

TALES OF TINMOUTH

December 2020
Vol. 34 Number 12

Tinmouth
Vermont

Editors' Notes:

Peace on Earth, Good Will to All.

Please keep all those affected by the corona virus in your thoughts and prayers.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month, for publication on the 1st of the following month.

Please email your information to (tinmouthtales@vermontel.net).

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 too.**

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 who donated money for turkeys and perishables and left food at the Town Office. They were very much appreciated.

Covid-19 ~ Governor Scott has asked everyone to let their light shine, to be patient, to wear a mask, to keep 6' of social distance, to wash your hands, and to stay home if possible.



Food Drive For

Tinmouth Community Christmas Food Baskets

Saturday, December 12th

9:00 AM until 11:00 AM

in the basement of the Tinmouth Community Church

Due to the Pandemic, please wear a mask when you drop off your donations – and wait if there is someone ahead of you, think 6 feet of space!

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 items off at the Town Office anytime between now and then. The Mill River Union High School National Honor Society is helping with this effort as well as they can in these difficult times. 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, sanitizer, wipes, chlorox

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).

Thank you to the Tinmouth Community Fund for a grant to help with this!!

Due to the Pandemic, extra precautions will be taken, with scheduled pickup times on the 19th.

Thank you for your kind generosity!

Joyous Holidays to All!

~ The Tinmouth Elves

~ December 2020 Calendar of Events ~
 All meetings are virtual due to the corona virus pandemic.



Fire Department	Thursday	3 rd	7:00	Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	10 th	7:00	Virtual
Holiday Food Drive	Saturday	12 th	9-11 AM	Church Basement
Planning Commission	No Meeting in December			
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Sunday	20 th	Don't Miss It!	
First day of Winter	Monday	21 st	Enjoy the Solstice!	
Select Board	Tuesday	22 nd	7:00	Virtual
Caroling	None this year, so sorry.			
Christmas Eve Service	Thursday	24 th	Virtual ~ please see back page for details!	
Town Office	Thursday	24 th	CLOSED for Christmas Eve	

January 2021 Calendar of Events

Fire Department	Thursday	7 th	7:00	Virtual
Select Board	Thursday	14 th	7:00	Virtual
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Wednesday	20 th	Don't Miss It!	
Planning Commission	Thursday	21 st	7:00	Virtual



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

~ Sunday Church Service ~ Is now virtual, please see details in the Church News ~

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



~ Library News ~
 By Ruth Drachman, Librarian

The Library is still closed, but we hope it will be open soon, when it is safe to do so.

Meanwhile, the librarian stops in for a bit on most Thursdays to check on things, re-shelve the books you have returned, and breathe the air of a roomful of books.

She is buying new books and you will find them on the counter for self-serve, meaning you call the town office (446-2498) to arrange to have the back door unlocked so you may enter. Just remember to fill out the sign-in-out sheet for her so she will know what you have. OR you can call her to arrange some other way of getting books.

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

Have you visited the new "Miss Ruth Little Library" located on the front porch of the Town Office? It's a great way to share a good book or find someone else's favorite.

And it is open all the time!

~ 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 Tinmouth 911 address.

The *Tales of Tinmouth* is also on the Town's website (tinmouthvt.org). Look under "About".

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

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

~ 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 (sent to everyone last Spring).

Tinmouth Community Fund Small Business Grant

by Jan Krantz

Are you a small business based in Tinmouth? The Tinmouth Community Fund has created a new grant program, for \$500, geared toward supporting a small business which is starting up, or an existing small business that is expanding. In keeping with the mission of the Tinmouth Community Fund, this grant program is meant to support initiatives or services that potentially benefit the well-being of the residents of the Tinmouth community.

Do you have an idea of a small business you would like to get off the ground, but need a little funding to get started? Are you an established business but you would like to expand and offer something new? We would love to hear from you about your business idea.

We have created a short application which is available on the town website. We ask that you share details about your business plan and what you are hoping to do. The more information you provide, the clearer we can envision your business, in order to help us in the decision-making process about granting an award.

Applications for the Small Business Grant are due by February 1st, and will be awarded at the TCF annual meeting to take place on February 27, 2021. This meeting is open to all, and typically takes place at the Community Center. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it may be virtual in 2021.

Please see the Small Business Grant application at: <http://www.tinmouthvt.org/community-fund/>.

Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department Thank-You!

Wow! We Are Very Grateful!

We want to thank everyone who participated in our "Chicken and Biscuit with Pie Dinner" that benefited the Tinmouth Volunteer Fire Department. We raised over \$3,000 dollars with dinner sales and donations.

Thank you, everyone who purchased a dinner, pie or gave a donation. The feedback has been wonderful, and yes we will try to do it again in the future. However, this will never replace our Annual Game Supper, which we hope will return when it is safe to do so.

Thank you to everyone who made chicken pies, biscuits and pies. We were amazed at the wide variety of people who helped.

Also, a shoutout to Hannaford's who helped with the chicken and Evening Song Farm in Shrewsbury who provided organic carrots and potatoes.

