

TALES OF TINMOUTH

November 2020
Vol. 34 Number 11

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes:

*Please pause to give Thanks . . .
For family, friends, community, state and country.
And to pray for those not as fortunate*

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month, for publication on the 1st of the following month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@vermontel.net).

Pat Psholka, Helen Mango, & Gail Fallar

~ Town Office Still Closed to the Public ~

Due to the recent increase in corona virus cases, the door will continue to be locked, but if necessary, appointments can/will be made to insure everyone has a mask, gloves and that social distancing is maintained. Anyone having symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e.. fever, cough, difficulty breathing) or has been exposed to someone exhibiting symptoms, please stay home.

If your business (dump ticket, building permit, copy of tax bill, etc.) can be done over the phone, through email or via regular mail, please continue with that until further notice. 446-2498 or tinmouthtown@vermontel.net.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

This helps keep you safe and helps keep me and my family safe.

Please continue to do your part to stay safe and keep others safe too. One piece of good advice given, was to think of yourself having the virus and trying to not spread it to anyone else.

Please continue to follow the guidelines from the CDC and the Vermont Department of Health.

**Please wear a mask, maintain a social distance,
and wash your hands often!!
And stay home if you can or feel sick.**

The **Miss Ruth Little Library** is brimming with books! It is located on the porch of the town office.

Please stop to take a look, a take book, leave a book. Folks are sharing some of their favorite reads. Enjoy!

It's open all the time.

~ Community Service of Thanksgiving ~

The Community Thanksgiving Service, annually held at the Tinmouth Community Church, will not be taking place in the church building this year due to the pandemic.

But there will be a Thanksgiving Service posted online at www.tinmouthchurch.org on Sunday, November 22nd, that you can enjoy and be edified by at any time. Nelson Jaquay will be giving the message with other townsfolk contributing as well.

Please take a moment to pause and give thanks for the community we live in. And be kind

~ Thanksgiving Baskets ~

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

If you, or someone you know, needs a basket, please call Gail at 446-2498. If you have a bounty of potatoes or squash from your garden, they are most welcome as well.

~ Holiday Greetings ~

It's time for the **Eighteenth Annual Community Holiday Card**. For the past 19 years folks have made a donation to the *Roy & Anne Wilbur Fund* and sent their friends and family **Holiday Greetings** (*Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, Happy Festivus, Happy New Year – you choose*) in *Tales*. Think of how much you can save and how much your neighbors in need can be helped by your donation!

Please send your wishes and/or names and a donation of any size in care of *ye olde* Editors by **December 1st**.



~ Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department News ~

Assistant Fire Chief **Hollis Squier** announced that 51 years of service is enough and has retired from the fire department. He has been either the Chief or Assistant Chief for many of those.

Thank you for your many, many, years of service keeping Tinmouth safe and cared for!

November 2020 Calendar of Events

All Meetings are Virtual

Time Change	Sunday	1st	Set your clocks back an hour!
General Election	Tuesday	3rd	8:00 AM – 7:00 PM old Fire House
Fire Dept.	Thursday	4th	6:30 Fire House
Veteran’s Day	Wednesday	11th	Please thank a veteran for serving our country!
Select Board	Thursday	12th	6:30 Town Office
Conservation Commission	Monday	16th	7:30 Town Office
Planning Commission	Thursday	19th	7:00 Town Office
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Friday	20th	Don’t Miss It!
Chicken & Biscuits & Pie	Saturday	21st	Take Out - See back page for details!
Thanksgiving Service Virtual	Sunday	22th	Online – See first page for details!
Select Board	Tuesday	24th	7:00 Town Office
Thanksgiving	Thursday	26th	Stay Home and Give Thanks
Town Office	Thursday	26th	CLOSED for Thanksgiving

December 2020 Calendar of Events

Fire Dept.	Thursday	6th	6:30 Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	13th	7:00 Town Office
Holiday Food Drive	Saturday	12th	9:00-11:00 Church Basement
Planning Commission	No Meeting in December		
Tales of Tinmouth Deadline	Sunday	20th	Don’t Miss It!
Caroling	Sunday	20th	Might Not Happen This Year
Christmas Eve Service	Thursday	24th	Most likely will be Virtual!
Town Office & Library	Thursday	24th	CLOSED for Christmas Eve

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

~ Sunday Church Service ~ Library Hours ~ Volleyball ~ Pickleball ~ Knit, Craft or Chat ~ Bone Builders ~
**Are All Suspended Until Further Notice Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and
 Governor Scott’s Emergency Order.**



On November 1st, daylight savings time ends. Please set your clocks back 1 hour. This is the perfect time to make sure your smoke and CO detectors are working by testing them.

You should also change the batteries in these safety detectors.

2nd half property taxes are due on Monday, November 16th. Town Office will be open 9-12 and 1-5 that day.

~ Community News ~

Please send a card or note to **Tom French**, who is celebrating his birthday (on the 17th) at The Pines. It would brighten his day for sure!

Thanks! He loves to get mail.

Tom French
 The Pines- 4th floor
 99 Allen Street
 Rutland, VT 05701

The *Tales of Tinmouth* is on the Tinmouth website (tinmouthvt.org). Look under “About”.

