

# TALES OF TINMOUTH

December 2019  
Vol. 33 Number 12

Tinmouth  
Vermont

## Editors' Notes:

*Peace on Earth, Good Will to All.*

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 (tinmouthtales@gmail.com).

*Pat Psholka, Helen Mango, & Gail Fallar*



## ~ Christmas Baskets ~

The **Roy & Anne Wilbur Fund**, under the umbrella of the Tinmouth Community Church, helps folks with heat, lights, groceries, etc. It also helps provide **Christmas Baskets** to folks in town. Donations of non-perishable food and other items (soap, laundry detergent, shampoo, paper products-toilet paper, tissues, etc.) can be left at the town office. Your generosity and help is greatly appreciated.

If you, or someone you know, need(s) a basket, please call Gail at 446-2498. If you have a bounty of potatoes, onions, or squash from your garden, or fresh eggs, they are most welcome. **If you have an extra turkey or ham, that you would like to donate they are welcome as well.**

**Fruit Baskets** are distributed to nearly 20 folks as well. If you have an extra basket, we still need a few. Please drop them off at the town office. Thanks!

There were **six Thanksgiving Baskets** delivered, thanks to the generosity of folks attending the Community Thanksgiving Service – they brought food for the collection, and others who donated money for turkeys and perishables and left food at the town office. They were very much appreciated.

**Many thanks to the Wallingford Rescue Squad for the many boxes of non-perishable items for our food shelf and Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets!**



## *Food Drive For*

**Tinmouth Community Christmas Food Baskets**

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 AM until 11:00 AM**

**in the basement of the Tinmouth Community Church**

These items will be used to fill 25 or so food baskets for less fortunate families in town, who really appreciate your generosity. Or you can drop things off at the Town Office anytime between now and then. The Mill River Union High School National Honor Society is helping with this effort; they will be providing turkeys and all the fixings (having organized food drives in all the schools in the district and done fund raising to purchase turkeys). We will then add to those baskets with more food and other items.

**Non-Perishable Food Items** such as peanut butter, jelly/jam, applesauce, pineapple, oatmeal, cereal, flour, sugar, oil, soup, pasta, spaghetti sauce, juice, boxed cake mixes, stuffing, tuna fish, crackers, rice, mac and cheese, beans, vegetables, fruit, cookies, etc.

**Household Items** such as laundry detergent, dish soap, hand soap, shampoo, facial tissue, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper

**Pet Food** such as canned cat food, canned dog food, small bag dry dog food, small bag dry cat food, dog or cat treats

**Monetary donations** to help cover the costs of perishable items such as meat, milk, juice, eggs, produce, fruit, and bread. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Roy and Anne Wilbur Fund (which is under the umbrella of the Tinmouth Community Church), and left at the town office or mailed to 515 North End Rd, Tinmouth, VT 05773.

Also needed are *monetary donations* to help provide clothes and gifts for kids (books, socks, mittens, toys).

A note to the many gifted Tinmouth Bakers – baked goods can be dropped off early at the Tinmouth Church on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>. Baskets will be picked up that day.

*Thank you for your kind generosity !*

*Joyous Holidays to All!  
The Tinmouth Elves*

~ December 2019 Calendar of Events ~



Fire Department	Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Fire House
Library OPEN	Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9 - Noon	Library
Select Board	Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Town Office
Holiday Food Drive	Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup>	9-11 AM	Church Basement
Conservation Commission	Monday	16 <sup>th</sup>	7:30	Town Office
Select Board – Special	Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission			No Meeting in December	
Holiday Open House	Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup>	4:00-6:00	Town Office
Contra Dance	Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>	8:00	Community Center
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>		Don't Miss It!
First day of Winter	Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup>		Enjoy the Solstice!
Caroling	Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:00	Meet at the Church
Christmas Eve Service	Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup>	4:30 (4:15)	Church
Transfer Station & Town Office	Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED for Christmas	

January 2020 Calendar of Events

Town Office	Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	CLOSED for the Holiday	
Transfer Station	Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	CLOSED for the Holiday	
Fire Department	Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:00	Fire House
Special Library AM Hours	Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9:30-Noon	Library
Select Board	Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Town Office
Planning Commission	Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup>	7:00	Town Office
Contra Dance	Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	8:00	Community Center
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>		Don't Miss It!



**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**

*Pickle Ball ~ Wednesdays and Thursdays - 6:00-8:00 ~ Community Center*

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

**Holiday Open House!!**

**Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 4:00 - 6:00 pm at the Town Office.**

**Thanking folks who donate their time and talent to make Tinmouth special.**

**Refreshments served. Everyone is welcome.**



~ Christmas Caroling ~

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

We meet at 6:00 at the Church, then carpool around town to a dozen or so elderly and shut-in folks, bringing them a bit of holiday spirit.