Tracy Byford and Sherry Johnson



~ Winter Plowing ~

As winter is quickly approaching, 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 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, increase the following distance from other vehicles ahead.

For road conditions call 511 or visit 511vt.com. For personal assistance, like heating help or other information, call 211.

211 is a service of the United Way.

~ Nature Notes ~

November was the 3rd warmest on record, .02 from tying with 2nd! There were several sunny, balmy days! If you remember last year, there was no November weather – we went from October to December – weather-wise.

A dandelion blossomed on November 26th – Thanksgiving Day, and another on December 1st!

There was a HUGE east-west rainbow on the 1st as well, hope you had a chance to see it, was a double one for a while. Most rainbows ark north to south!



To the Tinmouth Community,

Currently, Tinmouth students are learning in-person. They are catching up on academic work. They are also leading the way through difficult times. The divisiveness that marked the year 2020 peaked in November as closely called election results were challenged, protests continued nationwide, and a renewed onslaught of Covid cases appeared. The latter events forced Tinmouth Mountain School (TMS) into remote learning from March through to mid-October.

In spite of the dismal context, TMS opened in mid-October to in-person learning. This left remote learning as an option for parents who felt the benefits of in-person learning did not outweigh safety and health concerns. Children returned and were overjoyed at seeing friends, staff, and teachers. The enthusiasm is still apparent a month later. It is hard to argue with the research that advances in-person learning as socially grounded and necessary. Working collaboratively with peers in a classroom community is certainly more effective than remote on-line learning, especially in the elementary grades.

Our students' attitudes and simple acts of kindness are enlightening particularly during these divisive times. Just before the November presidential election, one young man assured his teacher that he still liked her even though he knew she wasn't voting for Trump because "educators just don't vote for him". I'm not sure how true that is but our young scholar reminded us of the importance of tolerance.

Additionally, students have been open to the restrictions mandated by the Center for Disease Control. Throughout the day, teachers bring students outside where they can socially distance and remove masks. Surprisingly, there is minimal to no interest in removing masks. Likewise, students work and eat with classmates in their homerooms. Recesses outside are in classroom pods as well. Students have taken these changes in stride. The children's resilience reminds us that we're in this together.

Everyone's life has been impacted by this year's events, which we have no control over. Resilience in the face of economic and political uncertainty includes looking for opportunities to nurture and cultivate community.

In this holiday season of gratitude and peace, our students are continuing to grow in compassion as well as succeed academically. Their resilience, tolerance, and appreciation for community motivates us all to follow suit.

Have a joyful holiday season!

Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Principal
Tinmouth Mountain School



~ **Town Meeting 2021** ~

Will be a little different this year. Due to the corona virus pandemic, the Legislature granted authority to the Select Board to conduct town meeting business using the Australian balloting system. Currently we only elect officers this way. Budgets and public questions could also be voted this way. There will still need to be an informational meeting – held via Zoom or similar virtual format. Town Meeting from the floor will not meet state guidelines for public gatherings.

The Select Board would like your input in this regards, please contact the Town Office. There is no option to postpone until warmer weather to hold it outdoors . . .

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
- Road Commissioner – 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 will be **Saturday, February 27th**. Stan Wilbur has announced that he will not be running for re-election as Moderator. Anyone interested?

Petitions for Articles to be placed on the warning are due by 5:00 pm **Thursday, January 14th**.

The Legislature also (for 2021) removed the requirement to get signatures for a petition. If you wish to run for office, you only need to file a consent form, available at the town office, with the town clerk 5:00 PM Monday, **January 25th**.



TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

This time of year, darkness has the upper hand. Daylight is short, and getting shorter still; the darkness of night is long, and getting longer. In many ways, descending darkness describes this whole past year as our social and political situation has further deteriorated and the Covid pandemic has cast the shadow of death over our nation and the world. I wonder – are they not related, not mirror images, not signs of the times meant to precipitate moral and compassionate change - or else?

By the last week in this month there will be a change. By ingenious design, we will turn a calendar day and the light will start ascending once again, not without chill, not without snowstorms, not without other storms of life, but inevitably. The Light shines in the Darkness, and the Darkness cannot overcome it. Already refreshing light is filtering into our social and political darkness as a more enlightened, more egalitarian, more representative and more experienced Administration will soon assume leadership. And light is appearing at the end of the Covid tunnel too, now that vaccines will soon become available to thwart this dark night of the senses. The dark forces that have been a threat to our personal and national well-being are themselves passing away into the night. The Light has come into the world, and the Darkness cannot put it out.

So, I say to you, "Happy Holidays," acknowledging the unquenchable Light of Eternal Life and Love that our religions testify too, and honoring that Light in every one of you.

"Shalom." The peace of God to you.

**Blessings this season,
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



~ December is the Start of Bird Feeding Season ~

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department recommends Vermonters wait to put up bird feeders until December 1 to avoid attracting bears.