If you would like to read it online. Or 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!!

~ COVID-19 Update ~

Due to the recent upsurge in virus cases, *Michael Fannin*, Tinmouth's Emergency Management Director (EMD), sends this from the Middletown EMD's recent posting.

As is true nationally, the past week has seen new Vermont COVID cases at rates far greater than even last spring, the biggest days of new caseload so far. And the most common spreading events seem to be parties, recreation leagues, and deer camps. So this morning, Governor Scott announced a new executive order, which can be read in full at

<https://governor.vermont.gov/sites/scott/files/documents/ADDENDUM%208%20TO%20AMENDED%20AND%20RESTATED%20EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%2001-20.pdf>

In summary, the order includes the following requirements:

- The state of emergency has been extended to at least December 15
- No gatherings beyond one's household, whether those gatherings are held indoors or outdoors. This includes birthday parties, baby and wedding showers, and Thanksgiving.
- Restaurants can have indoor seating until 10pm, but individual tables will be limited to only the members of a single household.
- Bars, breweries, distilleries, social clubs and so on are now take-away only, with no on-premises service.
- All sports events and leagues not under direct control of a school or school district are suspended.
- All restaurants will require contact logs, and anyone visiting one consents to contact tracing in the event of a known COVID case.
- If a resident is contacted by the Agency of Health for purposes of contact tracing, accurate cooperation is required, and those who don't cooperate are subject to penalty.
- Visitors to Vermont, or residents returning from out of state, will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. This includes students coming home for holidays.
- Whenever possible, Vermont businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies are asked to conduct work and meetings electronically and remotely.

Now is the time to be vigilant, the time for Vermont to continue to lead the nation in our effective response. Although the spread of a virus isn't visible to the eye, this is a Hurricane Irene-scale event.

We've proven before that we can take care of our families and our neighbors in a crisis; now we get to do it again.

With thanks to the late Maurice Burden . . .

**ON VETERANS DAY
REMEMBER THIS**

...It is the veteran, not the preacher,
who has given us freedom of religion.
It is the veteran, not the reporter,
who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the veteran not the poet,
who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the veteran, not the campus organizer
who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the veteran, not the lawyer,
who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the veteran, not the politician,
who has given us the right to vote.

It is the veteran, who salutes the Flag,
who serves under the Flag,
whose coffin is draped by the Flag.

Author Unknown

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

~ General Election Results~

On November 3rd, 346 voters (more than 83%) cast ballots! Most of those, 80%, voted early/absentee. *Thank you to all who did.* Results are posted in the window at the town office, and are also available on the Vermont Secretary of State's website – remember to look for both the Rutland-2 and the Rutland-Bennington districts.

Combining both districts, voters chose Biden 170 to 163 for Trump; Gov. Scott won 242 to 81 for Zuckerman; Milne received 185 to Gray's 139 (Gray won statewide) for Lt. Gov.; Branagan garnered 160 to Pearce's 148 (Pearce was re-elected Treasurer); in the Rutland County Senate race Williams lead the pack with 149, followed by Collamore with 145, Terenzini with 134, Hooker with 131 and Cox with 115 (winners were Collamore, Terenzini and Hooker). Rut-2 District voters chose Potter with 49, Fredette with 37, Burditt with 35 and Peterson with 34 – Burditt and Peterson were the winners. Rut-Benn District voters chose Achey with 128 and 121 for Chesnut-Tangerman. Achey was the winner.

Appreciation is sent to Rep. Potter and Rep. Chesnut-Tangerman for their many years of service and dedication. They will be missed in Montpelier.

Justices of the Peace elected were **Tina Casey, Michael Fallar, Nelson Jaquay, Matthew Patry and Marshall Squier.**

Thank you to everyone who exercised their right and responsibility to vote!!

~ **Tinmouth Community Church** ~



TINMOUTH
CHURCH

Thanksgiving is upon us. I think we are all thankful the elections are over (assuming the results are in by the time *Tales* is published). Some of us are going to be thankful for the results and some of us not. Yet, we can we all be thankful we live in a democracy and can vote. The challenge is to recognize and accent other ways in which we are one, ways that transcend divisions and affirm the bonds of unity, beginning with our common humanity – let us not lose sight of it lest we turn our brothers and sisters into aliens and demons that deserve less than we do, even to the point of persecution in various forms and degrees.

Thanksgiving. Giving thanks – to whom and for what? To the many, many persons who have blessed us in the course of our lives, for sure, perhaps taking time this Thanksgiving to explicitly tell some of them so by phone or social media or an unexpected gift (like a hand-written letter!). Reflecting on who and what we are thankful for is the gift this holiday gives us, a gift likely to well up feelings of gratitude as we recall treasured memories and are more appreciative of the ones presently in the making. These may be the some of the best moments of this year's holiday, especially if we are not having our traditional family gatherings due to the pandemic, still more so, if we have lost someone to Covid-19 or in some other way have experienced their passing.