All voices welcome!!

The *Tales of Tinmouth* is on the Tinmouth website ([tinmouthvt.org](http://tinmouthvt.org)). Look under “About”.

If you would like to read it online. Or if someone in the house recycles it before you get a chance to read it!

There is much more information about the town on the website, take a few minutes and check it out!!

**Town Poet Marshall Squier offered the following at the recent Community Thanksgiving Service.**

**2019**

To be spiritually minded is life and peace . . . . .  
is life and peace.

You shall know the truth and the truth will make you free.

Maybe these two Bible verses, if demonstrated in deed not word, will lift all mankind to a higher gratitude and universal Thanksgiving.

Humankind must evolve away from all things not peaceful, wars, hate, greed, envy, covetness, to name a few, and fill that space with love, kindness, sharing. This truth will keep us free and lead us to real Thanksgiving.

We have an incredible place to exist, it has to be protected. The idea that economy, wealth, etc. is more important has to be rejected.

There is no red or blue,  
If we all follow the Golden Rule.

Let us all work together to end hunger, hate and fear,  
Leave the world to our children, a little better when  
we're gone from here.

There is love and kindness growing, maybe not in the  
news or headlines,

But I feel a great swelling, we are going to be fine.

Little by little, piece by piece,  
May we all share Thanksgiving and live in Peace.

**~ Budget Work ~**

The Select Board and the MRUUSD School Board are working on budgets for the coming year. If you would like to have input, please attend one of their meetings in December or January. Or call a Board member – names and phone numbers available in the Tinmouth Operator's Manual annual update.

**~ Need Help with your Holiday Shopping? ~**

Need a special present from Tinmouth? The Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department is selling tee shirts with TVFD's logo on the front and an awesome skull wearing a fire fighter hat on the back. These shirts are the same as the fire fighter's tee shirts, only they are red or pink instead of blue.

These shirts were on display at the Game Supper. If you forgot to buy your shirt there, the shirts are still available. Sizes available are small, medium, large, X-large and 2XL. The shirts are on display at the town office.

The shirts are \$20 each. Youth tee shirts can be ordered and they are \$15 each.

If you are interested, call Sherry Johnson at 446-3307 or email her at [vtsjohnson@icloud.com](mailto:vtsjohnson@icloud.com).



**~ Library News ~**  
*By Ruth Drachman, Librarian*

**The Librarian and the Trustees of the Library extend Happy Christmas wishes to everyone!**

The Writing group (Motleys) will not have a meeting in December.

The Book Discussion Group will not meet in December.

**New Books for Adults**

**A Single Thread** by Tracey Chevalier, set in the 1930's, about a woman whose fiancé died in World War 1

**The Chelsea Girls** by Fiona Davis, the 1950's, New York City, a story of the bonds between women.

**March, Book 2** by John Lewis, continued from the Vermont Reads, **March, Book 1**

**March, Book 3** by John Lewis, and more of the story.

**And a large number of Christmas books for both adults and children.**

**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, December 7th from 9 until Noon.

**~ Front Porch Forum ~**

**Connect with your Tinmouth Neighbors**

Have you checked out Front Porch Forum yet? To sign up, go to <http://FrontPorchForum.com>. Or stop by the town office to sign up!! 200+ households have signed to date! Good way to discuss community issues, sell a canoe, give away a kitten, etc.. If you are a second home owner you can use your 911 address.

**~ Holiday Bazaar ~**

*By Ed & Trudy Dias*

The First Congregational Church of Wallingford will hold a **Holiday Bazaar** on **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm**. Numerous craft vendors will be selling their wares. Basket raffles to include theme baskets, maple syrup, Vermont cheese gift certificates and much more, our famous "by the pound" cookie sale will be taking place with a large variety of home baked Christmas cookies.

Homemade soup and sandwich lunch will be available. Come join us and do some early Christmas shopping!

## Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department Thank-You!

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Game Supper was a great success thanks to some very dedicated firefighters and lots of help from town folks.

We served over 385 customers, as well as feeding around 50 volunteers and sending many leftovers to the Open Door Mission in Rutland.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! It does take the whole Tinmouth Community to put on Vermont's largest game supper.

The Tinmouth Fire Department is all volunteer, folks willing to donate their time, working, training, being willing to give up a lot, to come help you. This includes personal and family time, work, just-drop-everything to come help.

The Fire Department over the years has made a huge difference to many of Tinmouth's people: Rescuing farmers from under machinery, loggers from under trees, prying injured people and children from car accidents, and of course fighting all the chimney fires at 3:00 in the morning that can easily transition into a house fire, and all the barn and house fires we have had down through the years.