Doug Morin, Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s bird project leader said, “This may be a particularly good winter for attracting winter birds arriving from Canada, including Evening Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls. Black oil sunflower is a good seed choice that will attract a variety of birds, and folks may want to try other seeds or suet to attract certain species. Thistle, for example, attracts many of the finches. Gardeners will find leaving late-blooming flowers uncut provides seeds which can also attract birds.”

While watching your bird feeders, you can participate in one or more bird monitoring projects by looking up the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count and Project Feeder Watch—all three collect important information to understanding bird populations.

The Fish and Wildlife Department offers these tips for bird-friendly bird feeding:

- Keep cats inside. Domestic cats are the leading cause of bird death in North America, and feeders can make birds particularly easy prey.
- Place feeders closer than 4 feet or farther than 10 feet from a window. Being close to, or far from a window reduces bird collisions.
- Clean feeders regularly. To eliminate harmful bacteria and viruses, feeders should be washed every few weeks with a 10 percent bleach solution, then rinsed and allowed to dry before refilling.
- Feed birds only between December 1 and April 1, but remove feeders if you see signs of bears. Most bears should be in dens during this time, but some delay entering their dens while even those that have dened may re-emerge to feed if there is a period of warm weather. Bears that learn to get food from people will continue to do so, potentially leading to property damage and dangerous encounters with people which can result in the bear’s demise.

Practice Random Acts of Kindness



Senseless Acts of Beauty

~ **Meeting Highlights** ~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

Select Board ~ 11/12/20

Present were members Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears, as well as Steffanie Bourque – Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC), Eric Buffum – Road Comm., Ronnie Crossman - Road Crew, Stan Wilbur – PW Project Manager, Sherry Johnson, Michael Fannin – EMD, Hollis Squier, Asha Carroll, *Planning Commission Members* Vito Macaluso, Grant Reynolds, and Kim Harbaugh; and Gail Fallar – Sel. Bd Asst.(SBA)

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ~

Steffanie introduced herself and explained the work of the LHMP Planning Committee to date, noting that this was an invitation for comments from the Select Board, Planning Commission and public. Members of the committee are Eric Buffum, Frank Sears, Michael Fannin, Ray Pratt, Hollis Squier and Gail Fallar, representing the road crew, select board, emergency management, fire department and the Town Office respectively. She noted this is a plan to work on mitigating natural hazards that may occur (severe storms for example) to reduce risk of damage. This plan updates the 2015 LHMP and requires approval from the Select Board and FEMA. The sections presented outline the current status of the town; the next step is to address what needs to be done, and will be presented in a month or two. She noted is only a plan to help the town. Frank thanked her and the committee for their efforts. As there were no questions or comments at this time, she asked for them to be emailed to her. The plan will be posted on the town's website with links posted on Front Porch Forum and in *Tales of Tinmouth*.

Stormwater Management Plan ~

Steffanie also addressed this document. A copy had been provided to the Select Board along with a copy of the state's municipal roads general permit/storm water regulations. She has been working with Eric to determine which road segments (100 meters or 328 feet) are hydrologically connected to state waters and need to meet the storm water rules. RRPC conducted a road and culvert inventory over the summer and that information has been incorporated into the plan. There are 246 segments. Currently 55% of roads fully meet the requirements. The plan includes maps showing the location of the segments and which need work. Only two roads (Merrill Spring and Upper Gulf) have high priority segments that need to be addressed by 2025, other work has to be done by 2035.

Road standards include crown, berm, drainage, conveyance, culverts, erosion factors, etc. There is an implementation table that will need to be filled in, to schedule work to be done. Eric and the Board will need to work on this at a later date. In the end, it is hoped that the plan and inventory will lead to the development of a budget and schedule to upgrade and track all work as it

has to be reported annually. Steffanie noted the RRPC will help along the way. Frank again thanked Steffanie for her efforts on the town's behalf.

It was noted that the state has several grants programs to help towns with this work, Grant-In-Aide, Better Roads grants, VTrans grants. The town will need to use strategic thinking to match the work with funding sources and time them appropriately.

Highway ~

Eric reported the road crew is busy with spot grading, has plowed snow once, is in good shape for winter. Both big trucks recently had repair work done.

New Tandem Truck ~ Board discussed warranty proposals from DeLurey Sales, approved the stainless steel oil pan and the addition of an airbag for the wing (was omitted from the original specs) but is needed to keep the wing and truck balanced while in use. Board briefly discussed standard vs automatic transmission – standard would cost about \$10,000 less. Eric noted that most drivers are now used to driving automatics and if Ronnie was unavailable, he would need to train someone to drive it. He also advised that Ronnie was only going to be working for the town for another five years and the truck would not be replaced for seven. Board voted to purchase the 2021 truck with the stainless steel oil pan, the added air bag, the automatic transmission, and the 5 year warranty package for a total of \$150, 064.

Winter Salt – SBA prepared a chart of salt prices received from three salt vendors. Board noted that they had asked for winter salt to go out to bid, and instructed the SBA to make it so for its meeting December 10th.