And including in our reflections the larger context of our lives, as in the gift that is our life, of which we are not the Source, as in the gift that is our life, that will so soon return to our Source. That Source has not just spawned us and left us to some kind of haphazard fate, but is intricately and intimately pervading our lives to unpackage the full glory of our being. Not only ours, but the potentials for our human family/community/nation/world, wherein the well-being and potentials of each individual can come to fruition. To reflect on this Source is to find hope welling up into thanksgiving.

Thankful for you all,

Pastor John

Sunday Services online at www.tinmouthchurch.org
Evening Prayer, Tuesdays and Thursdays, on Tinmouth Community Church Facebook page

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman
(802) 282-7532 (cell, preferred)
(802) 884-8249 (parsonage)
hzfam@hotmail.com

~ **Thank you, thank you!** ~

By Pastor John

The *Chicken Parm Takeout Dinner* delivered from the Tinmouth Community Church on October 24th was a big success! Thank you everyone who donated, who worked the dinner and who purchased dinners!

Special thanks to **Bob Anderson** of Poultney, who suggested we do this meal, bought most of the supplies and prepared the chickens and the sauce; to **Meredith and Ray Pratt** who cooked the spaghetti; to **Andy McCullough** who baked the homemade rolls; to **all** who made the brownies; and to the **Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department**, who let us use their commercial stoves.

By popular request, we will do this again!

Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project Receives State Grant

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Division Lakes & Ponds Program has awarded a grant of \$4,946 to the Town of Tinmouth/Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project for 2020. The grant money will be used to pay for two divers who suction harvest the Eurasian watermilfoil and for the biannual plant survey required by the state. The harvesting will occur during the summer months of 2020.

The main purpose of the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project is to control the spread of the Eurasian watermilfoil (that is an “aquatic invasive” plant that has invaded the pond) and to encourage the growth of native plants. Eurasian watermilfoil is a non-native introduced aquatic plant that has shown it is highly invasive in Vermont water bodies and in other regions of North America.

TPMP generates funds to hire divers to harvest the watermilfoil, and teach people about Eurasian watermilfoil - and the way that it is transported into and from Tinmouth Pond and other bodies of waters. TPMP publishes a newsletter several times a year called *The Pond Frog* to help educate folks on how to identify and how to prevent the spread of invasive plants and invasive species.

~ **Tinmouth Cemetery Association Notice** ~

Cemetery gates are now closed for the winter. Anyone going in is asked to close the gates when leaving. If gates are constantly left open, they will lock the gates and only allow foot access.

They also remind people to refrain from using the cemetery for snow-mobiling, sliding, skiing, snowboarding, etc. This is for liability reasons and out of respect for those who reside there.

Thank-you for your cooperation.



November 1, 2020
To the Tinmouth Community,

We are absolutely delighted to have students back to school! Strategic procedures are in place to ensure they remain safe and can continue in-person learning. Masks and social distancing are the new norm. The children have been champions of the safety measures established. They are delighted to be back with friends and teachers.

Our pick-up and drop off procedures have been the most challenging change. State and district mandates require parents to stay in the car and wear masks. PreK teachers must screen children at each car. We structured drop-off and pick-up procedures so that children are entering and exiting cars from both the community center parking lot and the church parking lot. This decision was made not only for children's safety but because we know parents have schedules to keep as well. Creating specific drop off /pick-up points ensures children are not crossing traffic by exiting and entering parked cars. We are grateful for our community's ongoing cooperation, which is critical. Without these procedures and restrictions, school would be required to remain remote.

Halloween was celebrated on Friday, October 30th. The town parade was not feasible this year. However, we celebrated throughout the day by wearing black and orange clothing. Cider donuts and apple cider were provided for all students. Students paint pumpkins donated by Meadow and Josh Squire.

All students are provided lunch and breakfast free of charge through to the end of the school year. Our "no-charge" meal program has been extended to include the last day of the school year.

Our biggest concern going forward is the upcoming holiday season. Surrounding states have seen a surge of positive Covid cases. Visiting relatives outside of Vermont during holiday breaks will bring that surge home to Vermont. Schools will be forced to close if infection rates soar. We ask families that if you must travel to regions outside Vermont with high infection rates, please quarantine for 14 days even if you aren't displaying symptoms of Covid. The following link is a map depicting regions where the virus has surged.:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>

This link is update weekly.

Thank you and Stay Safe!

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School



Recipe Corner

Apple Cider donuts

1 cup apple cider
1 cup sugar
¼ cup solid vegetable shortening
2 large eggs
½ cup buttermilk
3 ½ cups all purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoons baking soda
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon iodize salt
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
Enough vegetable or canola oil to fill 3 inches of a frying pan

Boil apple cider in small saucepan until it is reduced to ¼ cup, 8 to 10 minutes; cool.

Beat sugar with shortening until smooth. Add eggs and mix well, then add buttermilk and reduced cider.

Stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg in another bowl.

Add to liquid ingredients; mix just enough to combine. Transfer dough to lightly floured board and pat to ½ inch thickness.

Cut with 2 ½ to 3 inch doughnut cutter; reserve doughnut holes and reroll.

Add enough oil to fill a deep pan 3"; heat to 375F degrees.

Fry doughnuts turning once or twice until browned and cooked through, about 4 minutes.

Remove with slotted spoon to paper towels.
Toss in cinnamon sugar if desired!