As Chief, I would like to thank all the past and present firefighters who have been and are willing to donate their time. I invite you to consider joining us. There are many non-technical jobs, out of harm's way, that need to be done at an emergency.

We could use you to relieve a trained fire fighter, to be where he or she may be more needed. Give me a call 235-2718 or join our meeting held at the Fire House on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00. You are welcome.

Your support will keep it going for many more years.

Thank a fire fighter when you see them.

*Marshall Squier, Chief*

### TVFD Raffle Winners:

1<sup>st</sup> prize – Gun or cash - Wanda Oddo

2<sup>nd</sup> prize– \$200 cash – Maria Stocker

3<sup>rd</sup> prize- Gift Cert. Restaurant 99 – Kyle Buffum

4<sup>th</sup> prize- Gift Cert. Restaurant 99 – Angela Hess

5<sup>th</sup> prize – Gift Cert. to Sweet Caroline's  
- Bruce Woodruff

6<sup>th</sup> prize – Dinner Ticket to next year's Game Supper  
- Paula Perkins

50/50 (\$127) – Gabby Silverman who donated it back to the TVFD (Thank you!)

According to Scott Lepley, the work crew made 4,996 meatballs for the Game Supper!! Wow!!



~ Please Make Sure You Are Visible ~

*Please wear a fluorescent yellow or orange vest* when you are out walking, jogging, or enjoying the winter wonder land. It is **VERY important** that drivers can see you as they approach. With daylight hours disappearing, more caution is needed. And don't forget your dogs if they are out and about with you!

*Thank you for your cooperation!*



~ Winter Plowing ~

As winter is quickly approaching, (hmmm, actually it seems to have arrived!) here's a reminder about plowing your driveway. **It's actually against state law to plow across the town road.** However, if you really, really, **absolutely** have to plow across the town road, **please** make sure that you **clean the road really well.**

Thank you for your cooperation!

~ Winter Driving Tips ~

Vermont Emergency Management urges residents to travel with caution and appropriately for road conditions and offers some winter safety tips:

- Check road and weather conditions before leaving; visit [www.511vt.com](http://www.511vt.com) or call 511 for this information.
- Always allow yourself extra time to get to your destination.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good mechanical condition with snow tires and winter windshield wiper blades.
- Watch for and expect changing road conditions, black ice, blowing snow, high winds or whiteout conditions can appear when you least expect them to.
- The single most important rule is to drive at a speed that matches the prevailing visibility, traffic and road conditions. The posted speed limits are for dry, clear conditions only.
- Be sure to leave yourself plenty of extra room, extend the following distance from other vehicles ahead.

**For road conditions call 511 or visit [511vt.com](http://511vt.com). For personal assistance, like heating help or other information, call 211.**

**211 is a service of the United Way.**





**Tinmouth**  
Mountain School

To the Tinmouth Community,

The following was the opening reflection at our Thanksgiving Feast:

*The first Thanksgiving looked so very different than our Thanksgiving feast today. The pilgrims were indeed thankful – they had barely survived the voyage across the Atlantic Ocean and they arrived too late to grow the food needed to survive the winter. The pilgrims would have starved or died from exposure to the weather if not for the Native Americans. The first Thanksgiving was a celebration of the first successful harvest in the New World. The pilgrims celebrated the abundance of food stores successfully grown that would get them through the upcoming winter. This success was due to the fact that the Native Americans had taught the pilgrims how and what to plant and hunt in the New World. The pilgrims' gratitude for food and friendship was tenfold.*

*Thanksgiving today is difficult to compare. We live in a culture where there is an abundance of everything. Click on a product at Amazon.com or stop into Wal-Mart for this year's latest technology or fashion. In our disposable world, gratitude is a gift we cultivate.*

*The students have been cultivating gratitude during the month of November by starting each day with a minute of reflection on what they are grateful for. Younger students tuck notes in the gratitude wall and share gratitude grams with peers and staff. Older students have been exploring gratitude in writers' workshop.*

*Before we begin our traditional minute of silence before our Thanksgiving Feast, I would like to thank all of our volunteers who enhance our school community with purpose and benevolence. It is not always apparent but you make a difference! Thank you!*

**Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker**  
**Principal**  
**Tinmouth Mountain School**

~ Nature Notes ~

October ended and "December" began, where did November end up (weather wise that is)? Snow and cold, but a crazy dandelion was able to blossom on November 6<sup>th</sup>. And a few folks reported seeing and hearing red winged black birds before they headed south.