Better Roads Grant ~ SBA suggested applying for the grant to fix the culvert on Potter's Brook on North End Road. Eric noted he preferred to use it for ditching work on North East Road between the Patry's and former hunting preserve. Board by consensus agreed with Eric, asked to have application ready for review for their 12/10 meeting. Grant is due on 12/18.

Snow and Ice Workshop ~ Cathy reported she had attended two webinars recently dealing with snow and ice, she learned a lot, and 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. She asked Eric about it, he will research.

Covid 19 ~ Michael Fannin, EMD, noted the virus is spiking, 75% is due to social gatherings/parties. He again expressed concern with food shortages, possible school closings, etc.

Public Works Facilities ~

Stan advised he has arranged for the Board to speak with Craig Jewett from Otter Creek Engineering on the 24th. He will send along a proposal from them that will

include all site work except clearing and stumping, in order to be ready to build in the spring.

Financials ~

Financial Report ~ Gail advised that the state had decided to not fund the VTrans grant programs this year, and instead sent each town additional highway aide. In Tinnmouth's case that is \$21,936. Board requested that it be added to the revenue and expenditure budgets while they decide how it should be used. Board voted to approve as presented, with the condition to add the extra highway aide in new lines.

Warrants ~ Payroll Warrants #18 dated 10/31/20 for \$3,344.98 and #19 dated 11/9/20 for \$1,409.92 were approved.

FY22 Budget ~ Board asked for first draft for its 12/10/20 meeting.

Old Business ~

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – SBA is contacting attorney.

72 Snow Mountain Lane – No change.

12 Ezra Stone Road – Frank advised he had re-inspected, all work was done and he authorized residential use again.

New Business ~

Constable Duties ~ After brief discussion, Board decided to move this off the agenda until January.

Personnel Policy ~ Cathy noted that the Board needed to discuss a plan for leave time, including whether it was due to covid19 and if substitutes were needed. She advised that the PP should be amended to require Select Board approval for all leave time. Also needed is a "What If" plan to cover snow plowing routes, how to meet staffing needs if someone is sick or injured, who will run the show, etc. Should also include the Town Office to make sure payroll and bills are paid on time. Perhaps a list needs to be started of possible drivers with CDL's. Also need to let the public know that if a situation occurs, they need to be patient waiting for roads to be plowed, etc.

Board discussed various options, asked Eric and Gail to present something on the 10th. Eric requested direct deposit for the road crew. Cathy asked Gail to write down the processes for how the Town Office functions, also suggested using Front Porch Forum or *Tales* to ask if there is anyone with a CDL willing to help in an emergency.

Health Insurance ~ Up for renewal in December, road crew is happy with what they have, Board requested information about MVP and BCBS rates.

New Town Office Assistant ~ Gail advised that she had hired her granddaughter Josie Cone to help out temporarily in the town office.

Select Board ~ 11/24/20

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, Craig Jewett – Engineer with Otter Creek Engineering (OCE), Grant Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – (SBA).

Public Works Facilities ~

Craig reviewed OCE's proposal, noting it was for the construction phase that included grading, rough earthwork, removal of excess material (non-impervious scope) and would provide administration and review of the bid phase including advertising and would be done before town meeting day.

Stan advised that it was not for storm water treatment. Craig acknowledged that the lack of state approval for the storm water permit relating to the building construction was his responsibility and hoped to have the information requested by the state to them by the end of the year. He did note that the construction permit for the earthwork (erosion control) had been approved. The operational permit is still under review.

Craig inquired whether the Board wanted to build in phases, and whether the garage or salt/sand shed would be first. Board acknowledged there may not be enough money to do both at this point in time, that the garage should probably come first.

Craig then advised that if only the garage was built for now, there was a good chance that the total impervious surface would be less than one acre and therefore the storm water permit would not be needed. The retention pond could be constructed later if it was still needed. Annual fees, inspections and reporting would also not be required.

And given that the area around the salt/sand shed may need to be increased, that may change the permit requirements as well. There are also questions about the salt/sand shed's location (not the best), should it be rotated or moved, consider a pole barn style, and earthwork cost (2/3 of site work cost is related to the salt/sand shed) needs to be pondered.

Board discussed at length how to proceed, how/whether to determine total costs to help decision process relating to which to build first, the need to get something moving, whether to go back to voters for more money (the \$850,000 bond vote was the total cost – that clearly is not enough at this point, but the Board has advised voters they would only borrow \$375,000 or so), whether to move the transfer station operation, whether to move the salt/sand shed location, how to keep transfer station and highway department separate, whether to hire a contractor for a design-build for the garage, etc.

Craig also advised that delaying the salt/sand shed might provide time to work on grant opportunities. There

is state money available for salt sheds, but not sand sheds or town garages. Pittsford and Vergennes are currently building salt sheds with grant funding.

More storage is needed for winter salt, state is not concerned about sand as there is not much salt added to it, and it is not a pollutant.

Board asked Eric for his opinion, he advised putting the town garage first is good, but is not sure that design/build will result in any cost savings.

