you live in Vermont.
- If you design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit, you live in Vermont.
- If the speed limit on the highway is 55 mph, you're going 80, and everybody is passing you, you live in Vermont.
- If driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow, you live in Vermont.
- If you know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction, you live in Vermont.
- If you have more miles on your snow blower than your car, you live in Vermont.
- If you find 10 degrees 'a little chilly', you live in Vermont.
- If there's a Dunkin Donuts on every corner, you live in Vermont.
- If you think everyone else has a funny accent, you live in Vermont.



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