~ Picture Book Review ~

**Five Bad Boys, Billy Que, and the Dustdobbin**

Written by Susan Patron

Illustrated by Mike Shenon

"Small folk should be more particular where they stand and that's freely given advice." The Dust Dobbin was so angry that he shrank Billy Que to the size of a knife. Billy needs five gifts to return to normal size. Five bad boys came and surprisingly gave him the gifts. Billy Que grew to his true size, and had a lot more respect for people that were smaller than himself.

I would recommend this picture book to children ages 5 through 8. The book addresses respect and taking other perspectives. The book is well illustrated and well written.

*Review by Miles Fallar*



~ Recipe Corner ~

**Chocolate Crinkle-top Cookies**

- 2 cups Nestle Toll House semi-sweet chocolate morsels
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup powdered sugar

Microwave/melt 1 cup morsels in medium bowl in microwave or saucepan – stirring until smooth.

Cool to room temperature.

Combine flour, baking powder and salt in bowl.

Beat granulated sugar, butter and vanilla in larger mixer bowl until crumbly. Beat in melted chocolate.

Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in remaining morsels. Cover, chill just until firm.

Shape dough into 1 ½ inch balls, roll in powdered sugar. Place on ungreased baking sheet.

Bake in preheated oven 350 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes or until sides are set but centers are still slightly soft, Let stand for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool. Makes about 3 dozen.

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



TINMOUTH  
CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

‘Tis the season – of darkness this time of year, made darker for some, by Seasonal Affect Disorder. This autumnal darkness is darkened further by the social eclipse of truth in our day, the coldness of hardened hearts, the chill of insecurity, the bitterness of division, the blizzards of fear-mongering, the iciness of cold-blooded murders. We are presently short on light and it seems to keep waning .....

‘Tis the season – of hope as well. In the ways of our various traditions, we remember that the Light of Life has come into the world and the Darkness cannot overcome it. We remember that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. We remember that truth crushed to the ground will yet rise again. We remember that acts of kindness can melt hardened hearts. We remember that forgiveness brings healing, even reconciliation, and its peace. We remember that evil cannot sustain itself, that it always contains the seeds of its own demise. We remember that love overcomes a multitude of fears, always remaining our underlying unity and overriding reality. We remember that God is Light and Love, and that in God there is no darkness at all.

‘Tis the season – to name the Darkness for the darkness that it is. ‘Tis the season to shine light into that darkness. ‘Tis the season to BE that Light, and give the world the goodness of love that is ours to give. ‘Tis the season to celebrate God’s permeating and redeeming Spirit throughout creation. In so doing, ‘Tis most surely the season – of new birth.

**Blessings this season,  
Pastor John**

~ Community Church Office Hours ~

Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman has office hours at the Tinmouth Community Church from 2-4 pm on Thursdays. You can also contact him at 802-282-7532 or hzfam@hotmail.com.

~ Community News ~

*Get Well Wishes* are sent to **Marion Hambly, Kristy Usher, Shannon Squier, John Squier, Art Squier and Penny Bushee.**

*Heartfelt Sympathies* are sent to family and friends of **Doris White** (long time summer resident on Tinmouth Pond); to family and friends of **Bill Secoy** (maker of MANY pies for the Game Supper); and to family and friends of **Willie Thiele.**

~ Tinmouth Contra Dance ~



**Friday, December 20, at 8:00 p.m.**  
Tinmouth Community Center, 573 Route 140

Dance to the splendid tunes of Brendan Taaffe and Friends with Hannah Otten calling on **Friday, December 20 from 8 – 11 p.m.** at the Tinmouth Community Center. All dances are taught, and you do not need a partner if you are willing to ask someone to dance. 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 at the Community Center is on Rte. 140 in the center of Tinmouth, Vermont, five 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!

Our next dance will be January 17 with Luke Donforth calling with the band Honey and the Hive providing the music. Mark your calendars!

*Practice Random Acts of Kindness &  
Senseless Acts of Beauty*



*We thought you might find this interesting, written many years ago. The Editors.*