Stan advised he can prepare request for qualification for design builders. He asked if the Board wanted to have a separate contractor for site work and design build. Board asked Eric if the road crew could handle the site work for the town garage – removing trees, moving the fill, excavation, etc. Eric replied yes, just not right now. Stan noted the Conservation Commission would like some fill on the southern part of the lot to help create some level areas for recreation.

Board asked Craig to hold off on the storm water permit – he will check to make sure there is less than an acre of impervious surface under consideration; talk to the state about withdrawing the application; and get clarification in writing from the state. He will follow up with Stan before the 10th.

Stan will prepare draft request for qualifications for their meeting on the 10th. He advised that the best contractor may not be the lowest bidder.

Board thanked Craig for his suggestions this evening.

Highway ~

Eric reported no big changes, getting ready for winter, wings are now on the trucks.

Harrington Cross Road – road closed signs keep blowing away, need better blockage and signage, may add sand to the barrels to keep them in place.

Channel Road – Hollis reported that he has spoken with the sub-contractor, who stated that the work will be done next week. Board thanked Hollis for his continued work on this issue.

Better Roads Grant - Gail and Eric explained that there was confusion at the last SB meeting concerning grants. Eric was thinking about the Grant-In-Aide and Gail was speaking about the Better Roads Grants. After brief discussion, Board agreed by consensus to apply for both, GIA for ditching on North East Road and BRG for the culvert on North End Road.

Financial ~

Warrants Reviewed ~ Payroll Warrant #20 dated 11/16/20 for \$2,551.53 and Accounts Payable Warrant #8 dated 11/13/20 for \$26,275.92 were approved.

Truck Voucher Update ~ Gail advised that the claim had been denied, Board granted permission to appeal.

Old Business ~

72 Snow Mountain Lane – No report

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – Gail advised Attorney Jim Carroll is working on it.

New Business ~

Letter from Tim and Kelly Smith - Board reviewed the Smith's request for tax relief as they felt it necessary to send their daughter to Christ the King School for her education. Board denied the request as they have no authority regarding the matter and referred it to the school district.

Personnel Policy and What If Plans – Proposed PP amendments had been previously sent, but were not included in the Board packet for this meeting. Cathy noted the Town also needs to be prepared for “what if” regarding employees and Covid19. Board will work on both issues on the 10th.

Planning Commission ~ 11/19/20

Members present: Michael Fallar, Vito Macaluso, Pat Psholka, Kim Harbaugh, Bob Lloyd, Rainbow Squier, and Grant Reynolds, as well as Kim Young, Howard and Debbie Buffum, Joe Buffum, Sherry Johnson, and Gail Fallar, Secretary.

Minutes of 3/12/20 were approved as written, Rainbow moved, Bob 2nded, all voted in favor. There were no meetings in the interim as non-essential meetings were cancelled due to the pandemic.

Preliminary Subdivision meetings

Kim Young explained her proposed two lot subdivision. There will be a 5 acre lot created with the existing mobile home and equipment shed along West Hill Road and a 16 acre parcel with the existing log home located east of the first lot. There will be a deeded right of way for the house through the 5 acre lot, and a shared well. Each dwelling has existing in-ground septic systems. After brief discussion, members voted to give preliminary approval to move forward with the project.

Howard and Deb Buffum explained their proposal. They wish to create a five acre lot with the existing mobile home on Snow Mountain Lane. It is complicated as some of the property is located in the Rural Residential District – 5 acre minimum lot size and the remainder is in the Conservation District – 25 acre minimum lot size. Total parcel size is currently 61.7 acres. Howard advised that the 2012 Snow survey by Mark Courcelle showed the approximate location of the zoning boundary and they felt they could create a 5 acre lot all in the RR district. They would prefer to keep the existing sugar house and pole barn on the remaining 56 acres. After brief discussion, members voted to give them preliminary approval to move forward and have it surveyed.

Village Center Designation Update – Grant and Pat advised they have not had an opportunity to visit the Town Office (due to the pandemic) to garner what is

already on the town computer regarding this project – that’s where it was left at the last meeting in March. Bob offered to help as much as he could, and advised that the Rutland Regional Planning Commission was ready and willing as well. Pat offered to gather the information at the Town Office, scan it and send to all PC members. Grant advised he has trouble with the GotoMeeting application, Sherry offered to host a sub-committee meeting with her Zoom account. Grant, Pat and Bob will work on getting the data organized and determine what still needs to be done.

Next meeting will be at the call of the Chair – when formal applications are received.

Conservation Commission ~ 11/16/20

With thanks to Chuck Bronk, Sec.

Present online were members Doug Fontein, Ed Hasenohr, Nelson Jaquay, Robbie Leeds, Rainbow Squier, Jeff Ams and Chuck Bronk, as well as Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker and Doug Inkley.