~ Helpful Items for Loan ~

Someone getting a new hip or knee? Or just needs some help getting around? The Town Office has walkers, crutches, a potty seat, a potty chair (commode), to loan. No charge.

Please call 446-2498 to make arrangements.

~Appreciation ~

Appreciation is sent to **Stan Wilbur** who is retiring as a Justice of the Peace this year. He served many years in that role. Thank you.

~ Thanksgiving Service ~

“Home”

By Marshall Squier

There are billions of galaxies, maybe infinity, further than our minds can roam.

But only one tiny planet called Earth that we know, where humans can call home.

We are not alone, for thousands of other creatures and plants share this moment in time and place.

We are the stewards, the keepers, we must accept that everything is important, not just the human race.

Home is where the heart is, where love and trust and kindness and sharing and caring take breath.

We are not separate, we are all here together, remember home is the earth.

If we thought of the sun as love, and life as a mirror that split into endless sizes and shapes,

When turned to the sun (love) we all reflect the same light (love).

But if we turn away, darkness is what is found (hate, fear, envy, selfishness, greed).

We are like that shattered mirror, all individual, no two the same,

But may we, like a compass always turning back to the north, turn our mirror (life) back to the light (love).

A clean window will let in the light (love), but if it gets dirty or we shut the shades, the light is dim.

We are not taking care of our home or each other, but we can.

Turn our mirrors, clean our windows, forgive, don't condemn.

We are all home. We are all here together.

Thanks for this chance, for this home, we have been given.

~ Front Porch Forum ~

Connect with your Tinnmouth 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.

Meetings and agendas are announced here as well.

~ Please Make Sure You Are Visible ~

Please wear a fluorescent yellow or orange vest when you are out walking, jogging, or enjoying the fresh air.

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!

~ Community News ~

Kudos and thanks to the **gardeners** who took care of the town and school flower beds this summer, they looked great! A special thank you to **Kim Gaylord** for her landscaping talent with the Church and town flower beds.

And kudos to **F.A.S Trucking & Landscaping**, the folks who mow the town, school, and church lawns and the ball field! The center of town has looked great all year.

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Bernadette Tyminski** and **Carol Baker**.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to newlyweds – **Jason Buffum and Judy Stork** were married on September 26th. May you have many years of happiness!

Congratulations to **Grant Reynolds** who recently celebrated his 85th birthday. Many happy returns!

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Bob Johnson**; and to family and friends of **David Pierro**.

Thank you to **Rene Wilbur** for ringing the Church Bell at 11:00 on 11/11 – Veteran's day.

~ 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 virtual meetings in November or December. Or call a Board member – names and phone numbers available in the Tinnmouth Operator's Manual annual update.

~ Nature Notes ~

Just after the election, the weather turned summer-like for almost a week. 70 degrees in November! A wonderful respite that followed the first snow and cold streak. A few tardy painters managed to catch up a little bit too!

Have you notice all the squirrel nests high in the tree tops? They are everywhere! A sign of ?????

No bear sightings to report. No flocks of ducks or geese headed south. No huge flocks of red winged blackbirds gathering for their exit either

~ **Tinmouth Select Board**
2020 Thanksgiving Service Message ~
by Frank Sears, Chair

Hello, I am Frank Sears, your Select Board Chair Person, and on behalf of the entire Select Board, I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving.

We have entered my most favorite time of the year.

The crispness of the air in the fall, accompanied by an incredible colorful display of the leaves, is exhilarating! When the month of November arrives, along with hunting season, the holiday season officially begins starting with Thanksgiving.

Unfortunately, this year, Thanksgiving will look different than ever before.

The 2020 holidays are uncharted territory. Whatever your COVID-year turkey day looks like, it won't be like last year's.

Some of us will spread out our relatives, awkwardly, between multiple tables in multiple rooms. Some of us will ignore social distancing guidelines completely - and hope that we aren't making the mistake of our lives.

And some of us - many of us - may opt for the most heartbreaking option of all. No guests. Just the immediate family.

Think of it! No stampede of relatives. No setting up the children's table. No hysteria in the kitchen, with the discovery that there are 11 side dishes and only 9 chafing dishes. No panic about there being not enough gravy to go around. No Uncle Phil, with his crazy conspiracy theories.

No waiting on latecomers, or being unprepared for early-comers. No comers, period.

Saddest of all, no gargantuan cleanup. No kitchen overflowing with dirty dishes. No multiple dishwasher loads.

Alas and alack. Or, maybe not so much. The COVID crisis, for many of us, will mean a nuclear Thanksgiving - just mom, dad and the kids. But, is that really so bad?

This year has been so much about acceptance, and having to adapt to new realities.

Similar to what the Pilgrims experienced in Plymouth, Massachusetts back in the year 1621.

They had a hard year, too. Remember, nearly half of the pilgrims - 45 out of 102 - died that first winter.

What we've learned this year, in so many ways, has given us real food for the soul and much to appreciate as we come to the table this year for Thanksgiving.

Maybe this Thanksgiving, we can give thanks for no Thanksgiving. For one year, we can take a much needed "time-out".