Winter Comes to Tinmouth Valley

*By Walter Hard*

The road wound through the winter woods  
Where the shadows of trees lay on the smooth snow.  
It dipped down to a small brook  
With frost-covered bushes leaning over it.  
Uneven stone walls, partly buried in drifts,  
Followed it on either side up the hill.  
The woods ended and there was the valley,  
A white sheet a mile wide, sagging in the middle,  
Pinned to the sides of the mountains by scattered trees,  
Up to the dark line of spruce and pine.  
Then beside the road winding across the valley  
Barns and houses emerged.  
Clean wood smoke, that made a gray curling shadow on  
the snow,  
Rose straight up from the kitchen chimneys.  
In barnyards cattle stood on the sunny side,  
Or crowded by the stable door waiting for milking time.  
Some sheep nibbled hay from a fenced-in stack  
Which cast a hive-shaped shadow on the snow.  
Across a white field a team drew a load of logs.  
Steam rose from the panting horses.  
A dog ran back and forth in front of them.  
The tinkle of their bells came on the crisp air.  
The black fence around the white stones stood out on its  
hill,  
The stones uneven spots in the smooth covering.  
The shadow of the west mountains drew a black line.  
It slid slowly across the valley.  
The sheep crowded together by the haystack.  
The cattle marched in solemn line into the warm barn.  
Along the slopes of the eastern mountains  
The purple shadow crept up to the last lilac light on the  
highest peak –  
Hovering cold, and waiting silence.  
Winter night had come to Tinmouth valley.

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission to Assist State in Identifying Local Water Quality Projects**

(Rutland, VT) - In an ongoing effort to identify and support the most vital water quality projects in the region, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) will assist the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation in collecting and cataloging data from area municipalities in the Rutland Region between now and August 2020.

As part of the Vermont Clean Water Act's goal of reducing phosphorous and other nutrients from getting into the region's waterways, the RRPC will help the state maintain the Watersheds Projects Database to update specific assessed projects. This database includes all VT DEC water quality projects, such as those identified by Tactical Basin Plans, road erosion inventories to support stormwater planning for municipal roads, river corridor studies, and Stormwater Master Plans. The RRPC's work will focus on potential projects within the Rutland Region section of the Otter Creek and the Lower Lake Champlain watersheds.

The project is funded by federal Clean Water Act funds administered by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Rutland Regional Planning Commission is a quasi-governmental non-profit organization which encourages the coordinated development of the Rutland Region, advocates for the needs of its member towns, and strives to build a thriving regional economy while enhancing the area's quality of life.

Vermont's regional planning commissions have been key partners in water quality efforts with state agencies, watershed groups, conservation districts, and municipalities.

**For more information, contact:**

Barbara Noyes Pulling  
Rutland Regional Planning Commission  
802-775-0871 x207  
Barbara@rutlandrpc.org

For more on the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, visit [www.rutlandrpc.org](http://www.rutlandrpc.org).



TINMOUTH  
CHURCH

Everyone Is Welcome in This  
Community of Worship and Faith

**TINMOUTH COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**

**Sunday Service – 9:00 a.m.**

**Special Christmas Eve Service**

**Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> ~ 4:30 pm**

**Congregational Carol Singing begins at 4:15**

Pastor John Hardman-Zimmerman  
*Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors*



## Meeting Highlights ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

### Select Board ~ 11/7/19 ~ Special

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Jay White-Architect, Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Grant Reynolds, Jo Reynolds, Paul Morris, Doug Fontein, and Gail Fallar.

**Town Garage ~** Jay presented an estimate for the construction of a new town garage of \$675,040. Members discussed details, site work included is only for digging the hole for the garage, no costs for legal fees or contract review, or for owner's insurance during construction. The estimate prepared by Russell Construction is based on Jay's drawing approved by the Board at its October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, which includes meeting the 2019 Energy Code (not yet adopted by the state, but will be in effect when construction happens). There are no floor drains, no radiant floor heat, metal siding (upon review Board decided to switch to wood clapboards – cost is about the same, only consideration is maintenance – it will have to be painted) which can be decided later. Ceiling height of 20' will add about \$17,000 to cost – and is currently in the estimate.

Board discussed whether a "Community Build" would be possible, are there things volunteers can do – like when the Community Center was built in 2000? Someone would need to be responsible for organizing all of that – no decision.

**Site Work ~** Craig Jewett, Otter Creek Engineering, will provide cost estimates for storm water site work, water and waste water facilities, etc. next week, preliminary estimate is \$100,000. Board discussed whether the road crew could/should do some of the site work, or keep working on the roads.

**Salt and Sand Shed ~** Board reviewed estimates Eric received a year and a half ago, they need updating, as well as estimates for the asphalt floor and a foundation. Board requested estimates for building the salt shed first (adding the sand shed later), and for doing it all at once.

**Bond Documents ~** Board reviewed documents provided by Paul Guilani, Esq., need a good estimate of the total costs before proceeding. The plan is to have the bond vote at town meeting in March of 2020.