New Business:

Doug Fontein introduced Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker, Principal of the Tinnmouth Mountain School, and asked her to describe the Proposed Literature Trail on the Tinnmouth Mountain Ridge Trail. Maureen described this project for the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade class, to install and support a Literature Trail consisting of 16-24 stations on the lower portion of the Trail. The concept is that it would be possible to walk up the trail and back, and read a page of an illustrated book at each station. Each station would consist of a lectern height cedar post with a Plexiglas protected sleeve to allow the placement of two laminated book pages. Maureen reported that she has discussed this proposal with the landowner, Adam Guettel, and that he approves. She brings this to the Conservation Commission for approval, as stewards of the Trail. Ed Hasenohr commented that some sections of the trail may not have sufficient soil to allow the support of a post and wondered if another means of station construction might be possible. Doug F. suggested that it might be possible to use a tree to brace the station. Nelson Jaquay pointed out that if the lower grades are a portion of the proposed audience of readers, the stations should not go too far up the Trail. Maureen responded that the portion of the Trail below the meadow was intended. She also suggested that Commission members visit the Stone Meadow in Wallingford where there is an existing Literature Trail. A motion to accept this proposal, passed unanimously. Maureen thanked the Commission and said that the plan was to proceed in the spring.

Rainbow Squier circulated to Commission members a draft planning document to describe to the Select Board the intentions of the Commission to utilize the Town property south of the Transfer Station for recreation/conservation. A number of minor edits were

suggested and Nelson agreed to forward an edited version to Rainbow. It was agreed that this document should be sent to the Select Board over Doug’s signature.

Doug F. posed the question to the Commission, do we need to take any action in light of the recent surge in COVID cases in VT? The consensus of the Commission was that we would await direction from the Select Board, since they directed us to re-open the Tinnmouth Mountain Cabin.

Old Business:

Regarding the Drachman Trail, Doug F. reported that he and Ed had blazed the loop trail in both directions and finalized a map of the trail, which could be mounted at the signpost at the trailhead. Chuck agreed to laminate the map. Left over butt ends from logging activity, might be used to delineate parking areas at the trail head but the area is sufficiently wet at certain times of the year, that there would be a good chance of getting a car stuck in the mud. Doug F. and Ed suggested that getting a couple of loads of gravel might improve conditions for three or four parking spaces. Chuck raised the question of how we might publicize the availability of the Trail, now that it is cleared and blazed, and was reminded by Nelson that the Drachmans’ intention was that this trail only be used by Town residents. It was suggested that an announcement might go in the *Tales of Tinnmouth* with the Drachmans’ approval.

Doug F. reported that the Switchbacks needed on the steeper sections of the Ridge Trail leading up to the saddle, are still on our “to do” list. Cutting and blazing the trail north from the Tinnmouth Mountain Cabin, was tabled till spring as it will take two or more people and an institutional knowledge of the various easements involved.

Doug F. inquired if any Commission members had visited the Tinnmouth Mountain Cabin lately, and none had. He agreed to check out the Cabin and either handle or report to the Commission, any maintenance items required.

Tinnmouth Community Fund ~ 11/18/20

With thanks to Helen Mango, Secretary

Present were members Jan Krantz (Chair), Cathy Reynolds (Treasurer), Casey Voigtlaender, Todd Dennis, Nikki Pfeiffer, Asha Carroll, Lisa Patry and Helen Mango (Secretary), as well as Gail Fallar.

Jan welcomed Lisa to the TCF Board.

Jan gave a brief outline of the committee’s calendar: The TCF Board meets in June, November, and twice in February/early March (the first of these two meetings is to review the community grant proposals, and the second coincides with Town Meeting Day and is the TCF Board’s annual meeting).

Jan reviewed the December donations appeal letter. Except for the K-12 camp scholarships, the letter lists

everything that the TCF has accomplished this year, including a summary of which community projects received funding. It shows how much the TCF gives back to the community. Gail suggested adding the K-12 scholarship information, and making the letter two pages long to make it easier to read. Jan and Asha agreed to work up a section on the new small business grants. Jan and Gail will work on a second draft of the letter. The letter will need to be assembled by the end of November in order to go out in the December *Tales of Tinmouth*. Usually the envelope labeling and letter stapling is a group effort, but due to Covid restrictions the board decided to make stacks of letters and envelopes available to individual board members to work on at home and then bring the finished materials back to the Town Office. Nikki, Casey, Helen, Lisa, Cathy, Asha and Jan all offered to take a stack. Jan will coordinate with Gail and will email board members when the materials are available.

Jan and Asha brainstormed a new draft of the “small business start-up” application. Cathy suggested requesting more information from applicants in order to make funding decisions easier. Discussion followed about whether the grants should be limited just to new start-ups, or whether existing small businesses could request funding to expand their businesses. The board agreed to add “expansion” to the title of the grant. Asha discussed ways to include how the applicant’s business will benefit the Tinmouth community. Jan will work on the new draft of the application and will send it to Asha for review. The application needs to get on the town website in December.

The board agreed that all application forms for all TCF grants need to have the same contact information (this has become inconsistent over the past few years). Todd offered to update the website to include the aligned contact information, clarify application due dates (which vary), and tidy up any other inconsistencies.

The email address for the TCF is tinmouthcommunityfund@gmail.com.