Certainly, we will miss the big over-the-top production - the bustle, the relatives, the long table groaning with side dishes, wine bottles, candles and floral displays. After all,

excess is a big part of what Thanksgiving is all about, isn't it?

But, least we forget, Thanksgiving is also a time to count our blessings. A time to appreciate all the things we take for granted throughout the year. And this year, in particular, we need to give thanks for two things - our homes, and our immediate families.

We have gotten to know them well, over the past six months. Too well, perhaps?

But how much have we neglected them in the past - trudging off to work each morning while our kids trudge off to school, taking out-of-town weekends and "getaway" vacations, escaping whenever we could?

This year changed all of that.

We may be sick of being stuck at home but at least we can appreciate that we have a home. And those of us who are lucky enough to have survived this year with our immediate family intact can give thanks for that.

There's another reason small might be better this Thanksgiving. November 2020 is an election year. And not just any election. The most divisive election of our lifetimes.

Political rancor was, ironically, the very reason 19th century magazine editor Sarah Hale pushed for a national Thanksgiving holiday you know.

It was the time of the Civil War. Half the country wasn't talking to the other half. It was her hope that if Uncle Roy from Georgia sat down at the table with cousin Sally from Maine, family feeling would triumph over sectional differences. "From Maine to Mexico, from Plymouth Rock to Sunset Sea, the hymn of thanksgiving should be simultaneously raised, as the pledge of brotherhood," Hale wrote.

Naive, perhaps. But worth a try, once a year. You can certainly put up with your Uncle Phil for a single meal. And he can put up with you.

But maybe not this year. Maybe not with this election still so raw. Maybe it's as well to wait another 12 months, for tempers to cool.

This Thanksgiving, perhaps, it's as well to give thanks for the things that are closest to you.

Your home - be it ever so humble. And those who live within it.

My own experience, these past several months, has inspired me to be more grateful. To find abundance in a simpler way of living, in cherishing relationships, and in rediscovering what is really important.

So, this Thanksgiving, let us remember that we will come through this time and, as promised, God will be with us every step of the way.

As you gather for Thanksgiving - however that may look - let us remember the blessings we have received.

God Bless.

Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 10/8/20

Present were members Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Ronnie Crossman - Road Crew, Stan Wilbur – PW Project Manager, Grant Reynolds, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Michael Fannin – EMD, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

Public Works Facilities ~

Stan noted that he had provided the Board with a packet that included full sized engineering drawings. As it turns out, the town has received a state permit for site construction, but does not yet have its storm-water discharge permit. This means that site work can proceed - cutting of trees, removal of stumps, leveling of the site, etc. Stan advised this be done as soon as possible to be ready for construction in the spring, noting that erosion control (silt barriers) would need to be installed. He also advised that the engineering estimate did not include excavation costs as OCE (Otter Creek Engineering) has assumed the town road crew would do it. Stan advised he will meet with Eric to determine what the road crew can do and when, and come back to the SB with a proposal. Regarding the state permit, OCE apologized for it not being complete – still in discussion with the state about the bio-retention area, whether it is a filter or treatment process (basically the same). The discharge permit is needed for the impervious surfaces – roofs, road, driveways, etc.

Timing – brief discussion about whether to build the garage or salt/sand shed first – will need to get site work done first, will then be in a better position to decide that.

Water well – Separate bid could be done anytime.

Cost of excavation – Need to determine how many cubic yards need to be removed, as there is a 20' cut on one corner, and it is not included in the current plans. Stan will provide Board with details at its next meeting.

Highway ~

Eric advised that Ron is back to work, they are working on the Harrington Cross Road project, Grant-in-Aide portion needs to be done by the 15th, will meet that schedule. He noted the short straightway is closed for a bit as it is under construction, the curve to the right remains open.

Navistar Voucher – Gail reported on her conversation with the company administering the rebate (due to class action court ruling regarding the engines of certain trucks – the 2013 tandem being one of them). They are still in the process of reviewing all claims, could (or would) not provide any indication of when the town would know or receive the rebate towards the purchase of a new truck. Would have 180 days after voucher is

received to purchase new truck. Did not seem likely to match the town's time frame.

New Tandem Truck Bids ~ Bids were opened and read to all.

Delurey Sales bid \$187,564 for a 2022 truck to be delivered in April 2021, trade-in offer of \$50,000 for the 2013 – **net price of \$137,564;**

Clark Trucks Bid #1 - \$192,867 for a 2022 truck to be delivered in May 2021, trade-in of \$35,000 – **net \$157,867**

Clark Trucks Bid #2 - \$194,740 for a 2021 truck to be delivered in November 2020, trade-in of \$40,000 – **net \$154,740.**

Board discussed options, inquired whether current truck would work through the winter - answer was yes, and whether someone needed to review the bids to ensure they were apples to apples - no.

Board voted to accept the Delurey bid (it's within budget) pending Eric and Ronnie reviewing the service contract/warranty options (is more warranty needed?), to be finalized in two weeks at the next Board meeting.

Stan logged off at this point to have apple pie – and advised he had dropped apples off at the town office porch for anyone interested.