**Tinmouth Community Fund (TCF) ~** The TCF Board requested the Select Board pass a resolution in support their plan to create a separate fund for continuing education scholarships. Cathy explained the process, the need to separate the general community fund monies from the scholarship monies as the TCF Board is going to begin a Capital Campaign for the continuing ed scholarships. Both Boards need to approve and sign. Board voted to approve the Resolution to transfer \$180,613 plus current gains for the first three quarters of 2019 (monies held at the Vermont Community Foundation). Board voted to

authorize Cathy to sign the agreement on behalf of the Select Board.

There are two funds at VCF, one is endowed (only 5% can be spent each year) with a 9/30/19 balance of \$316,577.67 and one is a reserve fund which can be spent if needed – current balance of \$50,711.50.

### Select Board ~ 11/14/19

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Leonard Morris, Paul Morris, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director, Jo Reynolds, Grant Reynolds, Denise McGinley, Adam Guettel, and Gail Fallar.

Agenda was reviewed, re-arranged highway to the beginning and moved financials to the end.

**Minutes –** Board voted to approve minutes of 10/10/19 with correction to change *oldest* truck with Navistar engine and to remove (*Who determines that?*); and minutes of 11/7/19 with correction to add *current* to prorated gains in the second to last paragraph.

~ **Highway ~**

**Ramsey Yoder/Denise McGinley Driveway Permit -** Board voted to approve a driveway permit on North End Road with conditions as noted by Eric.

**Eric** advised all is good. Board discussed new time sheets, asked Eric for more work detail. Eric noted the new 550 is in the shop getting its body and plow frame attached. Wings are on big plow trucks, ready for snow. Cathy noted the mail carrier was thankful for the Tinmouth road crew, better than Wallingford's.

**Process to sell old one ton ~** Nothing formal was adopted as a process. Board agreed to set a minimum bid of \$25,000, advertise on/in Front Porch Forum, the Rutland Herald, and Vermont News Guide, sealed bid required. Eric will write an ad for the Board to review at the December meeting.

**Michael Fannin ~** As Emergency Management Director, he provided Board with a verbal report on the recent statewide emergency exercise (10/24/19). It was a worthwhile effort; he received training in dealing with state agencies; the town office needs a transfer switch for a generator for when the power is out (need to determine where the generator would go, who will move it from the fire house, etc. – Michael and Kim will work on this); and copies of the LEMP (Local Emergency Management Plan) need to be updated a bit and made available to all town officials responsible for action in an emergency. A formal report will be coming from the state in the near future.

He also reported that the Rutland Regional Planning Commission is working on a **Mutual Aid Plan** for towns to assist each other in emergency situations – necessary if any FEMA money is involved and towns want to get reimbursed. The Fire Department has its own mutual aid



agreement with other fire departments in the county. Still in the draft stages.

Michael advised that he has appointed **Ray Pratt** to be the **Emergency Management Coordinator**.

Board discussed whether there is a need for a special fund to deal with emergency projects, no decision.

**Adam Guettel** ~ Adam advised that there are water rights to a spring(s) on his property that once went to the old creamery, but now are owned by the neighbor to the south. He would like to purchase them to clear any encumbrance on his property. He inquired whether the Town had any interest in the spring rights for the old creamery for a future use, and offered to have a legal agreement in that regards. No one was sure if the lines actually run to the old creamery or to the house. The house now has a drilled well and does not need the spring.

**Draft FY 21 Highway Budget** ~ Board briefly discussed preliminary budget.

**Publics Works Facilities** ~ Board discussed bond documents, still waiting for final cost estimates. Board set special meeting for Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss and review. Eric will update salt/sand shed estimates.

~ **Old Business** –

\* Wallingford Town Line – Waiting for update from town attorney.

\* Trash on Mountain View Road – Frank noted he is still working on this.

\* East Road Right of Way – The attorney advised pursuing a zoning violation rather than illegal use of the town's right of way. Board took under advisement.

~ **New Business** –

**Rutland Regional Transportation Council** – Grant offered to attend a meeting and get back to the Board.

**Draft FY 21 General Budget**-Board briefly discussed, will review for December meeting. Gail advised health insurance costs are increasing dramatically.

Board voted to enter **Executive Session** to discuss personnel issues – salary, wages and benefits. Cathy, Frank and Michael went into the Library at 8:15, exited at 8:35, no action taken.

**Members Concerns** ~

Will the total cost of the new town garage, salt/sand shed, etc., be \$1 million, and is that too much? There is \$350,000 currently in the special building fund, would need to bond for \$650,000. Should the bond be for 20 or 30 years? There is a need to take care of town infrastructure and the town's equipment.