Jan added the idea of requesting that people who receive Community Grants take pictures of their funded projects to include in their end-of-year reports.

Under Other Business, Cathy gave a report on proceeds from the 2020 Plant Sale. Due to Covid, the traditional one-day, two-hour Plant Sale was replaced with a three-week, self-serve Plant Sale hosted by the Squier Family Farm Stand. It turned out to be a great success, netting a larger income (\$8300), allowing shoppers to spread out their purchasing, and making the work of the diggers/potters much less stressful and tiring. An abbreviated fall version of the Plant Sale netted an additional \$1000.

The board agreed that the February meetings would in all likelihood be remote meetings. The board will review Community Grant and Small Business Start-

Up/Expansion applications at the mid-February meeting. The Annual meeting will be on February 27.

~ Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Update ~

Steffanie Bourque, from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, and the LHMP Planning Committee, (Eric Buffum, Frank Sears, Michael Fannin, Ray Pratt, Hollis Squier and Gail Fallar), representing the road crew, select board, emergency management, fire department and the town office respectively, presented work done to date on the LHMP to the Select Board and Planning Commission on November 24th. Steffanie noted this is a plan to work on mitigating natural hazards that may occur (severe storms for example) to reduce risk of damage. This plan updates the 2015 LHMP and requires approval from the Select Board and FEMA. The sections presented outline the current status of the town; the next step is to address what needs to be done, and will be presented in a month or two. She noted is only a plan to help the town.

If anyone would like a copy of this, please contact the Town Office. Comments can be sent to Steffanie at the RRPC office.

Once completed, the plan will be posted on the town’s website with links posted on Front Porch Forum and in *Tales of Tinmouth*.

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Marion Hambly, Shannon Squier, John Squier, Michael Stratton, and Jim Perron.**

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Millie O’Leary, Andre Tardif, Edward Chisamore, and Ruth Neilson.**

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent belatedly to family and friends of **Stan Taylor**, as well.



Doug Fontein

Tinmouth Channel Construction

143 Channel Road
Tinmouth, VT 05773
(802) 446-2928 phone
(802) 446-2930 fax
eworks@vermontel.net

*energy efficient custom built
homes and additions*



**The
Booted
Hen**
Farm Fresh Eggs For Sale
send me an e-mail or give me a ring:
Ingrid Lepley 446-2900
hikings@vermontel.net



Thrive Center
OF THE GREEN MOUNTAINS

Chiropractic Care • Therapeutic Massage
Holistic Health Education • Stress Reduction Products
Nutritional Supplements • Coaching

802-446-2499

68 South Main Street • Wallingford
uthrive@vermontel.net • thriveinvermont.com



Autumn Bleu
JEWELRY

autumnblejewelry.etsy.com

NOBLE ACE HARDWARE

261 NORTH MAIN
STREET
RUTLAND, VT 05701
(802) 773-2758
OPEN: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
MON.-SAT.
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
SUNDAY

**HARDWARE WITH A
HOMETOWN FEELING**

GUNS For Sale

1 Thompson Center - 50 Cal.
Renegade Muzzleloader
2 Thompson Center - 50 Cal.
Black Diamond
Muzzleloaders
Call Rick at
802-446-2870



The Lost Arts Workshop

Chair Caning and Seat Weaving
Service

Website: www.lostartworkshop.com

Email: Heather@lostartworkshop.com

Looking for Marbles

Any size, any color
Please contact Daniel Gervais at
236-1915 or 293-5746

FAMILY HISTORY SEARCH

Do you know your grandmother's
maiden name?
Or what your great grandfather did
for a living?

Who were you 'Immigrant
Ancestors'?

I may be able to help you find
answers to questions like these.
I have fifteen years experience in
genealogical research and a huge
curiosity about our ancestors.
Reasonable rates. Free initial
consultation.

Phone 802-446-2228 or email

genieusher@gmail.com

Gene Usher Tinmouth, VT

Call me to set up a time.

Pet care available, very reliable teenager.

Dog walking, etc.

Jimmy Barrett 446-3986

References available.



Ken's IT Computer Services

Factory Resets
Network Setup
Mal-ware Removal
Personalized Tutoring

Hardware Repair
System Up-grades
Web Design
Program Design

kensitcomputerservices@gmail.com
(802) 417- 1719

kenscomputerservices.wordpress.com



KITCHEN ENCOUNTERS INC.

CABINETS • COUNTERTOPS • TILE • SINCE 1972

(802) 775-2900

Goat Milk Soap

Handmade in Tinmouth \$4 for 2-3 oz bar

Lavender Charcoal, Peppermint, Vermont Oatmeal

Made with organic olive, coconut and castor oil, shea butter, goat milk and lye.

Please contact Meadow Squier to place an order.

meadowsquier@gmail.com

802-235-2025

Great Stocking Stuffers!!