Storm Water Management Plan – Eric provided SB copies for them to review pending a meeting with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission staff – it's an inventory of road and culvert conditions which will help with budgeting and planning repairs to meet state standards (MRGB storm-water discharge permit) for storm-water control on town roads. There are maps showing designated segments (327' = 100 meters) that need attention, along with a schedule of when these need to be completed. Overall, Eric feels the town is in good shape, some work has already been done – after the inventory was conducted. There will be grants available and road crew work (in-kind) can be used for required match. Board decided to meet with Steffanie Bourque from RRPC on November 12th at 6:30 to review and discuss.

Winter Salt – Gail reported the state awarded its salt contract to American Rock Salt (ARS) at \$74 per ton. She received an email from ARS advising it would charge the town \$70 per ton, Cargill sent an email with prices of \$68.50 per ton for regular and \$78 for its deicing product. Apalachee Salt (last year's vendor) sent an email showing its new salt sheds in Albany, but no price quotes. Board discussed the need to go out to bid if the state bid/contract was not used.

Highway Equipment Fund - SB briefly discussed latest version, need a more up to date estimate for cost of a loader – Eric is still waiting for return call from vendor.

Covid-19 – Michael Fannin advised current virus situation is fairly stable, local EMD group is considering

volunteer waivers, most towns are not using them, but the group is going to have a meeting to try to sort it out.

Personnel Policy – Board discussed whether to amend the PP to cover when an employee travels out of town on public transportation and would be required to quarantine upon return. Require written permission from the Select Board prior to leaving? What if the employee chooses to go? This needs to be addressed before next summer. SB and employees need to have a conversation about it, not anticipated when the PP was originally written. Cathy offered to draft proposal.

Financial Report ~ Expenses only were reported as September revenues have not been entered into the computer. Board voted to approve as presented.

Warrants ~ Payroll Warrants #13 dated 9/28/20 for \$1,409.92 and #14 dated 10/5/20 for \$4,856.61 and Accounts Payable Warrant #6 dated 10/5/10 for \$715,042.16 were approved. It was clarified that the Family Leave Cares Act requires an employer to cover the quarantine time – cannot use an employee's sick time.

Old Business ~

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – Frank advised nothing had been done, he is going to speak with the property owner one last time before he proceeds to issuing tickets and fines.

72 Snow Mountain Lane – Frank advised the Rutland County Sheriff's Department has issued a ticket, waiting for response.

Cathy thanked Frank for his work as Health Officer.

New Business ~

Constable Duties ~ Gail reported she is still trying to find time to work on it.

School Ventilation – Cathy reported the school district (MRUUSD) had received a grant to install ventilation in all its schools. \$75,000 has been allocated to Tinmouth for work in the class rooms. She had been invited to discuss the proposal with the contractor given her vast knowledge of the building and its components. The grant was not big enough to include the community center. If school re-opens before the work is done, the plan is to open windows. No SB action needed.

Roof for Town Office/Library – Gail reported Brice Home Improvements had removed the old asphalt shingle roof and installed the new one in two days. Looks great.

Correspondence:

With Town Attorney – Board affirmed authorization for Gail Fallar to correspond with Jim Carroll, Esq. on their behalf regarding the Wallingford town line.

Emerald Ash Borer – Board received an email advising the EAB had been found in West Rutland. North Tinmouth is in the danger zone. SB wants input from Tree Warden David Birdsall regarding action needed.

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

Select Board ~ 10/27/20

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Stan Wilbur – Public Works Project Manager, Hollis Squier, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, David Birdsall, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker – School Principal, Grant Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

Highway ~

Eric reported that the Harrington Cross Road project is nearly done, grant work was approved by the regional planning commission. Board discussed whether the lane that swings to the right would be closed, after brief discussion Board decided it needed to be blocked off and notice posted in *Tales* and on Front Porch Forum. Road crew has been busy blowing leaves and getting equipment ready for winter. Board inquired about the other end of Harrington Cross Road, would that intersection also be straightened before winter? Eric advised that he hoped to get it done in November – but it is weather dependent. The culvert replacement on Potter's Brook? Eric advised it will wait until spring, much to do now – spot grading, leaf blowing (getting leaves out of ditches), fixing ruts, etc.

New Tandem Truck ~ Eric advised that he was waiting for more information from Delurey's regarding the warranty (arrived late afternoon). There is a 5 year and 7 year option, though the coverage for the transmission is only for 3 years – would have to get longer warranty directly from Allison, the manufacturer. Eric confirmed it was an automatic transmission.

Navistar Voucher – Gail advised Board to hold off final decision on the new truck until its next meeting – more information should be arriving soon regarding the voucher. Jeff Delurey has advised that some folks have started to receive them. Board deferred truck decision to its next meeting on November 12th.

Channel Road – Hollis reported that he has spoken with the sub-contractor – next week they will move the line to the other side of the stone wall to get it out of the ditch and agreed to not bury it on the side of the road again. Hollis reminded him that state law requires Select Board permission to bury anything in the town's right of way. Hollis also reminded the Board to require it be buried deep so ditching could be done if need be. Frank thanked Hollis for his efforts.

Grant-In-Aide – After brief discussion, Board approved Letter of Intent for FY21, will stop by the town office to sign. Grant is approximately \$6,000, depends on how many towns participate.