**Planning Commission ~ 11/21/19**

Present were members Michael Fallar, Vito Macaluso, Kim Harbaugh, Grant Reynolds, Andy Gilmore, Larry Carabeau, and Rainbow Squier, as well as Barbara Noyes Pulling from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Alma Somers, Tom Schmelzenbach, Sherry Johnson, and Gail Fallar, Secretary.

Michael opened the Hearing for the Somers Subdivision. Everyone introduced themselves. Tom explained the maps (Exhibits A-E) and the plan to subdivide 240 acres into 126 acre and 115 acre parcels. There are two houses on lot # 1 (north), no structures on lot #2(south). As the parcels are so large, the State advised them they do not need a state subdivision permit. Members reviewed requirements for subdivisions, found the property is located in both Rural Residential and Conservation Districts, as well as some of it being in the Agricultural Overlay District. Minimum lot sizes are 5 and 25 acres respectively, minimum clearly has been met. Road frontage requirements are met. Need for a survey was discussed. Tom advised that there was a survey done in the 1960's of the entire parcel, he had prepared these maps using information provided on the state's website and state coordinates and requested a waiver to survey the entire parcel. He also noted that he is an engineer, but not a surveyor. The center line is very easy to see, and he included a metes and bounds description with the application. He advised he is aware of the 120 day requirement to file a Mylar of the survey. Members decided that only the center line between the north and south lot would be required for this application.

Members voted to approve the application as submitted, subject to the survey of the middle line and Mylar being filed. That hearing was closed.

Michael opened the Hearing for the Enhanced Energy Plan at 7:25. No public comments. Grant noted he had re-read the document, it is just as full of things imposed by others and not correct, on the other hand . . . he turned to Vito, who advised that while it's not much of a choice, it's better than nothing . . . and then further noted that he still felt our really good Town Plan was being corrupted by this new energy section, not happy but would not stand in the way. Barbara again advised that the energy section could be updated as new information becomes available when the town plan is updated every few years. The state's Comprehensive Energy Plan is due for review in 2022, (every five years), so that may also provide a chance for updating as well.

Vito moved to approve and pass the Enhanced Energy Plan along to the Select Board for their action. Rainbow 2nded. Five members voted yes, one voted no, and one abstained. Motion passed. Hearing was closed at 7:35.

Larry expressed concern with the situation where the Gilmore farm cannot subdivide a 4 acre lot and felt it needed to be addressed. Members advised that a house could be built on the parcel as a whole (89 acres) and the four acres given a 99 or 999 year lease. A future planning commission might look at changing the minimum lot size (currently five acres), but it can't be done for one spot.

Next meeting was set for Thursday, January 16, 2020 – no Planning Commission meeting in December.

## Energy Committee ~ 11/4/19

Present were members Todd Dennis and Ray Pratt, as well as Gail Fallar, temporary scribe

Todd advised he requested information from BROCC and NeighborWorks twice – still waiting for a response. He wrote a case study of his own work on his house, savings achieved, etc. He will ask Cathy to add it to the website.

Gail advised that the Planning Commission's hearing for the Enhanced Energy Plan is on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Gail asked if the Energy Committee would be willing to write short energy advice blurbs for the Tales of Tinnmouth. Todd offered write them, Ray offered to research. She also inquired about what other towns' energy committees are doing.

Members discussed how to save energy – buildings are easy, transportation more difficult.

Members agreed to meeting quarterly, February, May, August and November – except they will meet on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> in order to discuss a possible Tinnmouth Community Fund grant –February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

## Solid Waste and Recycling Committee 11/13/19

*With thanks to Helen Mango, Secretary*

Present were members Wheaton Squier, Gail Fallar, Jonathan Czar, Chris Martone and Helen Mango.

Chris reported on solid waste and recycling costs in neighboring towns. Many towns operate similarly to Tinnmouth, with variable pricing of garbage disposal and free recycling.

We need to specify that contractor bags and other bags larger than 30 gallons are two punches.

However, with recycling costs going up, we need to do something different. One possibility is to increase the cost of a transfer station ticket. This would need to go to the Select Board.

Motion was passed to advise the Select Board to increase the cost of a transfer station ticket to \$25 for ten punches, currently the cost is \$20.

Modifications to the location of the roll-offs have made work easier for the Transfer Station workers.

To encourage people to compost more, Chris will make signage more distinct and make the composting bins more visible.

## Safety & Wellness Committee ~ 11/19/19

Present were members Frank Sears, Ray Pratt, Gail Fallar, and Ronnie Crossman via telephone

Committee reported no near misses. No concerns.