- New Construction
- Additions
- Renovations
- Framing
- Siding
- Trim Work

**S. Cameron Lepley
Construction**

802.446.2900

LCS BUILDERS

20 Bliss Road
Tinmouth, VT 05773
(802) 446-2728

New Construction Fine Cabinetry
Renovations Millwork

Keyes Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

~ New Homes ~

~Remodeling ~Radiant Floors

~Heat Pumps

Air Conditioning ~Water

Softeners ~Solar Heating

Mini Split A/C

15 East Wells Road

Wells, VT 05774

(802)645-9519

Cell (802)779-4039 Fully

Insured

keyes.james@gmail.com

**Come See
What I Saw!**

Phil's Mill

Custom Sawing
Rough Sawn Lumber
Pine/Hemlock
Barn Siding
Shed Packages

225 Rt 133, Tinmouth, VT

(802) 325-3594

J. ALLEN MAPLE
Pure Maple Products
158 North East Road, Tinmouth,
VT
802-353-1857



Stop by our self-serve stand for any of your maple needs. We have Maple syrup sizes range from 100ml to one gallon with prices ranging from \$3 to \$40.

We also have Maple Cream and Maple Sugar in limited supply. Please contact us with any special orders, we can also accommodate your party/weddings with maple favors!

Great Christmas Gift Idea!!

For Rent: Furnished one bedroom house on Tinmouth Pond. Available February 1st – April 30th. 1st, last, security deposit, and references required. No pets.

Please call Rick at 802-446-2870

Andy McCullough Technology Consultant

Website creation
Computer repair
Virus cleaning
E-commerce development
Online sales & reputations
Social media marketing
Business branding

Fair prices for businesses of all sizes
(802) 446-6117 or j.andymccullough@gmail.com

The Christmas Pledge

Believing in the beauty and simplicity of Christmas, I commit myself to the following:

** To remember those people who truly need my gifts*

** 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!

MOUNTAIN VIEW DEVELOPMENT INC.

- Computer generated landscape design
- Low voltage landscape lighting
- Backhoe service • Brush hogging
- Complete home building and contracting services
- Rental & vacation property management

Call Ryan @
802-235-1571 or
802-342-0028 cell
MountainViewDevelopment@msn.com

HANDCRAFTED CANOE PADDLES



ART USHER
EAST ROAD TINMOUTH
802-446-2228
Great Gifts!!

Gift Certificates

The **Auto Salon** is offering gift certificates for **automotive detailing** for Christmas! The certificates are \$100.00 each, this includes interior and exterior cleaning.
Does not include machine buffing or interior dying for stains.
Contact: vtautosalon@yahoo.com or (802)342-1677 thank you!



Wilds of Tinmouth Wreaths For Sale!!

Fresh cut balsam wreaths, or Fresh mix of balsam, cedar and pine, small, medium, large. Decorations, Bows & Shipping.
Please call Meadow at 802-235-2718 or email at meadowsquier@gmail.com

K. RUANE & SONS EXCAVATING

SEWER SYSTEMS –
SAND – GRAVEL-
BULLDOZING –
SITE WORK –

ROADWAYS
CLEARING –
GRUBBING – TOP SOIL

ESTIMATES CHEERFULLY GIVEN
REASONABLE RATES

128 Mountain View Rd
Tinmouth, VT 05773
(802)353-0873

The Vermont Wreath Company is open for the Holiday Season. We offer centerpieces, garland, swags, kissing balls, Tabletop Christmas Trees and our beautiful Vermont Balsam Christmas Wreaths. Barn Wreaths and Wreaths in all sizes.

502 East Road, Tinmouth.

If you would like to place an order please call us at **(802) 446-3333**.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Launches Mobile App to Enhance Outdoor Recreation

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department released a new mobile application to help the public recreate outdoors in a safe and socially distanced manner. The “Vermont Outdoors” app connects the public with department lands, fish and wildlife regulations and up-to-date COVID-19 guidance.

“We’ve seen an increase in outdoor recreation across our 100 wildlife management areas and nearly 200 fishing access areas since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Lands and Facilities Administrator Mike Wichrowski. “This new app will encourage Vermonters to find new opportunities to hunt, fish, trap, or view wildlife on public lands and waters. The app will also provide access to fish and wildlife law digests, baitfish dealers, department news and current events, and the ability to report fish and wildlife violations.”

This project was paid for with federal funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) stimulus to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities. Other CARES funded projects completed by the department included improvements to boat ramps and other water access points, wildlife management area roads, parking areas and informational signage.

The application can be downloaded at the [Apple App Store](#) for iPhones or [Google Play](#) for Android phones.

For more information, call Lands and Facilities Administrator Mike Wichrowski at 802-917-1347.

**Food Drive For
Tinmouth Community Christmas
Food Baskets**

**Saturday, December 12th
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 the Christmas Basket effort.

Thank you for your help!!!

Please see front page for details.



You are welcome to join the
Tinmouth Community Church
for a very special
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
on Thursday, December 24th
Virtual Event

Online at www.tinmouthchurch.org

Season's Greetings



Tales of Tinmouth
515 North End Road
Tinmouth, VT 05773

Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Wallingtonford, VT 05773
PERMIT # 12