Winter Salt – Board reviewed draft bid specs – Eric noted that he uses the de-icer product rather than straight road/rock salt, works better at lower temperatures. Board voted to approve specs and send out for SB meeting on November 12th.

Public Works Facilities ~

Stan noted that he has been working on excavation/site work estimate. 3200 cubic yards need to be moved – about 200 truckloads. He discussed work with Eric, road crew does not have time this fall, prefers to wait until spring. Town may need to rent a bull dozer and bigger excavator, will need to decide if the material should be stored on site on the back side of the parcel or removed. He calculated based on a state highway bid that it would cost around \$30,000 – 3200 CY @\$13.

Site Work - Board discussed process, it was suggested to just hire Dan Allard and get started. Michael reminded the Board that \$30,000 would require going out to bid. After consulting the Purchase Guidance document, other Board members agreed. Stan advised that Otter Creek Engineering (OCE) would need to be hired to develop/prepare bid specs. Board then discussed how that would work, would like it in sections to be able to determine what road crew could/might do, to get to better cost estimate to help decide how to go forward – garage or salt/sand shed first. Board also wants accountability from OCE. Eric advised the town garage was his #1 priority, and that two workers would need to be hired to cover site work and keep road work going during the process.

Salt/Sand Shed – Stan noted that the original design was 85' x'120', but didn't include area outside that for buttresses, etc. If that area had to be cleared, then the state permit would need to be amended. He suggested instead to put the structure on piers; that requires engineering at a cost of \$7,500, and that would allow waste blocks to be used for the interior and for the walls. Greystone proposal was briefly discussed, their proposal is all inclusive, but smaller – need more information to make sure it would serve the purpose efficiently. Cathy noted that Brandon built a ClearSpan fabric structure on waste block, why not Tinmouth? Stan will prepare apple to apple comparison between ClearSpan and Greystone as next step.

Stumping – As this would require erosion control (silt fencing) that would need to be maintained all winter – not an easy task according to Eric, it was decided to wait until spring time to have Dan Allard pull the stumps.

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker ~

Church Parking Lot - Board reviewed and discussed her letter to the SB regarding using the Church parking lot as school has re-opened. She advised that students and parents need to be kept safe and allowing some of the school staff to park there would help with the traffic pattern. SB was consulted as the parking lot is part of the town green. Church officials contacted had no problem. Board concurred with requested.

There was a bit of a kerfuffle between Board members that is best left out of the minutes.

Literature in the Woods – Maureen explained Sarah Graham's proposal to add posts with bits of literature

along the town's walking trail that starts near the community center. Board thought it a great idea, but noted it is not in their jurisdiction, perhaps the Conservation Commission who oversees the trail and the land owner would need more appropriate to ask.

Warrants ~ Payroll Warrants #15 dated 10/12/20 for \$1,409.92; #16 dated 10/19/20 for \$2,647.98; and #17 date 10/26/20 for \$1,409.92; and Accounts Payable Warrant #7 dated 10/13/20 for 41,361.62 were approved.

Old Business ~

72 Snow Mountain Lane – Frank advised that the Buffums asked that the Town stand back for a bit, if the Rutland County Sheriff's Department has not yet issued a ticket, they will be asked to stop.

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – Frank advised some progress had been made cleaning up the trailer that had been partially burned. Board discussed whether it was a Solid Waste Ordinance issue or a Board of Health issue. Given the presence of rats, Board thought it was a health issue and asked for legal advice.

New Business ~

Personnel Policy - Cathy briefly explained proposed changes to the Personnel Policy – asked members to review for meeting on the 12th. It was also noted that it needed updating regarding the change to health insurance last December. Changes for Covid-19 need to be discussed.

Emerald Ash Borer – David, as Tree Warden, had suggested applying for a grant, but after brief discussion, it was decided to pass this round. He noted that towns were taking different approaches – from doing nothing (clean up the tree when it falls) to cutting down every ash tree in town. What should Tinmouth do? Board will ask the Tree Committee to take a look at the Roadside Resiliency Report done a couple of years ago to see if they can come up with a plan.

David noted that between the EAB and Ash Yellows, most of the ash trees in town will not survive.

National Flood Insurance Program – Board voted to adopt Resolution to join the NFIP.

Town Meeting 2021 – Gail advised that legislation had recently passed that allowed the Select Board to decide to hold the 2021 town meeting using Australian balloting (voters normally have to decide). Board took under advisement, would like input from townspeople. Reason is the pandemic and keeping people safe.

Tax Sale – Gail reported one buyer showed up at the tax sale, it was sold for taxes, fees, expenses. Owner (Tracy Baker-Gioffi) has one year to redeem it.

Election Grant – Gail advised she had applied for a \$5,000 grant to help with elections supplies- (tables, lap top, PPE, etc.)

Members Concerns – Cathy reported she had attended two webinars recently dealing with snow and ice, she learned a lot, was happy to report that everything

recommended is practiced by Eric. Gravel roads need a special type of plow blade that is expensive but lasts a long time.

Equipment Fund - Cathy reported the estimated cost of a new loader is \$175,000, so that needs to be added to the Equipment Fund, and discussed at budget time.