Gail reported on the recent statewide Emergency Response Exercise. Tinnmouth was one of 23 towns that participated along with many state agencies. Michael Fannin, Emergency Management Director, was in charge,

and spent nearly the entire day at the town office overseeing responses to possible emergencies following a “major flood event”. A number of things were determined to need attention. The town office needs a transfer switch to connect a generator if there is a power failure. The newly adopted Local Emergency Management Plan needs a few additions for contacts and more copies available to those who would be in charge in a real emergency. The school needs to add call the fire department to set up a generator for the well when the power is out. The school has a generator, but the water is pumped from the fire house.

Frank reported he had difficulty getting responses regarding fire detection systems for the town office and fire house. He did leave messages for them to contact Gail – he advised Gail and Marshall Squier, Fire Chief should take the lead.

Members discussed “kill” switch pros and cons for town equipment. Insurance company recommends and they are covered by the safety grant program. Ronnie noted one of the big trucks had one that worked well in the beginning, but was worn out by the time the truck was traded. He noted most of the equipment has them, the big trucks do not.

## ~ Town Meeting 2020 ~

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

Moderator - Town - 1 year term  
Select Board Member - 3 year term  
Town Clerk – 3 year term  
Town Treasurer – 3 year term  
Lister - 3 year term  
Auditor - 3 year term  
Town Agent - 1 year term  
Grand Juror - 1 year term  
Tax Collector (Delinquent) - 1 year term

Town Meeting is **Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>** this year. Public questions and budgets will be voted from the floor at the Community Center. Officers will be chosen on **Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** via Australian balloting, or you may cast an early/absentee ballot for that election. The Select Board is working on having a bond vote financing a new town garage on the 3<sup>rd</sup> as well. And don't forget the Presidential Primary will also be on March 3<sup>rd</sup>!!

Petitions for Articles to be placed on the warning are due by 5:00 pm **Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**. 5% of voters (20) must sign the petition. Voters must be registered to vote in Tinnmouth.

If you wish to run for office, you must file a petition with the town clerk with **five** voter's signatures by 5:00 PM Monday, **January 27<sup>th</sup>**. Petitions are available at the town office. Candidates must also sign a consent form.

# Bells of Joy



**HOLIDAY CONCERT on December 18 at Wallingford Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.**



Bells of Joy directed by Karen James will present a wonderful holiday concert that is sure to lift your heart and spirit at Wallingford Town Hall on **Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.** The concert will feature traditional Christmas music as well as selections inspired by the Lessons and Carols Service from Kings College, Cambridge in England arranged specially for this unique instrument comprised of 5 octaves of bronze handbells and 5 octaves of lovely hand chimes.

Suggested donations of \$10 to \$15 per person at the door with all proceeds going as a fundraiser to Bells of Joy, less 10% to the Town of Wallingford. Elevator entrance is on the east side of the building off Taft Terrace. For more information, contact the Town Administrator at (802)446-2872. This concert is being presented as part of the Wallingford Town Hall Concert Series.

## Doug Fontein

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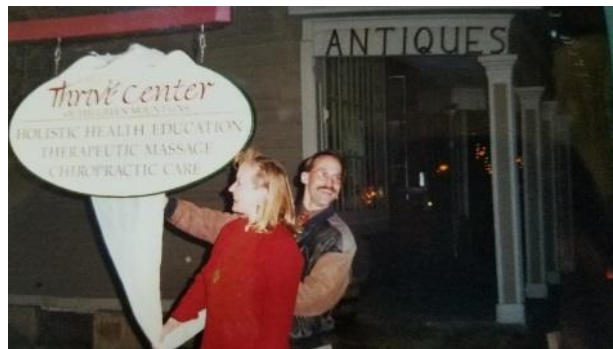
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- \* *To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents*
- \* *To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family*
- \* *To examine my holiday activities in light of the true spirit of Christmas*
- \* *To initiate one act of peace-making within my circle of family and friends*

*Wishing you all the warmth of the holiday season!*

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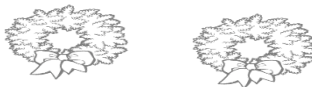
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**Food Drive For  
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Food Baskets**

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM until 11:00 AM**

**in the basement of the  
Tinmouth Community Church**

These items will be used to fill 25 or so food baskets for less fortunate families in town, who really appreciate your generosity. Or you can drop things off at the Town Office anytime between now and then. The Mill River Union High School National Honor Society is helping with this effort; they will be providing turkeys and all the fixings (having organized food drives in all the schools in the district and done fund raising to purchase turkeys). We will then add to those baskets with more food and other items. *Thank you for your help!!!*

**Please see front page for details.**



You are welcome to join us at  
Tinmouth Community Church  
for a very special  
**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**  
on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
beginning at 4:30 pm.  
Christmas Carol singing starting at  
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*Season's Greetings*



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