Executive Session – At 9:04 Board voted to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. All others left the virtual meeting. Board exited at 9:29. No action taken.

Conservation Commission ~ 9/21/20

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.

Present online were members Doug Fontein, Ed Hasenohr, Nelson Jaquay, Robbie Leeds, Rainbow Squier, and Chuck Bronk. No public present.

New Business:

The Commission welcomed new member Ed Hasenohr.

The most recent visit to the Town Lot south of the Transfer station on Sunday September 20th was discussed. Maps of a possible walking easement through an adjoining property were sent to Commission members. The visit confirmed slope of the pathway from the Creamery to the Town lot and its relation to an existing gate. Members shared possible recreation activities that could occur on the site and agreed that these should be written up for presentation to the Select Board prior to any request for easement or access.

It was agreed that maintenance of the lot would be provided by Commission members much in the same way that they maintain trails and the Mountain Cabin. The access from the Old Creamery was preferred to access through the Transfer Station off Route 140. Rainbow agreed to work on the wording of a planning document to be sent to the Select Board listing proposed recreation uses to be initiated first and those that might happen in future, to be reviewed by the Commission at our next meeting.

The former included mowed walking paths, planting of fruit trees, a birding trail, a Frisbee golf course and a picnic area. Suggestions for future uses included community gardens, volleyball court on sand, a pickle ball court, and horseshoe courts. The group discussed the history of the lot and some former suggested uses.

The Select Board has asked that Tinmouth Mountain Cabin be re-opened for use. This will mean that the closure signage erected by the Commission will need to be removed. Robbie Leeds agreed to do this with Doug Fontein at his next Cabin maintenance visit.

Old Business:

Regarding the Drachman Trail, Doug reported that he had brush hogged almost the entire loop of the trail. Doug also reported that while at the trail he met with Tim Smith, whose property is adjoining to the trailhead. Tim has a tree stand on or near the trail but suggested he only uses

it for bow hunting and that he knows when there are people on the trail. Evidently he was involved in the cleaning up of the trailhead. Doug requested help with the mapping of the trail, blazing, and the erection of the sign at the Trailhead. A work party was scheduled for October 10th at 9AM and Robbie and Ed agreed to join Doug. Doug will publish a reminder.

Doug reported on the Switchbacks needed on the steeper sections of the Ridge Trail leading up to the saddle. He is currently working at Adam Guettel's and will continue to discuss this with Adam. Robbie agreed to report at next meeting on blazing of the Ridge Trail at the next meeting and suggested he would check out what is required when he removes the Cabin closure signs.

Planning Commission ~ No Meeting in October

~ Hunters Urged to Wear Orange ~

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermont Fish & Wildlife is reminding hunters to wear fluorescent hunter orange.

“Hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities, and it’s getting safer thanks to advances in education as well as science,” said Nicole Meier, Vermont Fish & Wildlife information and education specialist. “Our volunteer hunter education instructors stress that wearing orange during hunting season is important, and studies prove that wearing fluorescent hunter orange keeps hunters visible to other people in the woods, but it keeps them relatively invisible to deer.”

“Every year we should strive to be the safest we can be by wearing at least a hunter orange hat and vest,” she added.

Meier says hunters moving into the line of fire of other hunters and mistaking other hunters for game are common causes of the state’s accidents.

The time that deer are most active, during the dawn and dusk hours, are times of especially low visibility. You can improve your chances of being seen by other hunters by wearing hunter orange, which can be seen even in low-light situations.

“While it isn’t recommended to wear orange during waterfowl and turkey seasons, we certainly still recommend hunter orange when you are going to and from your blind, treestand or calling spot,” said Meier.

While some hunters might be concerned that deer are scared by hunter orange, in fact deer have been shown to be unaffected by the color. A deer’s vision is based on movement, patterns and color variations. Unlike humans, deer do not have multiple color receptors in their eyes. They can see color, but their spectrum is limited. This means deer must rely heavily on their ability to detect movement over the ability to interpret color variations and patterns.

Hunting in Vermont continues to be a safe recreational pursuit and hunters can help keep it that way by choosing to wear hunter orange.

Hunt smart. Hunt safe. Wear orange.



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Pre-Order for Nov. 21

By Sherry Johnson

November 21, 2020, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
To order food, you can complete our on-line form <https://tinyurl.com/y4e9dxbl> or call 446-3307.

Description of Food:

Chicken and Biscuits– (9-inch round pan serves 2-4 people), and 9-inch pies. There are 4 categories of pie: apple, pumpkin, berry or "Surprise Me" with a yummy pie.

The Chicken pans are \$20 and the pies are \$25.

As of now we have 20 pans of chicken and biscuits left and 25 pies left available for purchase, so sign up early.

Because of COVID-19 distancing requirements, we need to spread out the arrivals. When you order, you will sign up for a pickup time. When you arrive at the Fire House, you will pay for your order with cash (exact change would be great) or a check made out to the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department and be given your order. No need to get out of the car, but please wear a mask.

If you are so-inclined, this would also be a great time to include a donation for our hard-working fire department to keep them stocked with supplies for another year.

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